

looking for something deeper should look elsewhere. You have been warned.

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟

SPECIAL FEATURES: Sadly there are no extras for American Nightmares on this disc from MVD Visual except for a handful of trailers from their catalogue.

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟

AMERICAN NIGHTMARES is out now on **US DVD** and **Blu-ray** courtesy of MVD.

REVIEWED BY JON DICKINSON

PURGATORY ROAD

THE FILM: With a slew of indie titles under his belt, Director Mark Savage's latest offering *Purgatory Road* is a muted but ambitious thriller. Although it strives to be unabashedly dark, it quickly changes form to become a character-led drama.

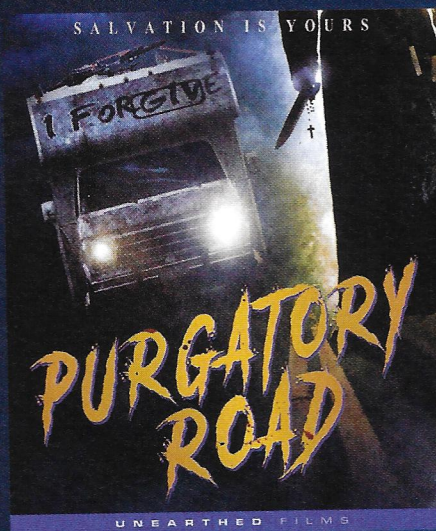
In it a priest and his brother travel the highways of America's Deep South absolving sins with their own brand of murder. As the duo continue their journey disposing of their victims' bodies with precision and utmost care, it would appear that nothing could come between the brothers. That is until the priest takes a shine to a woman and the frailty of their brotherhood begins to show.

Purgatory Road does well with its limited resources to construct a tale about brotherhood, grief and mistrust. The script is relatively sound but the story of the two brothers is far more interesting than any of the film's horror elements. That said, there is a decent attempt to make every death graphic and visually disturbing. It's just a shame that these moments pass by so quickly. Thankfully, Savage somehow manages to keep the film afloat elsewhere by inspiring solid performances from his cast.

Speaking of which, Gary Cairns is fantastic playing Father Vincent, a character who believes in his holy crusade to kill as many sinners is sociopathic and vicious. Meanwhile, as Vincent's brother, Luke Albright's Michael longs for the simple life. Their dynamic is forever changed with the arrival of Trista Robinson's problematic Mary Francis whose seductive ways prove to be the perfect catalyst to stir up additional drama between the brothers.

As a whole, *Purgatory Road* might sound like an intriguing thriller based on its premise but it is anything but! Hardcore genre enthusiasts seeking a blood-fuelled nightmare will be left bitterly disappointed by how tediously average it is so you have been warned.

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟



SPECIAL FEATURES: In this presentation from Uearthed Films and MVD Visual, audiences can look forward to a limited selection of extras carefully curated to extend the world crafted by the filmmaking team behind *Purgatory Road*.

Firstly there is a detailed commentary track with Director Mark Savage. With it, fans of the film can hear all about the making of the film with key anecdotal accounts of what it was like on set and what creative decisions Savage took to achieve his vision.

Also included are three featurettes. "The Grisly Art of Marcus Koch & Cat Bernier Sowell" featurette is a grisly slide show of *Purgatory Road*'s remarkable make-up effects. Seeing these visuals in all their glory is fantastic, it's just a shame we didn't get to appreciate its beauty in more detail during the film.

In "The Actors Speak" featurette viewers are treated to a 29-minute of interviews with Gary Cairns, Luke Albright and Trista Robinson. Each cast member talks openly about how they got involved with the project, what they loved about it as well as on the experience on the set. Meanwhile, in "Tom Parnell: Beyond the Day Job," audiences can look forward to an in-depth interview with Writer Tom Parnell who provides keen insight to what inspired him to work with Mark Savage to write the film.

Rounding up the extras available on the disc is a *Purgatory Road* Q&A with Mark Savage and lead actor Gary Cairns (and other members of the cast and crew). As with any recorded Q&A's, Savage and Cairns take questions from the audience and talk openly about the development of the project, the casting process and more. Sadly, the transfer is very low quality and at times becomes difficult to hear without turning up the

volume of my TV.

All in all, not a bad collection but not a good collection of extras either. Yes, they help in adding some value to purchasing the disc instead of streaming it online. However, it's a shame the majority of the extras feel unpolished and haphazardly thrown together.

Rating: 🧟🧟🧟🧟

PURGATORY ROAD is out now on **US DVD** and **Blu-ray** courtesy of MVD.

REVIEWED BY JON DICKINSON

DEVIL HUNTER

THE FILM: Jess Franco's infamous *Devil Hunter* was one of the titles that were caught up in the video nasties hysteria which plagued 80s Britain. Now released on Blu-ray, it's time for everyone to experience 90 minutes of drawn-out brutality and sleaze and form their own opinion about Franco's so-called lost shocker. As a whole, the film reminds me of the Italian Cannibal films that dominated the 70s and although it hasn't aged well, this will appeal to the fans of such films.

In it, Franco leads his audience to follow a pair of bounty hunters who are paid to rescue a model from the clutches of her kidnapers hiding on an island. On their arrival, the duo discovers that the kidnapers are not the only threat, there's a tribe of cannibals who are determined to sacrifice the model to their god.

There's just about everything wrong with the film from its misogynistic attitude, casual racism, right through to some pretty awful effects which are completely laughable by today's standards. However, Franco does demonstrate an ability to deliver something stylish even if in small doses. There is some incredible cinematography on display which Franco uses to create some very intriguing visuals that will stick with you. However, the tendency to rely

