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THE KILLER 4 PACK: THE DAY OF THE DEAD, JEZEBETH, CARNAGE, & HELLWEEK (Various)

Published by [David Carter](#) on 2014/10/12 (190 reads)

Directed by Ricardo Islas, Damien Dante, Massimiliano Cerchi, and Eddie Lengyel  
Review by [David Carter](#)



Released by SGL Entertainment/MVD Visual  
Running Time: 398 minutes  
Rating: Not Rated  
Color format: Color  
Audio/Subtitles: 2.0 Stereo English  
Region Code: 1, NTSC  
Aspect Ratio: Widescreen  
16:9 Enhanced: Yes  
Special Features: None  
Trailer Online: [Yes](#)



Short Version: Four gory indie horror films in one set

FilmFanaddict has always been primarily a horror movie site, so it should come as no shock to any of you that horror is my favorite genre. We also have an affinity for lesser-known films here, and our policy has always been that we would review everything from Hollywood blockbusters to shot-on-video indie films without distribution. On top of all that, I'm also notoriously cheap, so I have a special place in my heart for DVD releases that contain multiple films on a single set. SGL Entertainment has recently released their THE KILLER 4 PACK, a set of obscure horror films for a low price, so naturally I was thrilled to get a chance to review it.

First up is THE DAY OF THE DEAD from Uruguayan director Ricardo Islas (HEADCRUSHER, NIGHT FANGS). A group of bored suburban kids outside of Chicago have taken up the nasty hobby of murdering homeless people for fun. The police are apathetic about the murders except for determined cop Carla, who spends a lot of her time trying to help Chicago's immigrant community. Newcomer to the states Ana Lucia has been having a hard time adapting to Chicago life because of her limited English and undocumented status. While searching for work, she has the misfortune of running into the ringleader of the gang, who singles her out as the next victim. After Ana Lucia's death, Carla is determined to stop the killers and she gets some unexpected help from Ana Lucia from beyond the grave.

THE DAY OF THE DEAD has a nice balance between "ripped from the headlines" true crime and supernatural horror, morphing from the former to the latter as the film progresses. Despite having rich horror traditions and cinema of their own, the Latin community in America has been historically underrepresented in American horror cinema. DAY bridges that gap a little bit by grafting an American-style "torture porn" film to a Mexican style supernatural tale. Director Islas meshes the two well but perhaps tries to get more mileage out of the story than is really there. Numerous subplots tend to become tedious as the film delays its climactic moments but the ending will be a satisfying one for most viewers.



The next film in the collection is JEZEBETH by Damien Dante and Jeffery Swanson, the people behind SGL Entertainment. The film opens in 1873, where a young woman has just given birth to the demon-child Jezebeth. She's taken in by the pious Blandy family, but later killed by Blandy's jealous daughters. Fast-forward to the present where young Jezebeth Blandy is feared by her sisters. Jezebeth is obsessed with the dark side, and finds a diary hidden in the attic that explains the demonic lineage of her name. She uses the diary to become the human host of the demon Jezebeth, and entralls one of her sisters into becoming her vampiric slave. Her remaining sisters try to stop her but Jezebeth has become too powerful and begins exacting her centuries-old plan of revenge.

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- Dumber To
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- 4. Beyond the Lights \$6.2 M
- 5. Gone Girl \$4.6 M

Source: Box Office Mojo  
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JEZEBETH is an interesting movie that is long on style and short on narrative, but seeing as how it's called a "musical experience" on the official website this is surely by design. Long stretches of the film are more music video than movie as songs from Dante & Swanson's record label are played in their entirety without additional dialogue. That's not to say the film is unentertaining, however. Bree Michaels is enjoyable as the gleefully evil Jezebeth, who – once fully possessed by the evil spirit – plays a wicked guitar solo as proof of how demonic she is. If you enjoy JEZEBETH, you're in luck since the creators have already turned it into a franchise complete with three sequels, a prequel novel, and a comic book.



2000's CARNAGE, aka CARNAGE ROAD, is the oldest film in the collection but contains the only name I recognized as it was co-written by John Polonia, the now deceased half of the Polonia Brothers. A group of college kids take to the desert for a photography project. Unfortunately for them, they've stumbled upon the hunting grounds of Quiltface, a machete-wielding psychopath. Quiltface makes short work of the teens, and the one unfortunate survivor discovers that escaping the desert is harder than it appears. If you're familiar with the Polonia Brothers' slasher output then CARNAGE won't hold any surprises for you.

The last film in the set is HELLWEEK: GRINDHOUSE EDITION by Eddie Lengyel. Fraternity president JJ is an all-around bad person, but he goes a step too far when he leaves the pledges in an abandoned warehouse during "hellweek." He only intended to scare them, but little did he know that the warehouse is inhabited by a family of psychotic killers. Matters only get worse when the rest of the fraternity and their girlfriends attempt to come to their rescue, which gives the killers a fresh supply of victims.

HELLWEEK waits about a half-hour too long before introducing the horror elements but manages not to disappoint once it does. The film would have been more interesting had it not been marketed as a horror film but as a teen comedy, then surprising the audience when the characters' fight for survival starts. HELLWEEK will be a treat for those of you who root for the villains since they seem to outnumber the pool of victims and each has its own, unique gimmick.

SGL's THE KILLER 4 PACK comes on a single, low cost disc. Typically cramming four films on a single disc means that the quality is sacrificed for quantity but that thankfully isn't the case here. None of these movies are mega-budget affairs, but each looks as good as to be expected. There's enough variety between the four that there is bound to be something to appeal to every taste here, but obviously fans of low budget horror will be most entertained.



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