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Iron Doors

2010

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Originally *Iron Doors* was released in 2010, being a German film shot in English which I am confused by it because it is very badly dubbed, I am not sure if my copy is defective or this is the worst dubbing job in the history of film. At any rate it stars Axel Wedekind who has a fairly large body of work which shows as his acting alone carries this clever film from start to finish. The start of the film shows Axel portraying a young cocky banker who wakes up in an isolated concrete room, similar to ones you've probably seen in the *Saw* series. He figures he had a long night of drinking and his friends were playing a cruel joke on him, as he yells for an answer he soon realizes this is not a friendly joke and he is indeed trapped in this concrete room.

The man then becomes desperate and shows his anger at being trapped in the room as any one would do in forced captivity. He has no water or food just simple the concrete walls, a mysterious locker and a dead rat smothered in maggots, a very interesting mix of items. After a while of freaking out he somehow gets the crazy idea to take his shoe and smash it somewhere to discover a key which lets him into the locker, which the film cleverly makes you wonder if there is a person in there, or maybe even some kind of creature? But instead it's the tools required for him to maybe escape his concrete prison. Once he breaks through after what appears to be an agonized amount of time chiseling away at thick concrete and even having to use a blow torch to cut through some grids placed in the wall we stumble surprisingly into the rest of the cast of the film, which is Rungano Nyoni, who looks like some kind of African Princess and speaks zero English. Those two put together in a situation where they are trying to figure out why they are there is really odd as the language barrier adds further to their frustration.

Reluctantly they start working together the best they can to communicate with their hands and pointing at things and spots to try and break out of their concrete prison. When they work together and get into the next room it's strange how it works as the vault door magically opens by them simply walking backwards to it, almost like a motion sensor.

Upon realizing it's another room much like the one they just escaped from the frustration really hits them. I will say they do some disturbing things to survive like "self nourishment" due to the fact there was no food or water which was pretty gross, they can only do this so much and they both are literally on the verge of dying from dehydration and starvation you can see Axel's body looking weak and dehydrated almost in the style of Christian Bale did in *The Machinist*, just not that extreme. At this point it's do or die as they hope this is the final room and they are

able to escape to freedom to get the basic necessities they need to not die this leads up to a thrilling tension filled ending that leads them either to survival or death in what will be their concrete tomb if they do not manage to escape.

I have to say I enjoyed the film a fair amount as it kept you on your toes during the short eighty minutes. One thing that did annoy me a bit was how Axel kept giving his commentary on everything, which sadly when people are alone they tend to do that frustrated thinking out loud but the biggest gripe about the film was the horrible dubbing which again I am not sure if I received a defective copy or the dubbing really was that terrible, even the simple pounds of a hammer were off so if Axel hit his hand it would almost have a lightning effect, where you see him hit his hand and then a second later you would hear his reaction, it almost made the film comical due to this.

Also I am not sure how this film was originally released, but I did notice at one point it was in 3D which was not something offered on this bare bones version MVD put out, there is a trailer, that is all that is offered for special features on this film which is disappointing because if you were really into this film and wanted to know more or have any kind of commentary from the director maybe shedding a little more light on the subject it just not going to happen.

Iron Doors is simply a decent movie that shows the desperation to survive and does a great job to keep you guessing what will happen next, right up until the fairly non exciting ending, similar to *Cube*. I enjoyed it and would say it is worth a watch.

-Derek-

Directed by:
Stephen Manuel

Written by:
Peter Arneson

Cast:
Axel Wedekind
Rungano Nyoni

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1
Audio:
Trailer

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