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Bloody Christmas

2012

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Anyone who is going to attempt to make a themed horror movie, especially one which is based around a holiday, is going to have quite a bit to live up to. I'll be the first to confess that while it has become a notorious entry, *Silent Night Deadly Night* probably isn't one of the best slashers that has ever been made but there's still a certain Christmas magic about it. Perhaps it was all of the parents and religious parties protesting it when it was originally released, maybe it was simply that the idea of a killer Santa was something that horror needed, but whatever the reason, it has become without question the Christmas film which has gained a cult following which is nearly impossible to overtake.

That brings us to *Bloody Christmas*, another horror movie attempting to grab some attention around the holidays and obviously right around Christmas. The film is set in a small town where local detectives are baffled by a series of child murders. One of the towns more notable priests, Father Michael (Robert Youngren), has been trying to console those affected while damning those whom he has determined are evil although at times the sins of the world seem to pass under his nose. With everything else that's going on we have Santa (Steve Montague) who is down on his luck and his version of holiday cheer tends to be having fantasies about murdering the children that visit him but when one of their letters touches him in a way that sets him off and looking for revenge, even Santa might be on his own naughty list this Christmas.

Bloody Christmas is from the school of indie horror films, a category which has always featured more misses than hits but in the past there have been quite a few notable directors and classics which have emerged from it. As I've addressed in pervious reviews, the biggest problem is that fifteen or twenty years ago it wasn't easy for an aspiring director to get their hands on the right equipment or the other necessities for filmmaking. This however has changed and while the assumption would be that it would make for a marketplace filled with talent, there are many who believe that have the ability but show very little of it.

To be clear though, *Bloody Christmas* isn't attempting to follow in the footsteps of *Silent Night Deadly Night* although at first this might seem to be the case. The Santa in this film is often having daydreams about what he'd like to do but isn't acting on any of them. Instead we find just a down and out man who has lost his apartment, is short on cash, and really has hit what could possibly be the lowest point in his life. It should also be noted that in many ways *Bloody Christmas* seems to glorify violence but I don't feel that's the case. I only bring this up

because of the latest school shootings which happened the day I watched this movie and I could only think that someone might try and make some vague connection between this movie which does feature children being killed and what has happened. *Bloody Christmas* however is merely showing a fantasy of one man, not anything which in the context of the movie is “real” although I would honestly hope that most can distinguish between what is real and what is mere movie magic anyway. I guess however special interest groups and politicians can’t since they always seem to be looking for the next devil which is going to corrupt the youth of America so be happy, horror movie directions, because this time it’s the video game industry.

Blood Christmas though isn’t a very memorable movie. The special effects are done very poorly and on the cheap side, there are a number of horrible post production graphics used to color scenes, the dialog is both bad and poorly written, and overall there’s nothing about the movie which really made me take notice. Even having Christmas as the holiday of focus didn’t do much to save the movie. *Bloody Christmas* never comes close to creating the same type of controversy that other movies have before it.

The DVD includes interviews, a few deleted scenes and a couple of different trailers but nothing that I would consider to be truly substantial.

I actually hoped that *Bloody Christmas* might be one of those movies to become an instant anti-Christmas classic. It’s the type of thing that the world needs more of especially with horror movies but unfortunately it just never manages to quite muster up the holiday fear that others before it have leaving me simply to claim; bah . . . humbug!!

-mike-

Directed by:
Michael Shershenovich

Written by:
Michael Shershenovich

Cast:
Steve Montague
Robert Youngren
Robert Arensen
Geretta Geretta
Adriana Kaegi
Mary Arden
Lloyd Kaufman

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio: 1.78:1
Audio: English Stereo 2.0
Interview with Santa
In-Studio Interviews
Deleted Scenes
Trailers