



Released in 2012, **Legend of the Hillbilly Butcher** looks as if it could have been made any time in the last 50 years and shown as the third attraction on a triple-bill at the local drive-in. The grainy texture of the film stock suggests that it might have been shot on Super 8 and blown up to 35mm, while the actors appear to have been chosen from a Hell's Angels yearbook. And, for once, the five-word title leaves no question as to what to expect from the DVD's contents. A pissed-off hillbilly, Carl, kills anyone who dares trespass, take a dump or fornicate on his land and turns them into sausages. You simply can't get any more succinct than that and have a movie that still begs to be watched. A separate narrative thread involves Carl's blood pact with a demon, Sam Bakoo, in which he offers his soul in exchange for the full-fledged reanimation of his parents' rotting corpses. Joaquin Montalvan's film may be a throwback to such classics as **Texas Chainsaw Massacre**, **The Hills Have Eyes** and **Deliverance**, but it blends the elements into something that feels fresh and almost contemporary. Cannibal hillbillies are as timeless as zombies and vampires, after all. Almost as interesting as the movie, itself, is the making-up featurette in which Montalvan and other participants describe the movie was made on a shoestring, substituting Pasadena's Arroyo Seco parkway for Appalachia. (The early **Tarzan** movies were shot in the same area.) Also included in the DVD are the short film, "The Razor," and interviews.

- Gary Dretzka

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