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Scar Crow, The

REVIEWED BY: Wolfboy Posted on 26/03/2013



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When their mother is hanged and burned as a witch, three sisters find themselves at the mercy of their abusive father. When he finally pushes them too far they kill him, but not before he curses them to be bound along with him through eternity – never dying, and never leaving their farm. That was 300 years ago – now it's 2009 and four businessmen attempting to avoid an army-style team building exercise wander onto the farm, providing the sisters with a chance to escape.

The Scar Crow is visibly a low-budget film, and neither the script nor the acting help matters. The four men seem like they're supposed to be matey and bantering, but instead just come off as unpleasant, while the sisters' "18th century" dialect sounds like teenagers failing to imitate Shakespeare.

All of this could have been forgivable – after all, low budget horror is a time-honoured genre for a reason. Often these movies have an exuberance and gleeful hackiness that transmutes their sins into cult virtues, or find other ways to build tension and fear without resorting to showy scares. Unfortunately The Scar Crow is neither of these kinds of movie – in fact, that's its fatal flaw.

The magic sequences feel like they're aiming for High Metaphysical Weirdness in the vein of **The Wicker Man** (the good British one) the men's relationships seem to belong in a serious (if poorly written) drama, and the murders seem like they come from a Troma movie. Of those, the Troma-homage is the best-done (the murders are spectacularly gory and at best hilariously cheap-looking) but there are only a couple of those scenes, so there's a lot to wade through before you get there.

This lack of focus is pretty much guaranteed to leave you unsatisfied no matter what you came to the film for, and a clumsy flashbacks-within-flashbacks framing device makes it yet harder to watch. Not recommended.

DISC DETAILS:

DIRECTOR(S): Andy Thompson & Pete Benson | COUNTRY: UK | YEAR 2009 | DISTRIBUTOR(S): MVD Visual | RUNNING TIME: 84 minutes | ASPECT RATIO: 1.33:1 | REGION: All / NTSC | DISCS: 1

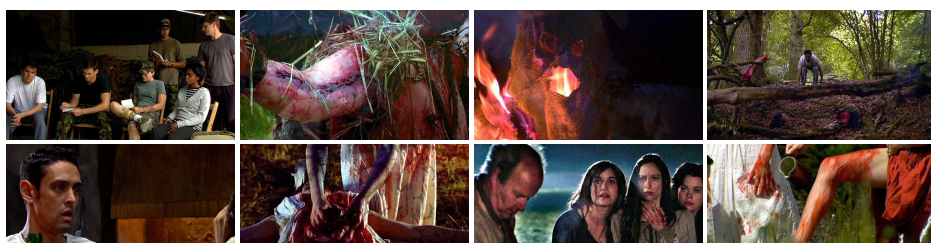
EXTRAS:

- Trailer
- Behind the scenes mini-documentary

RECOMMENDED VIEWING:

- **Severance** is a better movie about sarcastic English people being murdered humorously.
- **Jeepers Creepers** is an infinitely superior stupid movie about a murderous scarecrow.
- **The Wicker Man** (the good one) is a better stab at High Weirdness, while the **Nicholas Cage** one is funnier.

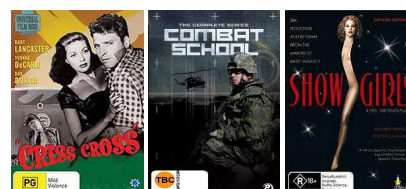
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COMING SOON TO DVD

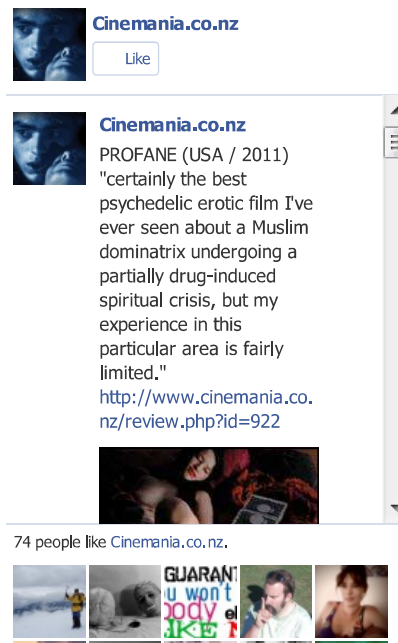


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 PROFANE (USA / 2011)
 "certainly the best psychedelic erotic film I've ever seen about a Muslim dominatrix undergoing a partially drug-induced spiritual crisis, but my experience in this particular area is fairly limited."
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