

culture does for them...or what they can do for it. Shenton manages to capture gawking on-lookers as well. One dude with a full face tattoo and piercings everywhere comments that suspension isn't for him...he even seems squeamish!

Another gentleman purports to have a Guinness World Record for most piercings...and one look at him confirms that claim. We see (in sped up form) a host of people jamming things into this guys back. I tell 'ya folks, even for a hardened viewer such as myself some of this stuff (clearly NOT fake) is pretty hard to watch!

Shenton goes for the gusto in the last segment wishing to try the suspension thing herself. Once the viewer sees her, you get the impression she would be the *last* person you'd imagine being into this stuff. She has no tattoos what-so-ever and only has her ears pierced. She appears *normal*. However once those hooks poke through her skin she breaks down. Even when they try hoisting her up the tears she sheds are anything *but* for joy. It's this remarkable feat of strength that she should be congratulated for...since it gives her a whole new appreciation for the 'subjects' of her film.

Keep in mind there is no narration, nor is there any sort of 'historical' backdrop...it is simply a series of interviews woven together for 75 minutes. It would have been interesting to hear from someone 'opposed' to this type of 'behavior' or even a medical person on hand to see if this is all perfectly safe and sound. Those are small gripes however...**ON TENDER HOOKS** will leave an impact on the viewer...the psychological kind...and should lead to conversation afterwards. One thing is certain however...you won't ever get the images out of your brain.

The DVD from MVDvisual includes a handful of shorts directed by Shenton. While **GIMP** and **PIG** are mildly interesting (lasting a few minutes each) the one for **TURN YOUR PHONE OFF** should be mandatory viewing at *every* movie theater. It's great stuff that was shown at a FrightFest convention. All in all a great package well worth it for viewers who think they've seen it all.

PARA ELISA

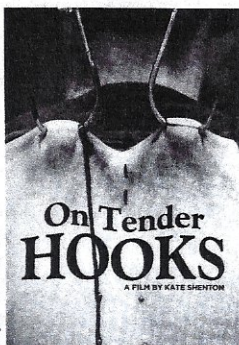
In this Spanish shocker a college girl needs a job so she applies for a babysitter position. Bad idea. It turns out she's babysitting for a girl her own age who has severe psychological problems. Faced with a severe mommy fixation our 'heroine' Ana must fend off the increasingly violent behavior of Elisa.

Even at seventy-five minutes this is tedious stuff. The film is nothing more than a prolonged game of cat and mouse with torture thrown in the mix. Ana has her legs broken, is dragged around by her hair, gets fingers shoved in her mouth, is bound to a bed and so forth. Meanwhile her drug dealer boyfriend tries desperately to save her in time. Frankly whether or not he succeeds doesn't matter since you won't care.

Hardly worth recommending this is available on DVD from Dark Sky Films with the only bonus feature being the trailer.

PITSTOP

Jack Hill directed this intriguing tale of car racing right after **SPI- DER BABY**. Our tale revolves around Rick (Richard Davalos) who goes from straight car racing to figure eight (dangerous intersection derby) under the tutelage of Grant Willard (Quatermass himself...Brian Donlevy). He rises in the ranks fast...even stepping on the toes of



Grant's number one guy Hawk (Sid Haig). With several bumps along the way, Rick soon takes a 360 degree turn, and I'm not talking about spinning out in his car either.

Hill describes the film as 'art' whereas producer Roger Corman was simply looking for exploitation. Hill manages to blend both in a heady stew that never spoils. The film is peppered with great characters, none more so than Haig who has a field day as the wild and whacky Hawk. In fact one could argue that this is Haig's finest hour, since his character (much like Rick) undergoes a transformation as the film builds to its bitter climax. Haig's **SPIDER BABY** co-star Beverly Washburn also gains our sympathy as the unlikely girlfriend caught up in a mix of death and soul stealing. A young Ellen Burstyn also shows up to provide romantic bliss.

Arrow Videos' stunning Blu-ray presents **PIT STOP** in a glorious presentation, with the wonderful black and white photography preserving all of the shadowy detail fans expect. One scene is darkly lit with only the jabs of welding sparks lighting the frame. It's an eerie but pleasing moment that is shot from above...clearly showcasing Hill's love of artsploitation (or something like that).

Extras include separate interviews with Hill, Haig and Corman who discuss the creation of the film. The original title (which is presented on this print) was **THE WINNER** which wasn't exploitative enough. However Corman clearly preferred that moniker since he stipulated that Rick *had* to be the winner of the big race, whereas Hill originally wanted him to lose. How Hill managed to make-up for that is pretty clever. Hill also talks in detail about how the crazy eight racing was filmed, at night with no less than five cameras. Not bad for someone who had no previous interest in the subject!

PIT STOP confirms that Jack Hill was easily one of the best independent filmmakers of his generation. It's yet another feather in a remarkable career that spanned decades and genres. Hill probably left filmmaking too early, but his legacy lives on in quality presentations such as this. In short this comes highly recommended.

SAMURAI AVENGER THE BLIND WOLF

On paper this looks like a vintage '70s Japanese sword epic but it's really a 2009 production done in the best possible 'homage' one could hope for on a small budget. The movie stars Kurando Mitsutake as the titular character. He was a simple married man with a daughter who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. After his wife is killed, he is forced to stab out his eyes with a stick in order to save his daughter. The man behind all of this mayhem, Nathan Flesher, is locked up for a while...released...and soon faced with the prospect of a man left for dead coming back as the Blind Wolf...for revenge.

This basic scenario offers up a few twists and turns but is really nothing more than one battle after another. The Wolf faces off against seven assassins' (not too dissimilar from **GAME OF DEATH**) in order to gain access to Flesher. Along the way he meets The Drifter, a hunky dude who has a penchant for sword fighting as well. It seems like The Drifter is an ally, but his loyalty is first tested when a bare breasted wench (who has hypnotic tits!) pits him against the Blind Wolf. The other assassins are *not quite* as memorable but they are entertaining in their own way.

The movie was clearly a labor of love for Mitsutake who not only

