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## Ultimate Death Match

Directed by Shawn Cain (USA, 2009)|Independent Media Distribution

Reviewed by **Kami** Posted on 18/03/2011



When one of his wrestlers has a heart attack in the ring and dies, promoter Jake Reed (director Shawn Cain) loses his license so decides to do the logical thing – promote an illegal tournament on the internet where the loser will die in the ring!! Yes, that's right, a death match. Sounds feasible right? Sure it does.

Unfortunately what you get from here on in is a series of cheap ass wrestling matches in a beer hall with about 25 to 30 spectators watching, all filmed on a coupla handycams! Yep, it's community TV wrestling just with a "plot" to hold it together.

It's backyard wrestling combined with backyard film making, a combination that definitely reeks of death, just not the kind they mean in the title! Stars of the grappling arts like Dash Venture, Jimmy Flame, Aaron Bolo, Paul Ventura, The Beast and more you've never heard of from the minor leagues have a ball in this mess of no disqualifications, no holds barred, no stone unturned series of matches, all to the rowdy cheers of the crowd (loosely defined) while former ECW/WWE wrestler Al Snow and some other schmuck add commentary and constantly remind us "someone is going to die tonight."

Meanwhile the FBI are keeping tabs on the match from someone's basement just in case a death does occur. Although they then disappear for most of the movie anyway so we can concentrate on the formidable grappling skills of our contestants. As the round robin tournament commences we see a bunch of c-grade wrestlers who you'll never hear of again beat each other up as millions (?) around the

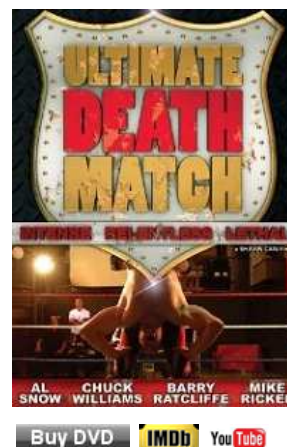
world tune in on the internerd and the prize money steadily grows from a mere 3 million dollars to a staggering 10 million bucks for the winner. Of course the wrestlers think it's all an angle but the evil promoter has other ideas and pulls aside a couple of the meanies to make sure there really is a death in the ring! OOH...

Trouble is you don't actually care if anyone does die, the one supposedly sympathetic character, Paul Ventura (or Venture depending on which credit you read) is a flabby old fart in a pair of jeans who only gets our sympathy because he's fighting to get his family back and he briefly waves a photo to prove it.

The highlight of the whole mess is Al Snow as Frosty doing the commentary. He has a ball and almost makes the matches easier to endure, almost. Badlines, absolutely terrible and intrusive music, the sort of shitty acting you expect from c-grade grapplers, obvious mistakes like having 10 wrestlers in an 8 man tournament (!?), a two blood capsule budget, the sheer balls to have a storyline where 24 million people are watching online while maybe 30 people sit in the beer hall (!), a lame death – I mean we've endured an hour or so of bricks, sticks, brass thumbtacks, chains, choking etc and the death comes from a tombstone piledriver (!?), the FBI subplot that just disappears for most of the movie and even when it comes back makes no sense, all this together makes for a film that only serious wrestling marks and bad movie marks are going to be able to endure.

I used to think I was a mark for bad movies, **Ultimate Death Match** has tested that theory to the max! But you know what is even worse? Even though the film is a shocker, sadly the storyline is still better than anything WWE or TNA have going right now!

If you like watching wrestling at your local beer hall, if you are the sort of guy who tunes into to community TV to watch a coupla unknowns in tights beat each other up while some guy with a handycam runs around the ring, you'll probably enjoy this film, maybe...



### Disc Details:

Running Time: 90 minutes  
Aspect Ratio: 16x9  
Region: 1  
No. Discs: 1

### Special Features:

Trailers

### Recommended Viewing:

Bloodsport  
Circle of Iron  
The Wrestler  
TNA Wrestling Mick Foley: Hardcore Legend

### Comment on this DVD review

