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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013

### DVD Review: Thankskilling 3

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I love cheesy, fun horror films. One thing you should always be able to count on from them is a bit of nudity. You don't have long to wait for it in *Thankskilling 3*. The film opens with a shot of a breast. As the camera pulls back, we see a female astronaut adrift in space with holes cut out of her suit for her breasts. She probably wouldn't last long in that situation anyway, but soon a turkey in a spaceship shoots her, and she cracks in half like an asteroid from that 1980s video game. And that's the opening.

It turns out that is a scene from *Thankskilling 2*, and a bit of voice over tells us: "Legend has it *Thankskilling 2*

was the worst movie ever made. Only one copy remained, and Turkie would stop at nothing to get it." It's surprising that Morgan Freeman doesn't do this narration. The filmmakers must have worked hard to keep that job secret from him.

We get a very serious, intense, slow-motion scene of the copies of *Thankskilling 2* being destroyed out in the desert. That switches to a sitcom-like scene (complete with laugh track) of the Turkie family at home celebrating Turkie's birthday. It's deliciously ridiculous. And on Turkie's television, a breaking news segment alerts the public that *Thankskilling 2* will never be seen (and if that doesn't seem like breaking news to you, you don't live in Los Angeles). That news drives Turkie mad, and he kills his wife and leaves on a quest to find a copy of *Thankskilling 2* because it will somehow allow him to control the minds of anyone who watches it.

Meanwhile in a garbage bin, Greg vomits up the last copy of *Thankskilling 2* and it hits Yomi (a puppet who is also the heroine of the film). She'd lost her mind and is in the garbage bin looking for it. She soon meets Uncle Donny, who agrees to help her find her mind.

Donny and his friend Jefferson are obsessed with creating an amusement park

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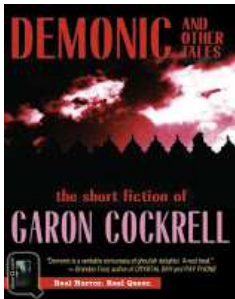
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called Thanksgivingland and dressing like pilgrims. Flowis, Jefferson's obnoxious wheelchair-bound mother, is an aspiring rap artist. Rounding out the cast are Rhonda Worm (an earthworm from space - a little joke that I love) and his metal friend, Muff. Several of the cast members are puppets, who interact freely with the human characters.

(To read the complete review, please click on "RAWR.")

Turkie has a good point when he says that Thanksgiving is about death - "the death of my people." But when Turkie himself is killed, it's best to remember that this is a horror film. And like Freddy and Jason, he can't be put down that easily. When he comes back, he has an extra part. Think Army Of Darkness. There are also nods to Poltergeist, Tales From The Crypt and Lord Of The Rings.

Of course, there is plenty of stupid stuff in this film, such as Turkie, upset that he can't fly, lamenting, "I've never even been able to take a shit on somebody from the sky." Or when Rhonda asks "Has anybody gone Muff diving before?" Sometimes the movie seems to revel in bad jokes. There are also moments when it seems to drag a bit.

But the film mixes live action, puppets, and even a bit of animation in a bizarre, nearly steam-of-consciousness style of delivery which is difficult to not appreciate. So smoke some pot, pop this disc in and enjoy. By the way, the line "I'm a gay cat" cracked me up.

Special Features

This DVD has plenty of bonus material. There are two commentary tracks, both done by Jordan Downey and Kevin Stewart. The first is a general commentary on the story and the history of the project, including how they came up with the idea for the first film, and the whole thing about skipping part two, and raising the money through Kickstarter. The second commentary is focused more on the technical aspects of the film, with more specific details about the design of the film, but also with more information on the story.

There are seven behind-the-scenes featurettes (totaling approximately thirty-four minutes), including a look at some of the details of the sets and the building of the sets, showing where the puppeteers stand and so on. There is some footage from the first day of production, and a bit on the construction of Frankenturkey. Also included in this is some unedited footage of the crew trying to get one particular shot, which really helps to show how a film is made (for those who haven't been on a set). These featurettes also use a lot of still photos.

There are two photo galleries, which are set to music and play through without you having to use the arrow buttons on your remote.

The special features also include a music video by Flowis and the Pluckmaster 3000 infomercial ("But wait, there's more"). And if you click the down arrow after the Pluckmaster 3000 infomercial, you'll reach one of the DVD's easter eggs.

The DVD also includes two trailers for the film. (By the way, there is an easter egg in the trailers menu. Click on the letter "A" in "trailers.")

One word of warning: There is a very irritating "easter egg" in the main menu. If you click on "Fowl Content" and then the upper arrow, it kind of freezes your system. So don't do that.

Thanksgiving 3 was released on DVD on October 15, 2013 through MVD Entertainment Group.

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