

Ravage the Scream Queen

A Review by Nick Peron

It was the final day of the Toronto Fan Expo and I was waiting in line to get Roger Corman's autograph. I had there for 2 hours not wanting to miss the opportunity to meet this cinematic icon and I was the first in line. As waiting with others, this big man with long hair had approached our line with a back pack and a stack of DVD his hands. He hands a few out to some of the guys in the line and offers one up to the aides for Roger Corma the time I didn't recognize him as none other than Bill Zebub, mastermind behind <u>Bill Zebub Productions</u>. Wr created such films as <u>Ass Monster: The Making of a Horror Movie</u> and <u>The Worst Horror Movie Ever Made</u>.



"Are you promoting your work?" I ask him, getting a flash of opportunity "Yes I am, I wanted Roger Corman tet and the tells one of my films" I tell him that I have a website and pass him one of my Micro-Shock business cards and he tells me that he'll be right back. He comes back momentarily with a DVD in hand and gives it to me. "Here, watch this" he tells me and disappears as quickly as he had appeared. What I had in my hands was a copy of yet another of Bill Zebub's films, *Ravage the Scream Queen*. This movie is slated to be released in October 2009, so I appreciated Mr. Zebub giving me an advanced copy. I didn't know what to expect.

When I returned home from Fan Expo, I got off the bus just after midnight and my roommate had picked me up. I tell him the story about how I landed a copy of this movie and curious he wanted to see it also. So we put it in, I made myself a stiff drink and we proceeded to watch.

Ravage the Scream Queen follows the story of two guys who go out camping in the woods. While one of them is out taking a crap in the woods, he finds a DVD titled *Kill the Scream Queen* buried out there and brings it back to the camp. The two men end up watching it and learn that it was a snuff film made by a local rapist/killer who -- as they learned -- apparently had his penis bitten off by one of his victims and buried the DVD in the woods before throwing his naked body off a cliff. The two men, who have little luck having sex with women decide that they are going to mimic the killer in the snuff film.

In order to do so, they plot to lure girls to their home with the promise of being in an independent film and would tie them up, rape, torture and then kill, all on film. They hope that after they are done they will also likewise dispose of the finished film in the woods and that investigators of this new rash of murdered women would be blamed on the original killer.

Drawing inspiration from the snuff film they lure, rape and kill a number of women, before the mastermind behind the copycat idea tries to betray his friend by having him do a video tape confession and shoot himself with a gun that he things are full of blanks but have real bullets. The plan backfires when the betrayer is accidentally shot and crippled from the bullet and his former partner flees the scene.

Ravage the Scream Queen is a sequel to one of Bill's previous films <u>Kill the Scream Queen</u>, which follows the same premise of a man raping and killing women. In fact the DVD that the two men find in *Ravage* is the same movie, and you see clips of *Kill the Scream Queen* being watched by the guys in *Ravage the Scream Queen*. I think that it was an interesting premise to make a sequel of the film, however it's not very evident that *Ravage* is a sequel film, so unless you know of Bill's other works then you a probably not going to notice. In spite of the fact that the movie is a sequel it is self contained and you need not watch the first film to follow along.

As far as the type of audience that would want to watch this movie, it's certainly for the rape/torture fetish crowd who like fake rape/snuff films. Those expecting an actual horror or suspense movie are going to be greatly disappointed unless they are into this kind of thing.

At a first glance, a person might watch this movie and find it's execution poor, and that *plot* is full of mistakes. Another point that might get viewers would be the fact that the women -- in spite of realizing that they are about to be raped, tortured and murdered do not put up much of a struggle.

For the latter point, I have to say that again, that sort of reaction could be expected from someone who was expecting a brutal horror film. As I think this movie is more catering to the fetish itself, then perhaps the lack of

opposition presented by the women in the film is likely due to the fact that it is all part of said fetish. If there is anything I've learned from the years of watching fetish videos on the internet is that each particular genre has certain people want or created certain specifics. Some people *are* into videos where the girl is putting up a massive fight, others do not. This is much in the same way that *Slaughtered Vomit Dolls* was more about the puking fetish than it was about anything else (However, I would also like to point out that while *Slaughtered Vomit Dolls* was fucking awful, *Ravage the Scream Queen* is much better by comparison and doesn't indulge in the overboard artistic faggery the former used in the editing booth.)

When watching the film, you notice that the guys who are imitating the killer from *Kill the Scream Queen* don't wear masks, have completely different physiques than the original killer, and they very quickly stop using the same *motus operandi* as the killer. The highly critical part of my mind wonders how these guys are thinking they are going to get away with raping and murdering all the women in the film. The DNA evidence alone would be enough to catch them, and the fact that they stop using the original killers methods would also lead any competent FBI profiler to believe that they are dealing with someone different.

But that is part of this movies brilliance: These guys are supposed to do it all wrong, they've never done what they were doing before, their desperation to get laid over clouds their ability to be that critical about the details of what they are doing. The later betrayal in the film also suggests that this was all intended as far as the betrayer was concerned and that he had planned it this sloppily to frame his friend, knowing full well there was no way they could convince the authorities that their attacks were being done by the original killers.

I especially like the soundtrack to this film, while the main characters are not really as menacing as the music suggest, it is eerie and spooky music, keep your ears peeled for it.

Ravage the Scream Queen is a genre film that caters to a very specific audience, and is not for the faint of heart. If you're not really into the rape/murder fantasy then you are probably not going to like this film, especially if you are an over critical asshole. I personally enjoyed it, not because I'm into the fetish at all, but because of how much these guys bungle things up. My analytical mind crunched away, utilizing all the stuff I picked up from reading too many John Douglas books on criminal profiling. So if you like exploitive gory horror/fetish films, check out *Ravage the Scream Queen* and other films in the Bill Zebub Entertainment library.

http://www.billzebub.com



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