

MOVIE CITY NEWS MCN

In a storyline that might have been inspired by the Nixon administration's unsuccessful attempt to eradicate the world's marijuana crop with paraquat, "Mold" describes what happens scientists working at the behest of President Reagan's DEA create a fungus to wipe out the coca fields of South America. Without leaving the confines of a laboratory that looks as if it were constructed of cardboard, the chemical reveals itself to be as lethal to humans as it is to the banned substances. The damage caused by the genetically engineered herbicide put the talent of the project's makeup-effects to the fill test. "Mold" is wildly gory and the fungus resembles a steroid-enhanced corruption of the monster in "The Blob." Not at all pretentious, however, Neil Meschino's debut feature is the kind of movie aspiring effects wizards should watch to see what it takes to get their showcase reel noticed. The DVD adds plenty of making-of material.

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