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Claustrofobia

2011

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Recently I had the unfortunate luck of having watched a string of horrifically bad films. Going into this one I thought bad cover art and misspelled film title were already bad omens, but *Claustrofobia* wastes no time in taking a strong grasp of your attention as It begins with two kids venturing in what appears to be an abandoned morgue, on a dare one of them crawls into one of those slide out freezer units where they keep the dead, except when the door is closed and the kid counts down to ten, no one opens the door and if you have a fear of being confined in small spaces this scene really will get at you.

Then abruptly we are tossed into an entirely different scene and mood as we meet Eva (Carolien Spoor) who appears to be on her way to school. Eva is shown struggling in her class which deals with being a vet and there is a pretty gross scene involving a Rat that Eva seems to have trouble with as her Rat was the only live one in class and was instructed to return it after class. She goes to a storage room that seems quite creepy and could easily be ripped from any horror film based on the eerie look and atmosphere, and surely enough a strange old man who must be the caretaker of that area pops up to give you a little jump if you were not paying attention.

The film so far does a great job in illustrating that Eva seems like she is lacking direction in life and struggling with what exactly to do which any one in their twenties can easily relate to. Eva also moves into a pretty nice spacious apartment complete with token creepy Landlord and peeping tom neighbor (who later in the film has a small humorous twist). After she finishes moving in and getting settle, Eva meets up with a friend and another neighbor at a club to do the usual unwind with some good drinking and dancing.

Winding down the evening at the mutual friend's apartment more drinking ensues until Eva decides to return to her apartment and leave her two friends to their own devices. Upon returning home she falls asleep and at the perfect timing is also abducted and taken to a confined room that has a *Saw* feel to it. She is handcuffed to a bed in the middle of this room which leaves you for a short time to imagine all the things that could happen to this character as this is one scary scenario for any person to be in.

When her captor emerges, he is incredibly mysterious and it makes you wonder who could it have been, is it the landlord or the creepy neighbor? Her captor is dressed completely in black with a gas mask and speaks through a voice changer to obliterate any clues of his identity. This is about all I can reveal as the rest of this film is just something you need to watch as it was built incredibly well. The lead up to who her Captor is keeps you guessing until the bodies start piling up and when his true intent for Eva is revealed it is something you were not expecting at all.

Since this film was in Dutch, there are subtitles so you have to really pay close attention to this film and it rewards you for that attention by a well done story that goes well with the atmosphere of uncertainty. The will for Eva to escape her captor is also another high light of the film as the actress does a good job portraying the struggle to survive on such a high level of emotion.

I really went into this film expecting a cheap piece of garbage but was pleasantly surprised at how well *Claustrofobia* was executed considering the Director Bobby Boermans had only two short films under his belt before releasing this almost *Misery* inspired film. Strangely enough with the limited amount of characters in this film you would think plenty of time would be spent letting you get to know them, but the film is so focused on Eva's survival that is overlooked, but considering the length and flow of the film it worked out well.

If I could cite any disappointed with this release I would have to say the lack of supplements, this was a great film and it left me wanting a little more I guess you could say. *Claustrofobia* is a great thriller and I would highly recommend seeing this, also for the over use of Apple products in a strange way and a deadly way.

-Derek-

Directed by:
Bobby Boermans

Written by:
Robert Arthur Jansen

Cast:
Dudley Beene
SDragan Bakema
Alison Carroll
Jappe Claes
Ernst Dekkers
Peter Faber

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1
Audio: Dutch Dolby Digital 2.0
English Subtitles

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