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DVD review



Lights, Camera, Dead took a minute to really get rolling but once it did, it proved to be, if a tad lacking in drive, then at least enthusiastic about its premise, fairly original and certainly fun to watch. So, what if you were a complete dickhead, egotistical indie horror filmmaker who thought you were a lot better than you really were and ended up pissing off your whole cast and crew mid-movie and suddenly found yourself with half a movie? What would you do then? Well, the filmmaker character in Lights, Camera, Dead, Ryan Black, takes an unconventional route to finish off his movie. That of finishing off his ex-cast and ex-crew and catching it all on film. Admittedly, the film is a bit lackadaisical (yet enthusiastic, really!) and meanders a bit, as well, but it is funny and does boast horror moments, as well. It is a horror-comedy, not a parody of horror, even if I'm splitting hairs. It's not Scary Movie. It's a "scary movie." With humor. Not an easy balance as most of us horror fans know, but it's one director Tim Reaper pulls off with panache. To boot, while I would have liked tighter suspense and a little more horrific elements to go along with the effective, droll humor, there are some nice gore bits here and there. To top it off, the performances are better than you'd expect in a low budget affair. All in all, Lights, Camera, Dead doesn't achieve greatness, but it is good and it is, even, rewatchable. Which is saying a lot, really.



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Upchuck Undergrind listens to a little bit of a lot of things - just note the eclecticism of his reviews. He also reads voraciously and loves movies. He is a very open-minded Episcopalian (and student of Buddhism and Hinduism) who thinks Slayer is one of the greatest metal bands. Ever. In addition to his work with Corazine - for which he has written since its inception (he is a Fishcomcollective veteran) - he also writes for DJFix.com.

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