

things moving along, but the film is so rote that you can foresee the twist at the end rainbow. There's some decent gore and you might get a kick out of this flick if you're into the whole tourists-take-a-wrong-turn trope, but for myself, I'm thanking my lucky charms that there'll only be one more.

ANDREA SUBISSATI

EXORVENTION

INNER DEMONS

Starring Lara Vosburgh, Morgan McClellan and Ashley Sutton
Directed by Seth Grossman
Written by Glenn Gers
IFC Midnight

Inner Demons is another found footage possession film, but that well-tread conceit could still work with some inspired writing. 'Tis not the case, however...

In it, a novice cameraman (Morgan McClellan) is hired off Craigslist to work on an *Intervention*-type reality show. Since the producers don't consider him pro, they don't

believe his claims that one of the show's subjects is under demonic influence. Said subject is Carson (Lara Vosburgh), a former straight-A student who claims to take hard drugs to medicate her habit of being used as a conduit for an evil spirit.

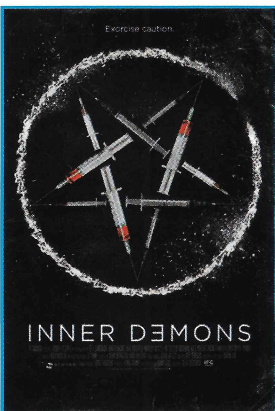
If you guessed that Carson does little more than convulse and scream, give yourself a cookie. The film's script is abysmal. With dialogue such as, "I

downloaded some exorcism stuff off the internet," *Inner Demons* is bound to leave you feeling embarrassed for all involved.

Writer Glenn Gers tries to shake things up by adding the standard possession narrative to the equally-clichéd narrative of reality shows about drug addicts. The combination doesn't freshen either of these musty old storylines because there's no thought that went in to how frightening it would be to have evil hidden in plain sight among highly vulnerable addicts. And, like the overrated *Evil Dead* remake, *Inner Demons* tosses out what could've been a neat angle for a horror flick: withdrawal as seen through the eyes of someone who merely believes in demons and hallucinates their every "attack." Hell, they could've even taken a stab at the way producers of *Ghost Hunters*-type shows present otherwise unremarkable footage of old houses into terrifying spookhouses with clever editing.

Director Seth Grossman has made a film that's interchangeable with the recent crop of found footage horrors such as *Paranormal Activity* or *The Last Exorcism*. The film attempts to add a twist on the formula without completely abandoning the trappings of the subgenre, but falls way short with its uninspired mix of *Exorcist* and *Intervention*. To quote another program about drug abuse, "Just say no!"

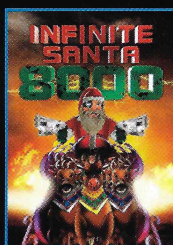
ADAM CLARKE



OVERLOOKED, FORGOTTEN AND DISMISSED

THIS ISSUE: LANCE PUTS THE "HO" IN "HOMICIDE"

CLAUS 2.0



INFINITE SANTA 8000

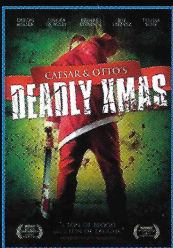
Midnight Releasing

My parents told me that Santa Claus bought toys to good girls and boys, while the bad ones got a lump of coal. And yes, as a child I received enough coal to heat a small town for a decade. I wish that instead that they had told me the story of *Infinite Santa 8000*. The animated movie is set in an apocalyptic world populated by mutants and robots, where the few remaining humans must kill to survive. Santa, who now sports gnarly cybernetic implants, has relocated his workshop to an abandoned motel in the desert and fights cyborgs in gladiatorial arenas for sacks of meat. You'll get to see Santa and his robo-reindeer battle a gigantic electronic Easter bunny-borg-bot, making this blood-soaked flick an instant holiday classic.

BODY COUNT: 893

SANTA'S BEST WEAPON: Double-Barreled Flame-Thrower

PUSHED TO THE BRINKE



CAESAR & OTTO'S DEADLY XMAS

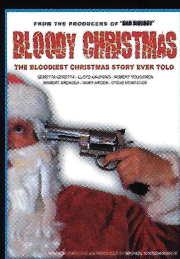
MVD Visual

What if instead of giving you a lump of coal for being bad, your parents told Santa to dismember you with a chainsaw? That's the premise of the latest Caesar & Otto movie, in which our lunkhead protagonists have convinced their employers to let them to make a killer Santa movie. Problem is, Caesar was traumatized by a chainsaw wielding Santa as a kid and there's already a killer Santa out there chopping up their friends and trying to frame them. Corny and campy, *Deadly Christmas* is as loaded with gags as it is with B-movie icons (Brinke Stevens, Debbie Rochon, Lloyd Kaufman and Linnea Quigley, among them). Make sure you watch it to the end for a hilarious cameo by *Maniac Cop*'s Robert Z'Dar!

BODY COUNT: 15

SANTA'S BEST WEAPON: Chainsaw

A KICK IN THE CHESTNUTS



BLOODY CHRISTMAS

MVD Visual

What do mall Santas do in the off-season? Go to the racetrack? Stuff candy canes down strippers' thongs? How about go on a killing spree! That's what the protagonist of *Bloody Christmas* does after being fired as a Public Access TV Santa. But just as he's about to put his nefarious plan into action he crosses paths with a homicidal priest intent on cleansing the city of sinners. The two of them end up battling each other to the death in a scene that's way funnier than it was probably meant to be. *Bloody Christmas* could have worked much better as a short because as a feature it suffers

from rambling dialogue, murky sound, muddy lighting and some unforgivable continuity and script problems. Ho—Ho—Horrible!

BODY COUNT: 19

SANTA'S BEST WEAPON: A Hand Grenade

LAST CHANCE LANCE