

Museum' under the watchful eye of caretaker Dr. Frank (short for Frankenstein as if you didn't know). He picks them off one by one...using their body parts for a slew of zombies he's creating.

There was once a time when fans could get somewhat excited for a zombie movie. Not anymore. The sub-genre has been bled to death and left to rot over the last decade or so. Be that as it may this film fails miserably at everything it attempts to achieve. For starters the cast are a motley group of shitty characters nobody will care about. One couple has sex in a coffin (no nudity). A gay couple act like cats (?) before they screw. A girl brings some stupid punk dude (with fake English accent) along because he plays in a band called Rectal Rot! A girl is looking for her missing boyfriend. I should mention that this supposedly takes place in the '80s since there are no cell phones, one character plays a cassette and another has posters of **DURAN, DURAN** and **THE THOMPSON TWINS** on their wall. The Doctor is a former Nazi who was pals with Hitler. In fact he even preserved the evil one's body. He has a few long dialog passages that are numbing and inane to put it mildly.

The film relies on cheap humor in order to move things along. A talking head (shades of **THE BRAIN THAT WOULDN'T DIE**) cracks jokes that go on way too long. After the credits roll two more 'heads' show up with insulting and juvenile humor. In a lame attempt to be funny, one head can't talk because its tongue was removed (in a brief moment of actual surprise...a neat tribute to **BLOOD FEAST**) so the other has to 'translate' what it is saying. Horribly unfunny to say the least.

The special effects are H.G. Lewis quality at best. The CGI blood looks suitably like a cartoon. The zombie makeup consists of a few scars and blood smeared lipstick...nothing more. In fact these are some of the shittiest looking corpses I've ever seen...and that's saying *a lot*. The dead dude on the cover of the DVD case is nowhere to be found.

Speaking of the DVD case, the quotes splashed on the front and back are cause for alarm. Horror Society says "*A clever take on Frankenstein mythos highly recommended.*" Either they never watched it or they are fucking stupid. I'm betting on the latter. The film won 'best picture/director' at Terror Con Film Festival. I've never heard of Terror Con, but I'm guessing it was held in a basement with 3 people in attendance. Finally All Things Horror (another no name horror website of which there is hundreds) said "*Michael Thurber...a modern day Vincent Price.*" Again they are clueless since Thurber's acting is stilted and forced...never flowing methodically like Price did in every single film he appeared in. Thurber could've made it in an Ed Wood production...that's about it. In fact Ed Wood's movies were at least interesting...this is simply dumb.

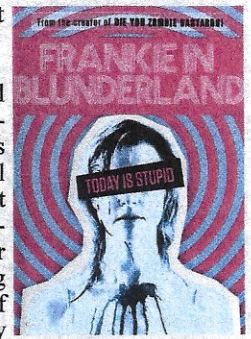
The ONE bright spot are the wax sculptures. Beautiful replicas of Peter Cushing, Alfred Hitchcock, Oliver Reed as the **CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF**, Christopher Lee as Dracula and the Frankenstein monster, Pennywise the clown, an alien from **THEY LIVE**, Price from **THE HOUSE OF WAX**, the **CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON** and the Wolf man (Lon Chaney Jr.) are just some of the monsters on display. Some get close-ups. In a perfect world director Richard Griffin would have provided fans with a good look at *all* of them, but that's not the case. Griffin knows his horror movies (there are plenty of dialog and visual references that play out during the 76 minute runtime) but he botches it up by the insipid dialog and humor. Griffin is one year older than me but you'd swear he was still in high school (if this film is anything to go by).

A complete mess that should be avoided at all costs.

FRANKIE IN BLUNDERLAND

The tagline for this is "Today is Stupid." It should read "This Movie is Stupid."

Frankie (played by porn star Tommy Pistol a.k.a. Aramis A Sartorio) is having problems with his wife and best buddy. It seems no matter how hard he tries they can't all get along. His wife leaves and he goes out looking for her. Along the way he encounters an angel (?) played by XXX performer Evan Stone (completely naked...showing his shaved body...except the hair on top of his head). He repeatedly punches a security guy in the face. Some alien Mormon dude pops up taking about impregnating everyone even though he has no dick (?). Debbie Rochon's head appears as Spidah. Characters say "fuck you" to each other quite a bit.



The film is dumb, idiotic, nonsensical and just plain lousy. About the only positive thing I can say is that the opening guitar based music by Brian Lieb is excellent. To be fair Tommy Pistol is a good actor, but when he's saddled with silly dialog and situations it's hard to really assess where he's going in his career. The guy is probably best known for banging Joanna Angel in numerous **BURNING ANGEL** productions/positions, so it's nice to see what he can do with his dick placed squarely inside his pants.

Bottom line is that this film has no discernable target audience save for those lobsters that think this might be some quirky underground cult hit. It's not. Pass.

FROM THE DARK

Set in Ireland, a young couple is lost in the country side. They stumble upon a seemingly deserted farm house. The sole occupant isn't doing so well, having recently unearthed *something* on his property. Whatever it is infects the man and our two protagonists must fend off the attack from not only the victim but the source. One interesting idea is that these creatures can't stand light and turn into dirt if exposed for any period of time. Oh yeah that might sound like a vampire to the casual reader but this thing is more like a monster from Neil Marshall's **THE DESCENT**.



While clichés abound (cell phones have no reception, car gets stuck in the mud, etc.) the film at least doesn't pretend to be something it's not. The cinematography is excellent as is the lead performance by Niamh Algar. Viewers hoping to really *see* what is going on will be disappointed since the title is apt...this takes place mostly in pitch black areas. If this were released on VHS it would be impossible to decipher. Thankfully the Blu-ray from Dark Sky Films looks fantastic despite the low lighting. Not anything original or unique **FROM THE DARK** is at least well-made and won't waste ninety minutes of your day...or night.

FUTURE JUSTICE

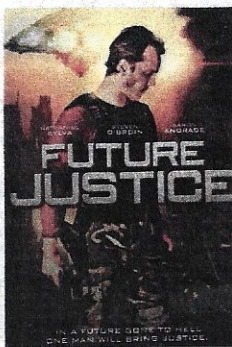
The initial set-up is interesting...a fleeting space ship, housing a notorious criminal, is set to plunge back to Earth. However before they can land they learn that a major nuclear war has erupted leaving the planet a literal hell. Once they land things spiral out of control (and not in a good way either).

Our group of space cadets (and lone criminal) must navigate their way through rough terrain, trying to stay alive amidst a roving band of murderous (and loony) survivors. Things do pick up near the end however, as an ex-



-periment gone awry results in a zombie-like creature picking apart the inhabitants one by one before getting blasted into thin air. The small group that is left must fend for themselves in an unpredictable future...the end.

It's no secret that **FUTURE JUSTICE** owes a great debt (some would say blatantly rips off) to John Carpenter...specifically the films **ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13**, **ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK** and **GHOSTS OF MARS**. Even the music riffs on Carpenters synth score...sometimes with solid results other times in note-for-note swipes. Director Richard Griffin has no budget to speak of, but the opening scenes set inside the ship are rendered in a faux-New World Pictures kinda way. Once the film is set back on Earth boredom sets in as characters are introduced that are either annoying, stupid (one guy imitates a dog) or just sport inane dialog. Aside from some boring shoot outs nothing much happens until the zombie-thing shows up (looking like a reject from Lenzi's **NIGHTMARE CITY**). Still that's not enough to save this turd from stinking to high hell. I've nothing more to say...next...



GONE WITH THE POPE

Duke Mitchell's son Jeffery was sitting on several reels of film that his father had shot years before his death entitled **KISS THE RING**. When a couple of fans with names like Bob Murawski, Bill Lustig and Sage Stallone got wind of it...well before you know it the film was completed and released to the public in the edition I'm now holding...**GONE WITH THE POPE**.



Duke Mitchell is Paul, who we see getting out of prison and inviting three of his best buddies along for an adventure sailing across the world. He figures with no law on the ocean no one can touch them least of all tell them what to do. So what do they decide to do? Kidnap the pope and ask for .50 from each Catholic in ransom money! With such a preposterous synopsis it's a testament to Mitchell that he's able to pull this off with basically no resources at his disposal. The film was shot with (a few) non-actors using stolen shots (and unlicensed music) but through it all the shining persona that is Duke Mitchell helped pull it off. Mitchell's scathing account of the Pope (and religion in general) should be Oscar worthy. While Mitchell's character condemns religion the film takes a holy approach to the proceedings and confirms that there is indeed a higher power even with all the fear in mens' hearts.

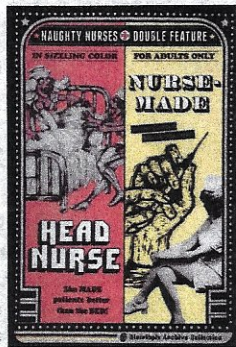
While **GONE WITH THE POPE** won't appeal to everyone, it is arguably one of 2015's most impressive releases from Grindhouse Releasing. For a film that was once languishing on a shelf, created by talented individuals, it should be seen as something of a miracle that we are able to see it at all. Grindhouse painstakingly restored what remained of the original negative and color corrected it to damn near perfection (a brief restoration segment is included on the extras). We also get a 66 minute documentary on the making of the film, deleted scenes and bloopers, a fascinating look at the film's premiere in Hollywood, plus liner notes by John Skipp (who says "some legends are worth every minute of waiting") and more surprises.

A true classic that is spared no expense on Blu-Ray. It should be on every self-respecting fans shelf.

HEAD NURSE/NURSE-MADE

46 Boy oh boy, this head-scratching sex flick from 1972 is something else! Barely running sixty minutes this takes place at some dingy location with a faux hospi-

tal/scientific setting as head doctor (Harry Reems) is instructing his new nurses on how they should do their job (sucking and fucking of course!). Meanwhile a loony doctor/scientist played by Marc Stevens is skull fucking (for real!) and corpse fucking (not real) his way through the proceedings!



This hardcore flick is edited haphazardly with scenes intercut back and forth so much it's liable to give you a headache. Shots of dicks and pussies are intercut with dialog chopped off before sentences can finish. Some sequences are dubbed with hilarious sounds including animals and power tools! An obscene phone call is spoken in a low, guttural voice sure to amuse/anger viewers. In fact half the time you have no idea just what the hell is going on!

With that said let me say that there is *nothing* quite like **HEAD NURSE**! Fans looking for obscure sex stuff will love this, especially with a mustache-free Harry Reems and pre-disco diva Andrea True leading the way. The women are fantastically shaped, and the men have no shame. Plus dig that crazy music man! To top it all off the print on view from the Distribpix Archive Collection is nothing short of miraculous. The colors pop in ways no mortal man could ever have hoped...hell just to see this film would suffice but now we have the pleasure of seeing it presented in a HD datacine film transfer! Extras include the original trailer. Unbelievable!

NURSE-MADE is the 2nd feature on the Distribpix DVD...again from 1972...but not nearly as entertaining as the first film. Two men are plotting some sort of sexual escapade whereupon they place an ad looking for a nurse. When a young lady answers the ad she is told that this old dude needs 24 hour care for a heart condition. He has a will that states whoever makes love to him...thus causing him to croak...will inherit his wealth. Obviously a ploy to get laid, our 'nurse' sets out trying to do him in by screwing his brains out. Yet instead of getting weaker, the guy gets stronger while the woman simply can't take it anymore and kills the old man by stabbing him. The end.

The film wallows in non-stop, non-hardcore sex for just under sixty-two minutes. With only four actual cast members, it becomes tiresome to see the two main performers 'simulate' sex over and over again. If someone is looking to cure their insomnia this is the answer! The old ass guy is as unlikely a 'stud' as you'll ever see in a smut movie. I seriously doubt he could get aroused and the fact that the filmmakers picked him baffles me. The two women on view are attractive but they aren't able to save this dud. It doesn't help that it was apparently shot without sound, so the dubbed in voices don't even come close to matching the on-screen action. More often than not someone's lips are moving but no voice is heard. The only thing consistent is the music (credited to Bob Mann who I believe is the same guy that played with **MOUNTAIN**) which is good, guitar driven rock.

The film looks great however, much better than it has any right to be. Distribpix has once again gone to their vaults and mastered it in HD from the datacine film transfer. One out of two ain't bad for this release. Buy it for **HEAD NURSE** and forget about **NURSE-MADE**.

HI-8

It seems everyone is making anthologies these days. Obviously inspired by the VHS series (now entering their 3rd installment) a group of shot-on-video pioneers has assembled to whip up their own tales under the Hi-8 camera moniker.

As usual with these types of things each story is a mixed bag. The wrap-around segment (which doesn't tie in at all to the others) is just a bunch of set pieces interrupted by the other mini-movies. It features 3 young kids making a horror film who stumble upon a homeless person (?) who warns them of a flesh eating disorder of some sorts. It ends with the usual outcome (people die) but features