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MCN Columnists

By Gary Dretzka

dretzka@moviecitynews.com



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Vomit Gore Trilogy:Box Set

Want to play a trick on your fundamentalist Republican friends? Ask them to join you in a screening of **"Vomit Gore Trilogy."** After five minutes of the first chapter, "Slaughtered Vomit Dolls," they'll beg you to hit the stop button and demand smelling salts. After they regain their composure, mention that Lucifer Valentine's exercise in horror-porn was financed by the National Endowment for the Arts and donations from President Obama's PAC. In the time it takes for you for to say, "Gotcha!," they will already have put in calls to Speaker of the House John Boehner and their favorite televangelist, not only demanding his impeachment, but also that you be publically flogged. Fact is, though, anyone who isn't repelled to some degree by what happens in the "Vomit Gore" sequence probably should seek immediate treatment. The movies are that vile. Unless I'm completely off base, Valentine wants us visualize the horror experienced by a generic American teenager, driven beyond the limits of sanity by mental and physical abuse, the worship of pop icons (here, the late Kurt Cobain and his lovely wife, Courtney Love) and an acquired numbness to sexual depravity. The characters' madness manifests itself in the fetishization of vomit, gore, rape, torture, extreme sadomasochism and other sexual behavior most Americans would consider to be abhorrent. Or, something like that.

Valentine's protagonist is teenage runaway Angela Aberdeen (Ameara LaVey), who, we're told, "has made a pact with Satan in an attempt to escape the trauma and abuse suffered throughout her short life. 'The Vomit Gore Trilogy' is a mind-altering, demonic triptych of events depicting Angela's gruesome journey through life and death." These include bulimia, parental and societal rejection and being forced to support herself by turning to stripping, prostitution and porn. After an hour or so, determined viewers will be as inured to the pain as Angela ... again, part of the case Valentine appears to be building. In short, there is a method to Valentine's madness. The boxed set arrives with a fourth disc that includes the short film, "A Perfect Child of Satan," commentary, a making-of featurette and an interview with Chelsea Chainsaw. Moreover, each of the movies in the trilogy is followed by explanations, disclaimers and statements by the actresses about their voluntary participation in the scenes that couldn't possibly be fabricated and a discussion of the special effects and prosthetics (dissected sex mannequins, mostly) for the ones that are. Don't say you weren't warned. — *Gary Dretzka*