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Profane

2011

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Just when I think I have seen the worst from MVD, I get royally shocked by this little stinker by the name of *Profane*. I have seen countless films at this point of my life but none have baffled me as much as *Profane*. The film is pretty much about a Muslim dominatrix, (that right there is something I have never heard of so points for originality there) who under goes some kind of spiritual crisis. The film clearly paints a picture of a woman who dabbles in the excess of sex, drugs and drinking all to a point where it becomes about as exciting as watching some one brush their teeth, because this seems to become her daily ritual.

The film does do a decent job in keeping it interesting, the story itself is rather a bore so director/writer Usama bombards the film with artistic visuals throughout the film that distract you from the lack of story to follow, everything from strange nude positions of the main character Muna (Manal Kara) to splicing in strange exorcism footage.

Seeing as Muna is a dominatrix there clearly is copious amounts of nudity and there is zero shying away, in a sense it almost becomes vulgar and excessive to a point of where no shock value can be taken because it makes you become used to seeing it. Anything from Muna “working”, to fooling around with her friend, to just being naked in the presence of normal company or doing the strange artistic pieces that seem to have little to do with the story, if anything they seem like incredibly odd dream sequences.

The conflict I seem to be able to grasp from this story is Muna’s over abundance of being a very sexual person seems to have gotten the attention of a Jinn. For those unfamiliar with what a Jinn is, it is a supernatural spirit that is mentioned in Islamic mythology which can be quite benevolent. The Jinn in the film seems to harass Muna by whispering at her in the darkest moments of the film, not sure what exactly it whispers but to any person that has a bit of sanity left, it can be quite annoying.

Along the path to her struggle with this Jinn, she meets a cab driver who is a

devout Muslim and tries to help Muna with a path that could help her to a more “clean” life but as the film goes on you see obviously she has zero desire to clean up her act and continues her excess of sin and debauchery. Some of the scenes actually become ridiculous as there is a scene with a man being dominated by Muna and three other women and this goes on and on to a point of where its yawn inducing and also uncomfortable if you are a man.

The acting in this film also I felt was very dry, clearly it was a low budget film by

The acting in this film also felt very dry, clearly it was a low budget film by the actual quality involving the look and feel of it. The script that was fed to these actors was just all over the place as I mentioned earlier with the bombardment of artistic imagery that distracts from the actual story. My reason for feeling this film was terrible was the constant bombardment of nudity to where it became boring, it was like watching a striptease or burlesque show, and everything comes off in one hand movement. That completely takes away anything by becoming desensitized by seeing too much nudity. I am sure I am crazy for saying such a thing but any excess of profanity or nudity or violence just takes away from the shock value of a film if that is all your film has to cling on to be relevant.

The special features also are pretty much just footage that contains extended scenes of domination, if you already thought it was long and drawn out you will torture yourself by watching these and if you are a guy, again you will be uncomfortable watching unless you are into pain.

Profane came in with a good idea but I am sure with budget limitations and a different artistic vision of how the film should be presented, it just failed to be an entertaining film and makes me want to rid myself of this benevolent jimn like experience I had of being utterly bored, I am thankful this film was at least short to a degree and not some epic two hour suicide inducing experience.

-Derek-

Directed by:
Usama Alshaibi

Written by:
Usama Alshaibi

Cast:
Manal Kara
Molly Plunk
Dejan Mircea

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1
Audio: English Dolby Surround 5.1
English SDH, Spanish Subtitles
COotakes and Extra Footage
Trailer

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