



*Directed by Darren Ward*

*Written by Darren Ward*

*Starring Nick Rendell, Christopher Fosh, Victor D. Thorn, Tina Barnes, Steve Humphrey, Giovanni Lombardo Radice*

*Reviewed by [Ambush Bug](#)*

Though A DAY OF VIOLENCE is firmly nestled in the mob subgenre, the amount of gratuitous gore in this one definitely qualifies it for this column. If this film doesn't make you wince, then you need to check your wince muscles to see if they're still active.

Nick Rendell plays Mitchell Parker, the type of thug Vinnie Jones usually plays in Guy Ritchie films. He's all business, brawn and



scowls. But he's also got some smarts. When Mitchell sees an opportunity to get some quick cash, he takes it, and this once loyal thug has now betrayed his boss. Assigned to track down who took the money, Mitchell's guilt builds as he tracks down people he knows doesn't have the money (because he does, you see) in order to save his own skin.

Writer/director Darren Ward has constructed a really tight narrative around Mitchell's dilemma. Rendell makes Mitchell likable despite the fact that he is beating the snot out of folks and a thief to boot, Ward casts him as the most likable character in this film by making the bad guys even worse. Though the script is serpentine, sliding from one locale to another as Mitchell's guilty conscience grows, Ward should be commended for keeping the focus on Mitchell and telling a pretty searing personal drama on top of all of the violence.



And speaking of violence, GODDAMN does this film have teeth. Over the top violence is what this baby serves up and whether it is exploding squibs blasting out of those on the wrong end of Mitchell's shotgun or the torture scenes which involve baseball bats, hedge clippers, and other tools of indecency, it serves it up in heaping amounts. The effects in this film are low budget, but damn if it doesn't have that gritty MANIAC type feel of uncomfortably real looking wounds and effects. The final scene has Mitchell's face looking like a slab of chopped liver and if you're like me, you'll be amazed

at how authentic this his hamburger face looks.

One mistake I think Ward made in this script is by starting out the story with Mitchell on a morgue slab. In doing this, the viewer immediately knows the protagonist is going to die. It kind of kills the whole vibe of getting to know and like this guy by telling us from the get go that he's eventually going to die. Sure the road to the slab is the interesting part, but I think his eventual death would have been all the more effective without me knowing that from frame one.

That said, A DAY OF VIOLENCE is a really decent film that pulls no punches and makes sure that every one of them leaves a deep bloody mark. Fans of Guy Ritchie films who wish he would go a little more intense with the red stuff will want to check this one out.