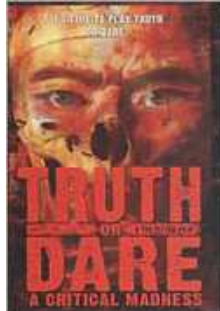


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Truth or Dare: A Critical Madness

1986

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After the last flaming pile of dung I saw from SRS Cinema titled *Lights Camera Dead*, I was a little afraid to touch *Truth or Dare*, the cover alone gave an impending warning of mass suckage. I took comfort however to discover this film was actually from 1986 and being released by SRS Cinema. An interesting thing to keep in mind before passing any judgment about this film is that Tim Ritter who created the film was actually 19 years old, which for what this film is and it's content it pretty damn impressive. You don't just grab a camera and make the film and presto, it takes an immense amount of ingredients to actually complete it which Tim will talk about in the making of section in the special features, it grabbed my respect and affected my judgment a smidge about this film.

I personally enjoy the start of this film as it's pretty gritty. Your average dorky guy Mike (John Brace) with a nice house, wife and good job comes home completely oblivious to the fact he is being cheated on by his wife, the tension builds with each pleasurable moan mike's wife emits and the faintness in Mike's voice as he calls out for her which builds up to the very moment Mike opens the door to walk into one of every man's worst nightmare.

Obviously he walks in on his wife and to add insult to injury a friend as well, with mike freaking out you wonder if he is going to snap and kill them both, instead he runs away like a scorned child. This all boils down to Mike holding a gun to his head and taking the easy way out but instead he comes to his senses (kind of) and drives off to pick up an imaginary hitch hiker. Mike and his new imaginary friend go set up camp some where and then engage in a simple game of Truth or Dare which turns gruesome as mike ends up mutilating himself badly and morphing into his insane new person completely void of any reasoning.

After a brief stint in Sunnydale insane asylum Mike gets let out early due to lack of funds. When he gets his taste for freedom, his thirst for revenge wakes up and he does nothing but set on a path of destruction that ends with his former wife's warm blood on his hands. This is pretty much where the movie takes a swan dive into complete absurdity as Mike pretty much goes on a killing spree mixed with a few Truth or Dare games to add some merit to the title of the film. Along the path of craziness mike ends up back in the Looney bin managing to disfigure his face so badly he comes to adapt some kind of creepy bronze mask. The mask I must say must have been a little

inspiration for the mask design of *Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon* if you compare the two they look pretty damn similar, I am pretty sure I am probably one of the very few people who have made this connection as both films are pretty obscure which is what happens when you watch too many b-movies. Any way I am sure you can guess what comes next, he manages to get out and this time tries to settle the score with his former wife one and for all.

By no means is this film a masterpiece but more like a decent drawing a kid did that really could have been a piece of paper a toddler just tossed a bunch of crap on in comparison to a lot of other releases around that time. Picture and sound quality I will say are atrocious, I felt a good majority of the time I was watching a VHS tape and some of the theme music towards the end was so muffled it was almost nauseating to have to hear that, I might as well have been a dog dealing with one of those whistles.

Supplements just have a making of that is mostly some clips strung together with Tim Ritter talking about the hardships this movie dealt him for the fact he was so young, but it is a bit of an impressive featurette. The facts section pretty much just backs up what Tim already explained and that is literally it. All I can really say is if you enjoy scenes that make you go and wonder what in the hell is going on, then the scene where Mike ruins his face is worth the watch as it's a pretty psychotic situation that is quite entertaining.

-Derek-

Directed by:
Tim Ritter

Written by:
Tim Ritter

Cast:
John Brace
Mary Fanaro
Bruce Gold
AJ McLean
Christopher Bontempo
Jon Creamer
Christine Duff
Jennifer Duff
Priscilla Duff

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio: 1:33:1
Language: English Dolby Digital 5.1
Commentary
Making of
Film Facts
Trailers

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