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The Scar Crow (2009) DVD Review

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When Elizabeth Tanner is found guilty of being a witch, her three daughters and her husband are forced to watch as she is hung by the neck until dead. Soon, the family attempt to return to a normal life; however Father Tanner (Andrew Bolton) is never quite the same and starts to exhibit moody behavior. Soon this behavior turns to improper contact with his three terrified daughters, who have no one to turn to for help. During one incestuous evening, the girls fight back and end up stabbing their father in the stomach in self defense. As he lay on the table bleeding, the evil man places a curse on the sisters and their farm. Soon the sisters find themselves eternally working the fields and continuously burying their father, who they hid at the time in the fields as a scarecrow. As we flash forward to 2009, a group of

businessmen are on a retreat in the countryside to learn to work together as a team. While attempting to find their way around the area, they stumble across the cursed farm and the three sisters who are tending to the crops. When the sisters invite the four men to stop around for drinks that evening, they readily accept, unaware that the girls have been experimenting with mom's dark arts for years and have plans to use the men to break the family curse.

When we are first introduced to the Scar Crow, I was totally caught offguard. I expected a quick slash or offscreen death and instead I got a gritty dismemberment scene that is reminiscent of Hostel 2. There are some gory moments and they are surprisingly well done. The movie doesn't just rely on gore and jump scares; however as the story is original and well paced.

When I saw this movie title originally, I was a little hesitant given it has taken 4 years for it to make it to DVD in America. I have to say though that I was pleasantly surprised. The movie is quality and I enjoyed it more than similar British imports like Severance. Interestingly, the American DVD cover features the same movie poster as in Britain, but with the witches' body shaded much more heavily, making her chest obscured and less racy.

Acting is pretty good all across the boards. The sisters especially play their roles well and convincingly. The four businessmen, well, at first they are saddled with repeating annoying dialogue but they are effective as the witches' victims.

Ok, first impression...what the heck is a Scar Crow? Perhaps it is a British thing but personally I didn't get it. That aside, this is a pretty slick little British horror film that may not be on most gore hound's radar but is worth checking out. The story is decent, the cinematography is quite good and the gore effects are nasty and well executed. Fans of slasher movies will want to pick this one up.

Recommended

Special Features:
Original Trailer

The Scar Crow is available on DVD now, courtesy of MVD Visual.



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