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PORKCHOP (2010)

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Directed by Eamon Hardiman

Review by David Carter

BUY IT

Released by Independent Entertainment

Running Time: 92 minutes

Rating: Not Rated

Color format: Color

Audio/Subtitles: 2.0 Stereo English

Region Code: 1, NTSC

Aspect Ratio: Widescreen

16:9 Enhanced: Yes

Special Features: Commentary, Behind the scenes, "Ian Speaks" featurette

Trailer Online: [Yes](#)



Short Version: The eighties live on

The defining characteristic of the slasher cycle of the eighties was the inevitability that the killer, though thought to be defeated, would spring back to life at an inopportune moment or at least at the start of the sequel. In many ways this defining trope is a metaphor for the genre itself, which has consistently popped back up to menace cinema goers regardless of the number of times the death knell has been rung by critics. Case in point: it's 2012 – thirty-one years after reviews of *STUDENT BODIES* claimed it would be the end of the genre – and slashers still make up the majority of horror films we receive at Film Fanaddict. Most of these are of the ironic variety; films that play up the slasher tropes for humor and nostalgia purposes. The most recent of these that we've received is Independent Entertainment's *PORKCHOP*.



PORKCHOP is set during the golden age of the

slasher film – the early eighties. Mike, his on-again/off-again girlfriend Deborah, her brother Ritchie, his robot friend Elron, and friends Ian, Rachael, and Courtney are heading into the woods for a weekend of drunken debauchery. When the gang stops at a backwoods gas station for some supplies, they get two pieces of unsolicited advice which will change their lives forever. The first – which they take -- comes courtesy of the colorful hillbillies working the register, who suggest they change their destination to Camp Wood for a much better time. They unfortunately don't listen to the second piece of advice, which comes from a crazy old man who tells them they'll meet their deaths out there.

The aforementioned drunken debauchery goes off without a hitch, but the group has a lot more to contend with than simply hangovers the following morning. Ian is missing and it's up to the remaining six to comb the dense woods to find him. They split up but it doesn't take long for before they run into trouble in the form of Porkchop, a massive, pig-masked man wielding a chainsaw. They had dismissed Porkchop as simply a campfire tale, but he – and his chainsaw – is all too real and they'll be lucky to escape with their lives.



PORKCHOP has its tongue more firmly in its cheek than other recent slasher/comedies and it works out well for it. I can honestly say that there are some genuinely funny moments in the film as opposed to the groans that horror-comedies typically elicit. PORKCHOP is definitely more comedy than horror, but the film's climax evens the balance a little bit. The film never gets overly gory, so the blood-drenched DVD cover could be considered false advertising to a degree. Those of you who go into this film expecting a bloodbath will likely leave disappointed, but otherwise you'll be highly entertained throughout. The cast does a good job of imitating a typical eighties' slasher cast without looking like they're trying too hard to do so, and the film's laid back atmosphere contributes a lot to how likeable it is.

Independent Entertainment specializes in bringing low-budget goodness like this to DVD and the disc for PORKCHOP is well made. A behind the scenes featurette shows that the film was as fun to make as it is to watch. I enjoyed PORKCHOP because it doesn't take itself too seriously; a major flaw of many low-budget films, even comedies. Not all of the jokes hit the mark, but most do, and some well-executed horror scenes at the climax are just a bonus. Slasher fans should love this one and, good news, I hear the filmmakers are working on a sequel: PORKCHOPS.