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Clown Hunt

Ever wonder what would happen if you mashed up *Surviving the Game* with A&E's *Duck Dynasty*, sprinkling in a healthy dose of the Insane Clown Posse? If you have.....you need professional help. But if you haven't, may I present to you Seminal Films' campy thrill-kill opus *Clown Hunt*. The brainchild of writer/director Barry Tubbs, *Clown Hunt* will leave you scratching your head heavily throughout. Where do the clowns come from? Where do the redneck hunters come from? Who are the hunters, and who are the hunted? This flick is certainly entertaining, but its open-endedness and rapidly-changing gears leave a bit to be desired.



Set in the deserts and backwoods of Texas, *Clown Hunt* gives viewers a glimpse into the world of big-game hunting. The game being hunted? Clowns, who roam the wasteland both alone and in packs, randomly jumping on trampolines or playing with oversized novelty toys. Each year groups of hunters gather to drink a lot of beer and stalk these "sillies" in their natural habitat. Of course, this particular season features the rumored return of "Albino Willie", a legendary clown that hunters dream of bagging but have never been successful. With his presence comes danger, as the clowns rally behind their enigmatic leader and begin to fight back. Rednecks watch out!

Look I know they're called "sillies".....but this movie is just plain silly. The idea of hunting circus entertainers as if they're wild animals is laughable, and that's the joke. I get it. I just wish the movie wasn't so random with some of the action. Am I asking too much of a film that portrays nothing but over-the-top, zany stereotypes? Perhaps. But even though I'm not sure this movie should be classified as "horror", I still enjoyed it. The comedic violence and blood were not nearly as plentiful as I would've liked, but Tubbs' script was still clever enough to hold my attention. There's a witty scene where the eternally-debated topic of clowns vs. mimes is put front and center, featuring nothing but French dialogue. Not your typical indy horror fare, huh?

One topic I've struggled with since the end credits rolled were the clowns themselves, and what metaphorical purpose they serve. Tubbs does a great job of portraying clowns of all different shapes, sizes, colors, talents, emotions ("sad" and "happy" clowns have their own distinct hunting seasons), and likability. But as I watched hunters run through a makeshift government structure, encountering red tape and bureaucracy which stand in the way of these rednecks upsetting the lifestyles and private dynamic of the hunted, one thought ran through my head: the clowns represent the homosexual community and their constant persecution. Again, either I'm reading too much into it...or the producers are wickedly-inventive conservatives voicing an underlying political agenda. Nah....I'm probably reading too much into it.

The cast play their parts well. There are the ignorant, extreme-sport-loving hunters, the mute and fun-loving clowns, the "girl" there to break up the all-mens club, etc. None of these characters will take you out of the action.....which isn't exactly saying much but if your standards are too high this probably isn't the movie for you. One name you may recognize is David Keith, he of *Daredevil*, *Behind Enemy Lines* and *Major League II* fame. If you're a Keith fan.....don't get too comfortable. Don't worry, not giving away too much there. Or am I? No, I'm not.

Overall, I tolerated and learned to appreciate *Clown Hunt*. This movie is a few tweaks away from achieving that cult status that you can tell it aspires to. Just don't expect *Killer Clowns from Outer Space*-level of fandom...."alien" clowns are out of season. Albino Willie and his merry band of pranksters will have to do. For now.

Added: May 14th 2012

Reviewer: [Sean McLaughlin](#)

Score: ★★☆☆

Hits: 66

Language: