

**Rob Freese's  
SLASH-O-RAMA!**

**GETTING ICED  
ARROW VIDEO**

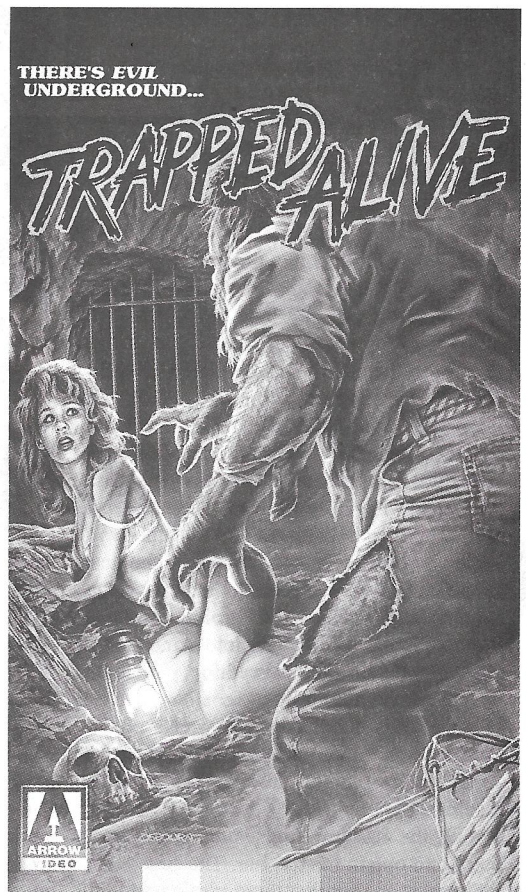
(\$39.95 each) 7/19, 6/19

**THE CHILL FACTOR (1993) ♂♂**

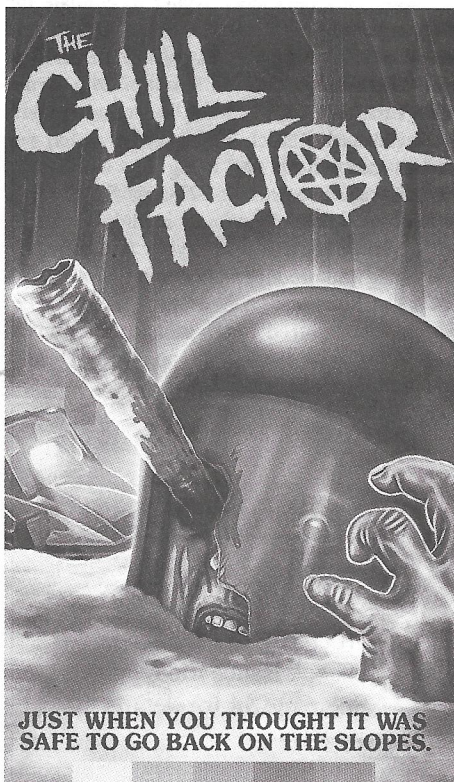
D: Christopher Webster. Dawn Laurie, Aaron Kjenaas, Connie Snyder, Dave Fields, Eve Montgomery, Jim Cagle. 86 mins.

Six friends on a snowmobile adventure weekend drink a ton of beer, then decide to do some snowmobile racing in a storm. It's all fun and games until Tom (Kjenaas) is accidentally flung off his ski and face-plants into a nearby tree. They are 30 miles from civilization, they just noticed the storm, and Tom can't be moved now since he's basically a bloody bag of broken bones and raw meat. Ron (Cagle) scouts the area and finds the abandoned Camp Saint Dominic, which may have been the scene of a decades-earlier murder spree as well as some satanic cult activities. They get Tom wrapped up by the fire, then the kids start poking around the camp until they find what one character identifies as a "Devil's Eye," a sort of Haitian ouija board that works more like a wheel of (mis)fortune. Jeannie (Laurie) doesn't want to play around with it, but her stupid friends convince her to be an idiot like them and they start speaking to the dead. Sure enough, a demon awakens and possesses Tom, who suddenly has a miraculous recovery and engages in some hot naked fun time with

Jeannie between killing their friends. It's a race to get away from Demonic Tom. Who will survive? Honestly, who cares? This slasher/possession movie is as dumb as its characters. The actual locale of the abandoned camp is pretty cool, but none of the sketchy backstory about the deaths or the supposed satanist connection or even who the demon is that possesses Tom leads to anything interesting. I just sort of looked at it for 86 minutes because there wasn't anything else to look at and I was too lazy to put anything else in the player. The whole story is told as a narrated flashback. This is odd because the character telling the story shouldn't know half the stuff she's talking about, as her character slept through most of the movie. There's a really greasy, nasty relationship between the brother and sister characters of Tom and Karen (Snyder), suggesting that they share a connection much closer than that of any normal brother and sister. As far as the gory goods go, the flick has a couple decent moments of blood spillage that any '80s horror hound will enjoy and really shines in the stunts department, with the initial snowmobile accident and a final fire gag that isn't done too often these days. It was originally released by AIP on VHS under the title **Demon Possessed**. Extras include commentary, copious interviews with various crew members, still gallery, **Demon Possessed** VHS trailer and VHS workprint copy. Arrow should be commended for another great release, but I wonder why such a dumb movie is given such lavish treatment when way better dumb movies like **House of Death**, **Iced** and **Fatal Games** have yet to be given any kind of legit digital premiere.



tracks the cons to the mine and encounters lonely Rachel (Kent), a young woman who lives on the property whose family owns the Forever Mine. He gets caught up in some sweet spontaneous holiday nookie-making before following the cons and their hostages into the mine. There's some effective cat and mouse as the group is stalked, with one really good scare coming during the satisfying climax. I didn't go into this one with much in the way of expectations and I'm happy to admit I enjoyed it way more than I thought I would. **Trapped Alive** is a fun, albeit totally stupid, '80s slasher that delivers plenty of gratuitous skin and gore for the self-respecting slasher fan. Hester makes for a resourceful and feisty psycho-fighter, and Mitchell is a delight in his limited screen time. Kubik as the head goon is just the right amount of weaselly jerk, the perfect character to root for the killer to snuff out in some horrible fashion. The gore effects are well executed and a couple moments of grue will jolt the most staunch knife-kill flick fans among us. Most impressive is the cavern set design, all built within a studio. While it was made with the intention of scoring a theatrical release, **Trapped Alive** sat on the shelf for five years before going straight to video via the AIP VHS label in the early '90s. Extras include copious cast and crew interviews, an episode of **Upper Michigan Tonight** about the making of the film, a look at director Burzynski's earlier films, still gallery and more. It might not add any new ideas to the well-worn slash 'n' hack formula but **Trapped Alive** (aka **Forever Mine**) does deliver what it sets out to, mainly dumb fun. ♂



**TRAPPED ALIVE (1988) ♂♂1/2**

D: Leszek Burzynski. Cameron Mitchell, Sullivan Hester, Laura Kallison, Mark Witsken, Alex Kubik, Elizabeth Kent, Randy Powell. 91 mins.

Robin (Hester) and Monica (Kallison) leave Robin's father's (Mitchell) Christmas party to trek out into the wintry wilds for a more happening holiday bash on the outskirts of town. Their merriment ceases when they are taken hostage after encountering a trio of escaped convicts led by the scarred-up Louis "Face" Napoleon (Kubik). Robin falls for young Randy Carter (Witsken), who Face forced to come along against his will, so he could drive them out of state. The only thing Randy succeeds in doing is uncontrollably sliding Monica's car out of control and stopping on top of a rickety entrance to the long-shuttered Forever Mine, which the car crashes through, dropping everyone deep into the mine. After the vehicle explodes, they have no choice but to go through the mine in search of another way out. It doesn't take long for them to realize there is someone, or something, in the mine with them, hunting and eating them one by one. Dumb deputy Billy Williams (Powell)