

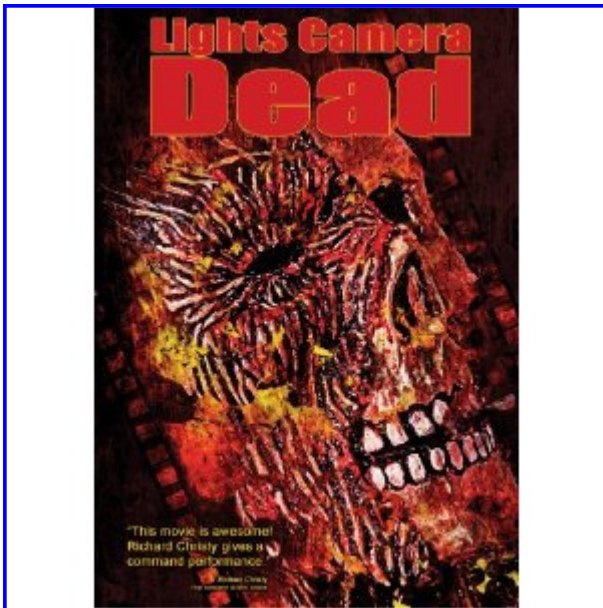
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## Friday Night Frights: Lights Camera Dead DVD Review

August 13, 2010 No Comments



In *Lights Camera Dead*, Ryan Black (Wes Reid) is a first time director who is filming a full length movie with his friends called "The Music Box." As shooting starts to drag out, tempers flare and Ryan and his scriptwriter Steven (J. C. Lira) blame the cast and crew for all of the problems, especially lead actress Amy (Kari Price), who is Ryan's girlfriend. After Ryan throws a tantrum, his cast quit and he and Steve are left with a partially shot horror film and no crew.

The duo become enraged when the editor tells them that there is not enough material for a full length movie and Steve inexplicably strangles the guy when he tries to leave for work. Instead of panic, Steve and Ryan draw inspiration from the murder and hatch a plan to finish "The Music Box" even if it kills them, well... even if it kills the cast. With apologies and the promise of beer, they gather the cast and crew for a Premiere at an abandoned house that is owned by Ryan's family. Once darkness sets in, director and screenwriter prepare to finish the film.

The story is fairly original, my only concern was the tendency to take a good scene and drag it out until it starts to get stale. The biggest example of this is the audition scene, which, although funny, seemed like it would never end. Likewise, the scene where Amy is torn between opening a note from Ryan or ignoring it was probably the best scene in the movie, it just needed to be pared down a bit before the uniqueness starts to wear off.

The gore in the movie is a little better than most indie horror films. Scenes of dripping intestines were not quite cringe worthy in realism but looked decent. I liked the way they handled a few of the stabbing scenes, especially at the end. The creature mask is very obviously latex and the ripped shirt showing its bones is often askew, resulting in an anatomically incorrect looking monster. The beauty of the script though, is that the movie is about making a no budget film, so bad effects fit right in with the story. I love this concept; it's a great way to make a low budget movie that is supposed to look like a low budget movie.

The best part of the special features is easily the 15 minute short presentation of "The Music Box." I actually liked this short more than I enjoyed *Lights Camera Dead*. In the short, a ghoulish mother and her son give a music box covered in human flesh to a young girl in exchange for her finger. Needless to say, that is only the start of the girl's problems and hijinks ensue. Comedian Richard Christy stops by to do a commentary track for his one scene as the musician in charge of scoring "The Music Box." It's a really brief piece but as Christie says at the end, he runs out of things to say pretty quickly.

Lights Camera Dead is a no budget horror film about a bunch of novices making a no budget horror film. Fans of Indie horror will want to at least give it a rent as it is pretty well done but those who prefer more mainstream will be put off by the low budget nature of Tim Reaper's film. When watching it make sure to check out the included short "The Music Box" as well. Rewatchability is a bit low on this one, however, so I recommend a rental.

### Special Features:

- Richard Christie Audio Commentary
- The Music Box short film
- Original Trailer

Lights, Camera, Dead is available now on DVD, courtesy of SRS Cinema and MVD Releasing.



- [Friday Night Frights: Inbred Redneck Vampires DVD Review](#) (1.000)
- [Friday Night Frights: 100 Feet Unrated and Uncut DVD Review](#) (0.500)
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