

Bloody Christmas

USA 2012

produced by

Michael Shershenovich, Nicholas Muserilli (executive), Mark Alexander (executive) for MAS Effect Entertainment

directed by Michael Shershenovich

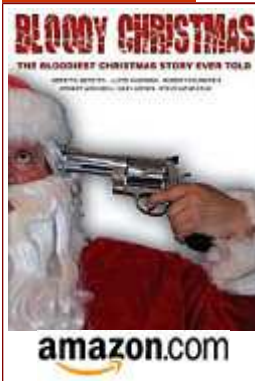
starring John William Young, Robert Youngren, Vincent Notice, Robert Arensen, Angela Thompson, Geretta Geretta, Nova Lox, Adriana Kaegi, Brooke Wasenda, Bob Socci, Mary Arden, Joseph Kennedy, Dennis Carter jr, Lloyd Kaufman, Vicky Wiese, James Balsamo, Michael Shershenovich, James Terriaca, Veronika Brussmannova, Nicholas Gator Young, Raul Romero, Daniel Mckasty, Dennis Keeley, Brittany Guagneur, Cassandra Tague

story by Marie Romero, screenplay by Michael Shershenovich, music by Lee Antonio, Romeo Antorino, special effects by James Balsamo

Santa Claus

review by

Mike Haberfelner



It's not the best Christmas for cops Reiniger (Vincent Notice) and Steinman (Robert Arensen), because there is a serialkiller loose in town, and it seems they have to work Christmas Eve in order to trace him down.

It's not the best Christmas for former action star Rich Tague (John William Young) either, because he's fired from his job as mall and cable access TV Santa, is evicted from his trailer, dreams of killing everybody in his way, and is depressed over the lack of true Christmas spirit. But he figures if he can make the Christmas of young Tyler (Joseph Kennedy), who's abused by his father (Dennis Carter jr), the Christmas of his lifetime, then he has at least done some good.

... and it's not the best Christmas for father Michael (Robert Youngren), a priest who sees his congregation diminish pretty much by the hour, with even his strongest supporters falling to sin (in his opinion at least) and Santa taking away the true meaning of Christmas (at least in his opinion, once again). He, too, wants to make young Tyler's Christmas special, and he's bound to meet Rich Tague,

still in his Santa outfit, over there. There's one problem though: Between Rich Tague and Father Michael, one is the wanted serial killer ...

Bloody Christmas is best described as a movie that hasn't yet found his voice. Some times its gory as hell, then it has its quiet moments and plays like a touching human drama, sometimes it comes across as a satire, then it seems to truly be looking for the Christmas spirit and questioning the meaning of the holiday as such. All of this results in an uneven approach and also makes the film a tad too long for its own good.

That's not to say **Bloody Christmas** is a bad movie, its grindhouse-style directorial approach and oftentimes consciously offending screenplay will surely appeal to indie horror fans (me included), and it also benefits from some above-average performances - it just should have been a bit more coherent to come across as really good.

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