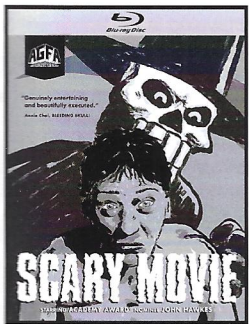


Warren bullied by rural jerk-dragged into the spookhouse, yet any worse? What if blood-filtrated the attraction? Before forced to confront his deepest fears trapped inside the horror-

Ball from the UK synthpop band Soft Cell and Throbbing Gristle frontman Genesis P-Orridge (who also turns up on-screen as an underground "high priest" with rebellious acolytes). Einheit and Erinow's barely-defined characters lack any personality, with only artist-turned-actor Rice (who appeared in such indie works as Beth and Scott B's VORTEX and Amos Poe's SUBWAY RIDERS) making any impression, while "special guest" William S. Burroughs is given little to do as the proprietor of a dingy electronics shop. Awash in distinctive early-1980s trappings — from its on-screen technology, to its hairstyles and overuse of Dutch angles — cinematographer Johanna Heer gives the proceedings a sleek, cold and slightly trippy veneer, but is unable to hide the fact that this indulgent twaddle is more interesting to discuss and analyze than actually sit through. The Blu-ray/DVD set includes a commentary by Kier-La Janisse (who appreciated the film far more than me); a new interview with co-writer/co-producer Klaus Maeck; Jack Sargeant's archival audio interview with Maeck; and a featurette about an Italian decoder collective inspired by this film.

Laced with eccentric characters, shocking demises and creepy Catholic trappings, 1976's ALICE SWEET ALICE (Arrow Video) was the sophomore feature from director Alfred Sole, following 1972's infamous X-rated DEEP SLEEP. Initially suffering from a spotty theatrical release, under alternate titles like COMMUNION and THE MASK MURDERS, the film caught a break when

10th-billed Brooke Shields (in her feature debut) suddenly became a hot commodity and gave its distributor a hook to sell this atmospheric horror-mystery. Set in 1961 Paterson, New Jersey, Alice Spages (diminutive, 17-year-old Paula Sheppard, convincingly playing twelve) is a handful for frazzled mother Catherine (Tony-nominee Linda Miller — ex-wife of Jason Miller and daughter of Jackie Gleason) and a brat to little sister Karen (10-year-old Brooke Shields). But when Karen is gruesomely murdered in church by a small, Halloween-masked assailant, Alice becomes a prime suspect, due to her history of hostile behavior and the fact that she wears the same yellow, hooded rain-slicker as this killer. Yes, Alice is a horrible kid who'll probably grow up to be a raging sociopath, but is she capable of homicide? When her aunt is stabbed by the same vicious, half-pint fiend, Alice is once again blamed, even as more people are imaginatively attacked or slaughtered. Sheppard brings an entertainingly offbeat edge to her pivotal role, surrounded by supporting characters such as a local priest (Rudolph Willrich), his elderly housekeeper (Mildred Clinton), Alice's divorced dad (Niles McMaster), and particularly Alphonso DeNoble as a repulsively obese downstairs neighbor. A few overly hysterical performances undercut the story's effectiveness, but Sole's brilliantly bloody set pieces, flashes of ghoulish humor and satisfying denouement make this an amusingly twisted regional treat. The Blu-ray is also stuffed with cool special features, including interviews with Sole, McMaster and composer Stephen Lawrence; Mike Gingold takes us on a present-day tour of its Paterson locations; Sole's cousin, filmmaker Dante Tomaselli, discusses his own connections to the horror genre; two commentaries — one with Sole, editor Edward Salier and MANIAC's



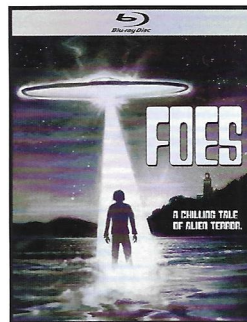
doesn't make him out to be a... while, its low-rent spook-constructed on a Driftwood, Texas of Austin — makes an incredibly... backprop for much of the... Plus keep your eyes peeled for... Patrick (complete with an... in case you don't recog-... MOVIE had its Austin theatrical... but then never got a national... found its appreciative audi-... will change now... The Blu-ray/... commentary by Erickson and... Zamba, a teaser trailer and two... shorts. In 1986's amusingly... KIN, a bratty kid is freaked out... been boogeyman tale, while the... E HERO (made when Erickson... has a mischievous, Depress-... sneaking into a movie theatre... ve and spectacularly indigent... ritarian fantasy DECODER... me) is a scattershot vision of... conspiracies, but never com-... ve enough to be more than a... e plays Jaeger, an operative at... ent surveillance facility, who... becomes inexplicably... ably obsessed with... peep show worker... Christiana (Christi-... ane Felsch Erinow, the real-life basis for CHRISTIANE F.). Meanwhile, her anti-conformist boyfriend (F.M. Einheit, percussionist for the abrasive industrial band Einstürzende Neubauten) dabbles with ambient cas-



his novel littered with sound... ing a subliminal message... zack played by a McDonald's... uses disruptions using his own... with Jaeger assigned to stop... omers out of fast food resta-... in the streets. Alas, Jaeger's... Christiana interferes greatly... ctor Muscha and the collective... he misguidedly convinced that... an agenda is enough for a film... half-baked goulash quickly... den dialogue, limp pacing, un-... self-importance, gratuitous frog... es wandering about the seedi-... with music produced by Dave

Bill Lustig (who briefly worked on the special make-up effects); a second with Richard Harland Smith — plus the film's HOLY TERROR alternate cut, which top-bills Shields in the opening credits, despite exiting after the first fifteen minutes.

Unidentified Flying Objects were a hot topic in the 1970s, with 'factual' best-sellers and made-for-TV movies aplenty, but the low-budget 1977 sci-fi drama FOES (Garagehouse) skipped a US theatrical release altogether and eventually turned up on TV in 1981. The solitary feature from writer/director John Coats, it's surprisingly earnest and visually ambitious, but too aimless and uneventful to leave much of an impression... When an Air Force jet disintegrates during a chance encounter with an alien spacecraft, General Mason (Jerry Hardin, THE X-FILES' Deep Throat) recruits UFO expert Dr. McCarey (Hollywood veteran Macdonald Carey) to help determine the military's next move. Meanwhile, on a quiet island off the Southern California coast, lighthouse keeper Larry (Coats) and his wife Diane (Jane Wiley) notice this immense, shiny-silver flying saucer hovering nearby, making strange, grating noises. With all outside communications shut down by the extraterrestrial annoyance, the worried couple stupidly decides to check it out all by themselves. A pair of skin-diving buddies (Alan Blanchard and Gregory Clemens) inadvertently get pulled into this mess as well, and end up following eerie, shimmering streaks of light that move about the area after dark. And what does their curiosity get them? Incineration, severe elec-



trical burns and lasti... a whole lot actually... Coats avoiding explic... in favor of low-key r... dering about the isl... bland — no surprise... attempt at character... and Hardin mostly... NORAD knock-off... or pathetically unde... Though it boasts sor... ingenious special... entertainment value... obscurity. The Blu-ra... ute feature and a 7... cut, which lacks the... (with Coats explaini... that the Carey/Hard... later at the behest of... 17-minute TALES C... Xmas-themed doper... turing terrific footag...

Director Gerard... such ground-breaki... MISS JONES and D... loopiest efforts was... MY PUPPETS COM... hardcore musical-oc... nantly puppet cast... intercourse. Premier... TV debut of THE ML... twist on the sexual... stagemusical "Let My... concept straight out... Garland "Let's put o... all, LET MY PUPPE... to its full 75-minute... minute "extra added... ed jizz-pits, minus th... es and a mind-bogg... 'n' roll musical numb... brothers end up in de

NICOLAS COSTER Continued from PG. 33

of a PR guy whom I played. He stayed in character, so I think there was a little method going on there.

SC: Do you think he's underrated as an actor? Coster: Yeah — and under-directed. I think there was more in him. We all have moments where we feel like shit and look like it. But I've never quite seen that vulnerability in him. It's not a matter of

displaying it. It's a ma... show. He almost got... couple of movies, ar... think he worked bea... To wrap it up... I'... took me very close... extremely grateful f... have, because I real... this country, and the... care or have inadec