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# You'll Feel Like You've Eaten "Bad Meat" Review

by Lee Jutton

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*Bad Meat* brings a whole new dimension to the genre of splatter films, which one usually associates with the splattering of blood and other human viscera as the result of graphic violence. George Romero himself coined the term when describing his classic *Dawn of the Dead*, and indeed, that film's fascination with finding new and bizarre ways to mutilate human (or zombie) bodies with fantastically gory results is a prime example of the genre. However, *Bad Meat* contains less of that kind of splatter and more of a different kind. A vomity kind.

Horror-comedy *Bad Meat* follows the misadventures of Dave "Clone of James" Franco and a handful of other troubled teens after they are sent to a remote camp for delinquents run by the sadistic Doug Kendrew (Mark Pellegrino, famous for such popular genre fare as *Lost*, *Supernatural* and *Being Human*) and his merry band of equally awful minions. Kendrew and company proceed to mentally abuse the kids and force them to work all day chopping

wood and doing other hard labor. After the camp's two vicious dogs come to rather unfortunate ends, the camp staff feasts on a questionable meat stew while the kids are made to watch and long for similar sustenance. However, when the adults are stricken by a terrible, food-borne virus that turns them all into vicious, raving lunatics a la *28 Days Later*, the kids are grateful to have gone without. Their biggest concern is no longer hunger, but staying alive and not becoming the titular bad meat themselves.

Pellegrino is great, as he always tends to be; he has mastered the art of scenery chewing in a way that is truly fun to watch. The rest of the cast is hit or miss, as is the film itself, which features far more vomit than blood and thus might not quite hit the spot for splatter aficionados who prefer seeing internal organs themselves rather than simply the contents of them. The film also suffers due to the fact that its original director walked away in the middle of production, leaving *Bad Meat* to be finished by one "Lulu Jarmen," which is in all likelihood an Alan Smithee-esque pseudonym for someone else who didn't want to be associated with it. The result is quite a messy film, and that doesn't include all of the vomit. (Have I mentioned that there is a lot of vomit?) It doesn't help that the film keeps flashing forward to some awkwardly filmed scenes in a hospital with one of the camp's survivors; these scenes are terribly shot, terribly acted and also rather boring. The film does far better when it focuses on the gore.

There are some hilarious and bloody moments in *Bad Meat* that help the film stand alongside its rather ignoble ancestors in the splatter pantheon, especially when the staff first transform into animals and start howling and harassing the kids. However, those are few and far between. Unless you truly fetishize bodily fluids, you can probably pass on this one.

### DVD SPECIAL FEATURES

Includes the film's theatrical trailer.

*"Bad Meat" is on sale March 26, 2013 and is rated NC17. Horror. Directed by Lulu Jarmen. Written by Paul Gerstenberger. Starring Dave Franco, Elizabeth Harnois, Mark Pellegrino.*

Lee Jutton • Staff Writer

Lee attended NYU for Film & TV Production, but she now works mostly in PR. She also reviews books for Kirkus Indie. Her primary obsessions in life are Doctor Who, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Arsenal F.C. If you see her at the Blind Pig in New York on a game day, say hello.

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