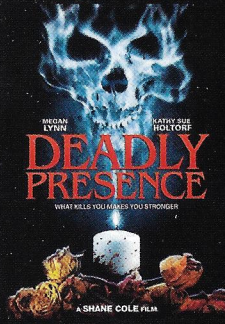


DEADLY PRESENCE

Shane Cole

braindamagefilms.com



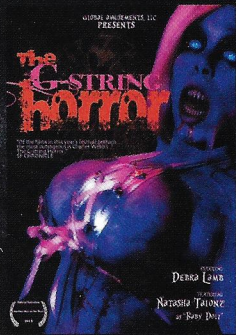
Shane Cole wowed me a few years back with a sick slasher he directed called *The Mutilation Man*, and I've had him on my radar ever since. So I was excited to come across *Deadly Presence*, hoping for some more gore. I gotta admit that I was a little

unsettled at first to find that this time around he had shelved the buckets of blood and opted for a slower, more methodical paranormal affair – but I wasn't disappointed. The story centres around a girl who kills herself after spending the night with two friends in a home where a vicious killing took place. She leaves the other girls to deal with both her corpse and the mystery of what happened to her that night in the infamous murder house. Relative newcomer Megan Lynn steals the show with her engaging portrayal of someone losing her grip on reality, proving that a low budget doesn't always mean low quality performances. Overall, this is an atmospheric thriller with a seriously spooky soundtrack and a killer ending that completely hides its cash-strapped nature.

THE G-STRING HORROR

Charles Webb

g-stringhorror.com



I've always had a soft spot for films that are based on actual events, and I've always had a hard spot for strippers, and this movie covers both of my, er, spots. Aside from its skeezy title, it's maybe the only film that competently straddles the line between being a found-footage slasher and a paranormal documentary. The story revolves around one of San Francisco's oldest landmarks, The Market Street Cinema, which over the years has become a pretty grungy strip club, and which harbours a purportedly gruesome past. Having already seen the *Ghost Adventures* television episode that featured the building, director Charles Webb decided to take things even further by combining interviews he conducted with the staff and strippers who worked at the club with a cinematic recreation of what he believed to be the ghost, a peeler named Baby Doll who reportedly still haunts the labyrinthine basement. The result is a sleazy, cheesy romp that'll please and tease even the most flaccid gorehound out there.

Bad Meat



Deadly Presence

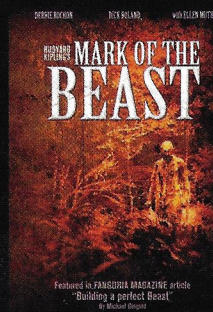


The G-String Horror

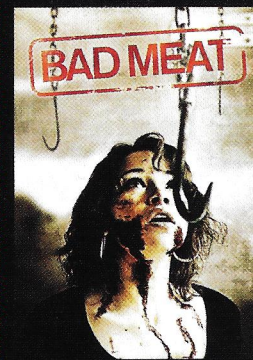
RUDYARD KIPLING'S MARK OF THE BEAST

Jonathan Gorman and Thomas Edward Seymour

bloodbathpictures.com



Jonathan Gorman and Thomas Edward Seymour are the demented geniuses behind the *Bikini Bloodbath* series and I'd always hoped that they would tackle something more serious. Well, you can't get much more serious than the horror stories of stalwart British Imperialist writer Rudyard Kipling. *Mark of the Beast* was written by Kipling in 1890 and was reviled by most of the English press as being utterly loathsome. Set in a remote forest hideaway, a group of vacationers is confronted with a terrifying situation after one of them desecrates an ancient temple, is bitten by a diseased priest and transforms into a howling lunatic. Desperate to save their friend, the rest of the group captures the priest and tortures him until the curse is lifted. A major hurdle to overcome when taking on a Kipling story is that the majority of them are set in Colonial India, and unless you're filming a period piece, it's hard to make the transition to a contemporary setting, but this is something that Gorman and Seymour deal with marvellously as they present a very poignant treatise about respecting other people's religious beliefs, the justification of torture, and the price of our own morality and mortality.



BAD MEAT

Lulu Jarmen

mvdvisual.com

I've been a full-fledged vegetarian for almost two years now and I know that we can be preachier than born-again Christians on Sunday, but I swear on a stack of Chicken McNuggets that I won't get like that. I only mention it because this film starts off with some sick black and white footage set inside a meat-packing facility that'll turn some stomachs right from the start. And if you can't handle that – you sure aren't gonna be able to handle the remaining 90 minutes, which could have you retching continuously and mercilessly. Set almost completely within the confines of a bootcamp for wayward youth, the film follows six kids trying to survive after their sadistic councillors have become gruesome cannibals as a result of eating tainted meat. Apparently the film had to be shot and stitched together over a couple of years, but you'd never guess it, as first-time director Lulu Jarmen created a well-shot, marvelously acted, complete gross-out of a movie that's filled with dead dogs, dildos, perverts, panic, and gallons and gallons of puke. But here's the thing, according to several articles online, "Lulu Jarmen" is actually *Wrong Turn* director Rob Schmidt, who walked away from this project before it was done. While its true indie credentials may be up for debate, one thing is for sure: meat is murder.

Read Lance's *Last Rites* column in every issue of *Rue Morgue*.