



produced by

Ted Marr, Kristin Kayala for Scorpio Film Releasing

directed by Richard Griffin

starring Jamie Dufault, Michael Thurber, Samantha Acampora, Nathaniel Sylva, Sean Sullivan, Lee Rush, Rich Tretheway, Kevin Killavey, Christopher L. Ferreira, Nick Apostolides, Daniel Lee White, Dan Hoffman, Aaron Peaslee, Timothy Bonavita, Sara Murphy, Jocelyn Padilla, Jesse Dufault, Ky Hanson, Theresa Dern, Tonya Free, Tom Lavallee, David Adams Murphy, Elyssa Baldassarri, Andre Boudreau, Bernard Larrivee jr, Mary DeBerry, Dana Haley, Ryan Hanley, Lydea Irwin, Patrick Keeffe, Erin M. Olson, John Mosetich, Mary Paolino, Kyon Piche, Rob Roy, David Sackal, Anthony Smith, Geoff White

written by Lenny Schwartz, music by Timothy Fife, Timothy Lang-Grannan, Sean Hartter, title song performed by The Colour Cult, special makeup effects by Eric Rodrigues, Jordan Pacheco, devil masks created by Eric Rodrigues

review by

Mike Haberfelner

It's 1983, and Josh (Jamie Dufault), who's still struggling to come to terms with the loss of his father he blames himself for, is a freshman at college - and his problems start almost immediately, as he's neither popular with his professors nor with the other students, let alone chicks, and the local bully (Nick Apostolides) has made it his special mission to terrorize Josh ... and these are the positive aspects of college life, as Josh soon finds out as he's kidnapped by a trio of masked killers with two other students, and while the others are brutally killed, he's left alive, but only just. The police turn somewhat of a blind eye to the affair, because while there have been numerous similar incidents over the years, it just seems too hard for the cops to bring the whole thing into the right context - all cops but detective Forrester (Michael Thurber), who has been working on the case on his own for years without getting anywhere ... but now he has Josh, he decides to team him up with his beautiful daughter Meg (Samantha Acampora), who has learned everything there is to learn about solving crime cases from her detective dad, figuring with Josh as bait the killers will strike again. Now Forrester's assumption is absolute right of course, but unfortunately, Josh and Meg feel totally drawn to one another, soon let their guard down, and during sex, Meg is decapitated without warning, as the killers massacre an entire frat party. Only Josh survives, and now he becomes the prime suspect, but Forrester actually breaks him free from the police, and soon they find a clue to the killers' hideout - just one thing: That's not necessarily a good thing, since the killers might have prepared a surprise or two ...

Above all else, **Murder University** is fun: It's a slasher movie with giallo elements and graphic gore scenes, a college comedy with plenty of raunchy humour and quite a few bare tits, and a loving and stylistically perfect homage to 1980's genre cinema all rolled into one. What makes the whole mix work though is a very nice script that does not rely merely on the usual formula, and a compact directorial effort that does not only go for cheap jokes but really holds the thing together. And add to that a decent cast who play it straight despite some (intentional) nonsense thrown at them, and who also look their parts, and you've got yourself a fun piece of genre cinema - more fun than you'd expect, actually. Recommended!

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