

MOVIE CITY NEWS MCN

Fans of classic Italian giallo probably will be the only constituency to embrace Francois Gaillard and Christophe Robin's low-budget slasher flick, "Last Caress." It involves an attractive group of friends who gather at a rural manor, where their first mistake is to pull out a Ouija board and summon the spirits that reside there. No good can come from playing that game in a movie. Besides having to deal with a family curse, however, the young men and women become the target of a psychopath looking for a painting that carries a curse of its own. Billed as an exercise in "glamour gore," "Last Caress" jumps from one grisly, giallo-inspired murder to another, with brief interludes for sex. While the men are non-descript nobodies, the women are modern replicas of Italian bombshells from the 1960-70s. Timing in at 72 minutes, there isn't much space left for a distinct storyline to make sense of the killings. Given the target audience, though, the bloody tableaux are the only things that matter. The DVD arrives with some making-of material and the similarly violent, but more coherent short, "Die Die My Darling."

- Gary Dretzka

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