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Truth or Dare?: A Critical Madness (1986)

Region 0 DVD Video Review

Reviewed by **Nortallica**

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--DVD DETAILS

Distributor:
• MVD Visual**Running Time:**
• 84 minutes approx**DVD Release Date:**
• June 29, 2010**DVD Country:**
• America**Screen Format:**
• 4:3 Full Frame NTSC**Discs / Sides / Layers:**
• 1 / 1 / Dual**Soundtracks:**
• English: Dolby Digital 2.0**Subtitles:**
• n/a**Special Features:**
• Commentaries
• Trailers
• Behind-the-Scenes with Slideshow
• Film Facts
• and more!**Classification:**
• Not Rated

--FILM DETAILS

Studio(s):
• Sub Rosa Studio**Year:**
• 1986**Country:**
• America**Directed by:***"It's time to play truth or dare."*

--THE PLOT

Straight laced and predictable Mike Strauber lives what he believes to be a good life. Unfortunately when he discovers his best friend and wife in bed together he reaches out to the last thing on his side, his own sanity. Sadly amongst the chaos of his personal dilemma his sanity is about as sturdy as boulders on wafers and he soon begins a game of

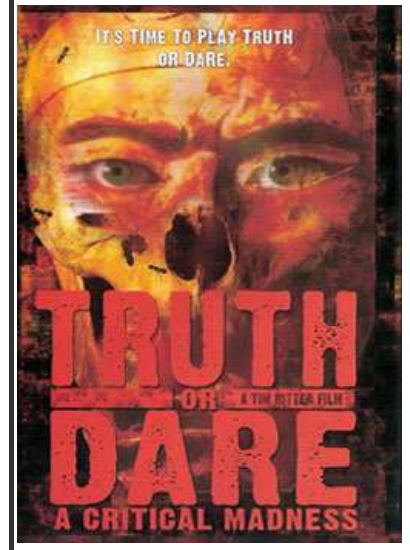
'Truth or Dare' with a beautiful stranger he picks up hitch hiking.

The game takes a turn for the worse and reveals the dark nature of this busty beaut and spirals Mike into a murderous tirade of vengeance which affects not only those who have wronged him, but anyone his psyche deems to have grievanced him.

The plot of this film is an interesting one, and although not terribly imaginative these days, and possibly only slightly for the time of this movie's original release it is still an intensive and quite possible scenario.

Sadly the age of this feature affects its appeal, the aficionados will appreciate its worth, but younger or less inclined viewers may see it as bland and unfulfilling.

--COVER ART

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--RATINGS

Film

Video

Audio

Extras

Overall

--FUN FACTS

Trivia:
• n/a

...MORE

• Tim Ritter

Written by:

• Tim Ritter

Starring:

- John Brace
- Mary Fanaro
- Bruce Gold
- A.J. McLean
- Christopher Bontempo
- Jon Creamer
- Christine Duff
- Jennifer Duff

Genre(s):

• Horror

Also known as:

• n/a



--VIDEO

The video quality has not aged well at all. Although various scenes are of much better quality than others, the overall look is dated. I do not know exactly whether this is degradation or if the feature has always lacked this quality, but the fact of the matter is it doesn't look too great and I have to rate it on what you will be paying for if you buy this, not what it looked like back in the day.

The actual cinematography however isn't bad. Its not going to wow you, but it does work very well and shares a lot of tendencies of horror films at the time.

Special effects are a mishmash of good and bad, but generally the point that have to get across is successful.

--AUDIO

Although a low score, its based purely on the standards of today. The mixing makes the audio sound a little tinny, and the score is a bit generic of the time.

Considering the age of the piece its not particularly surprising, and once again, the people that appreciate this genre and era most will not take it too badly.



--EXTRAS

The Extras are what surprised me most here, although most of them are basic and unfulfilling, I did quite thoroughly enjoy the 'film facts' they aren't numerous, but generous in the information and appreciation they give you about this nostalgic piece.

It may be only a small saving grace, but in a world of special features that are nothing more than trailers or shitty promos, it is a welcome addition in my opinion.

--FINAL THOUGHTS

Although I wasn't particularly a fan of this piece, being someone that grew up with horror movies I was deeply appreciative of the nostalgic feel of the film, and was quite pleased to relieve an era of horror that didn't require me to bash myself over the head with moral backdrops and overtones.

Goofs:

- Miscellaneous: During the drive to the camp site, while Mike Strauber is disturbed by his memories, there is a frame of a later scene in which he is getting supplies for the camp site from the location.

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Quotes:

- n/a

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Movie Connections:

- Followed by Screaming for Sanity: Truth or Dare 3 (1998)

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--SOUNDTRACK

"Critical Madness"

Written by Johnny Britt and Ken Karlson
Performed by Kay Reed with the Church Of Our Savior Choir

[...MORE](#)

--POSTER



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Mary Fanaro, A.J. ...

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More impressive about this film, as I only just discovered whilst trying to fill in all the specific details that go with these reviews, is that the director Tim Ritter was only 18 when he began filming this, and was made for a shoe-string budget of only \$250,000. Like this movie or not, that is an impressive feat, even in 1986 when 250,000 dollars was actually worth something.

All in all, the younger horror audience of today may not appreciate this movie for what it is, but it is a welcome excursion into the history of one of the most enduring genres around, and any horror fan

will be wronging themselves if they do not purchase this film.

--TRAILER

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This site is dedicated to my niece Laralie and daughter Elvira.