

Rob Freese's EUROCRIME REPORT

ARROW VIDEO

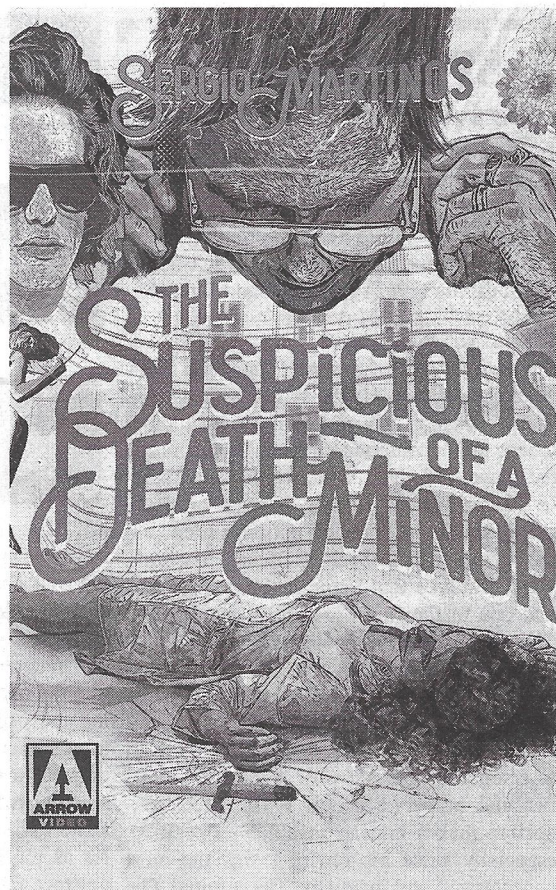
(\$39.95 Blu-ray) 10/17

THE SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF A MINOR (1975) ♂♂♂

D: Sergio Martino. Claudio Cassinelli, Mel Ferrer, Lia Tanzi, Gianfranco Barra, Adolfo Caruso, Jenny Tamburi. 100 mins.

Paolo Germi (Cassinelli) tries to pick up a girl on the run from a stranger in mirror sunglasses and gets his own spectacles broken when she makes a quick exit. She is soon murdered, and Germi teams up with Gianni (Caruso), a petty thief, to snatch purses from streetwalkers. He lets the kid have all the money in the purses; all he wants are the little black books of names and addresses. After a long car chase that includes a number of oddly incongruous bits of slapstick comedy (such as a car crashing into the front of a bicycle and turning it into a unicycle), it is revealed that Germi is actually a police detective on an undercover operation investigating kidnapped children. A number of recent snatchings have something to do with a number of recent murders, and Germi is under pressure from his superintendent (Ferrer) to provide some arrests. The closer Germi gets to revealing the truth, the closer the man in the mirror sunglasses gets. A fistful of twists and a handful of turns take the story through one loop after another, revealing blackmail, narcotics and assault. There's a shoot-out on a rollercoaster and a climax on a ferry train as it transports passengers in cars through a mountain tunnel. The

Suspicious Death of a Minor is an odd flick in that it is presented as a straight giallo thriller but it's more a *poliziesco*, Euro-crime thriller. The focus is on the detective on the case rather than the killer or a victim who finds himself/herself in a gritty murder plot. In an extended interview with director Martino on the disc's lone extra (besides the theatrical trailer), he says the film was always conceived as a police procedural and he wanted to call it **Violent Milan**, but the distributor changed it and tried to sell it as a giallo. (The following year **Milano Violenta** was released, also starring Cassinelli.) The film is also known as **Too Young To Die**, which is the title IMDb has it listed under. Whatever subgenre you want to put it in, this is a solid, entertaining thriller and Cassinelli is quite good as the wisecracking detective. He takes his job seriously but isn't afraid to perform some of the stray comedy bits. (Running jokes include the detective always breaking his glasses and driving a car that is constantly falling apart.) Cassinelli was a staple of Italian exploitation cinema, working with the likes of Lucio Fulci (**Murder Rock**, **New Gladiators**) and Luigi Cozzi (**Hercules**), among many others. He appeared in several Martino films, including **Screamers**, **The Great Alligator** and **The Scorpion with Two Tails**. Unfortunately, it was on the set of Martino's **Fists of Steel** that Cassinelli perished in a horrible helicopter accident. This is probably my favorite of his films with Martino. Arrow's superb release is ideal for fans of '70s Italian thrillers. ♂



to categorize certain genres or themes, if you will. It leads with an emphasis on spots narrated by the unmistakable "Voice of New World Pictures" Ron Gans. One after another in 30- and 60-second spurts with cuts-on-the-action energy, these micros of feature-length films punctuate their visuals with Gans' deep pipes and narration copy that promised much from films that were often thin on delivery. **Twilight People** touts its "herd of howling horrors" and "screaming demons screeching through the skies"...or it could just be Filipino actors in weird makeup. Who cares? I'm gonna go see it anyway! Other groupings include Japanese kaiju (kudos to the creators of the fast-paced **Terror of Godzilla**), chop-socky imports, animal threats (watch for 1970's **Bigfoot**) and sexy and silly romps such as **Incoming Freshmen**, **Super Vixens** and **Massage Parlor Hookers**. Elsewhere, **Blacula** is an all-time fave that features William Marshall's commanding presence, voice and chilling facial expressions. Joseph Brenner and Associates' **Torso** has been a standout for decades thanks to its combination of narration copy that interacts with moving graphics and skilled music editing of Alan Parker's library music composition **Hippy**. Watch for interesting obscurities such as **Alabama's Ghost**, **The Black Six**, **Zaat** and **Big Zapper**. Hear Dick Tufeld narrate **Castle of Blood** and **Hercules in the Haunted World** double feature! Hear Adolph Caesar magnify the virtues of **Doctor Butcher, M.D.** ("I'm determined to have your brain!")! Hear...well, you get the idea. The Blu-ray has been encoded ABC (all regions) available through diabolikdvd.com. ♂

Tim Ferrante's TRAILERS OF TERROR!

GARAGEHOUSE PICTURES

(\$24.99 Blu-ray) 11/17

TRAILER TRAUMA 4: TELEVISION TRAUMA (2017) ♂♂♂♂

D: Various. 181 mins.

What's a distributor to do? It needs a TV spot, but its product is a lurid, no-budget lemon. The answer? It writes hyperbolic narration, hands it to a voice-over pro like William Conrad or Ernie Anderson, and shows as much action, sex, violence and gore as broadcast standards will allow! Got three hours to kill? **Trailer Trauma Part 4: Television Trauma** delivers this recipe 268 times. That's right, *268 TV spot commercials* mostly comprised of '70s and '80s horror and exploitation movies. As someone who started collecting 16mm TV spots 45 years ago, I always found it a thrill when I could get my claws on a few choice titles to add to the master collection. Now, with labels like Garagehouse Pictures and its vast film library, we can enjoy these nuggets in 4K color-corrected resolution. The disc tends

