



**Raine Brown  
Billy Garberina**  
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From Camp Motion Pictures

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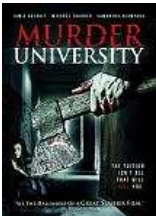
## Murder University: DVD review

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If you are old enough to remember the good old days of USA Network's landmark late night sleaze-movie festival that played every Friday & Saturday night from 1989-1998, you would have witnessed some of the cult classics that made midnight celluloid viewing straight-up fun.

Hosted by Caroline Schlitt, Gilbert Gottfried & the amply-endowed Rhonda Shear, we as lovers of all photoplays heavily covered in CHEESE were treated to a plethora of low-budget horror & sexploitation comedy films en masse....and we LOVED it. The opportunity has presented itself countless times to capture that essence over and over again for filmmakers and some have come close, but only one can say that it has taken the lead as far as pitching your butt in a time machine, and whisking you off to the days of goofy, campy gratuitous horror, with a fairly decent plotline serving as it's lifeblood.

Murder University, the latest release from Director Richard Griffin and Scorpio Film Releasing takes the mindless fun of obtuse college students being slaughtered in brazen fashion, and presents it in a way that just allows you to relax, kick back, and completely forget about complex contrivances while you focus your pupils on some good old fashioned brutish merriment. The scene sets like this: a picturesque New England college is the apparatus for a series of unexplained cult-like murders - bodies are hacked, heads are removed in clean cuts, and entrails are splayed out on exhibit like a butcher's front window. Against these killings we follow the hapless experiences of Josh Greene (Jamie Dufalt), a freshman to the school who is as unlucky in life as he is in love - he's not only bullied by other students, but teachers as well.

As the homicides continue to pile up, Detective Forrester( Michael Thurber) leads the charge in a stone-faced struggle to solve the heinous crimes, at times giving the audience a few laughs at his tactics, and his daughter Meg, (Samantha Acampora) stands by as a survivor from a previous incursion. All three have their moments on-screen as far as building a strong foundation to the plot, but it's Dufalt's actions & goofy humor that put his character over the top, he outlasts many different situations with subtle wittiness and amusing facial expressions that would remind a viewer of a young Jim Carrey. Not to be outdone are the multitude of moronic extras used in this movie, from Josh's roommate who moonlights at a gay strip club, to the college goon who loves to bully everyone in sight, to the afroed local radio DJ that hosts weekly wet t-shirt contests - your head will spin at the lack of intelligence that OZZES from this cast of characters, but you won't care because you'll be too busy laughing at their undertakings.

The faction-based executions rage on, and it seems as if the perpetrators will never be caught, and let me tell you, these guys are direct and to the point - each modeling a demonlike Kabuki-style mask, they daringly swing

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their axes and other tools of eradication without even the slightest hint of regret...and for that I applaud. The gore won't overwhelm the hardcore hound, but will certainly make you smile as the crimson douses the screen when a blade strikes flesh. All the while, there actually unfolds a decent unveiling to the plot - it does take a little bit of time to get things moving, but this time only serves well for further immersion into each pertinent player's role.

Overall, the movie doesn't stand on a pedestal and proclaim to be the ultimate slasher film, but if you are looking for that one movie that will take you back to the days of flaky, inane, & laughable midnight flicks, then I would HIGHLY recommend Murder University to your watchlist - it surely makes the grade.

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