

crazy moments and steers his audience towards an explosive third act that's surprisingly fun to watch and that's why I urge you to check it out.

Rating: 🧠🧠🧠🧠

SPECIAL FEATURES: There's not much to enjoy here. There are a handful of trailers for largely unknown low-budget horror movies that I didn't even know existed until now. That said, I'm not trying to yuck anyone's yum here. After all, if a bevy of low-budget horror movies is your idea of fun then have at it. I'm simply saying that there are no extras offering an insight into the making of the film.

Rating: 🧠🧠🧠🧠

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION is out now on **US Blu-ray** courtesy of MVD.

REVIEWED BY JON DICKINSON

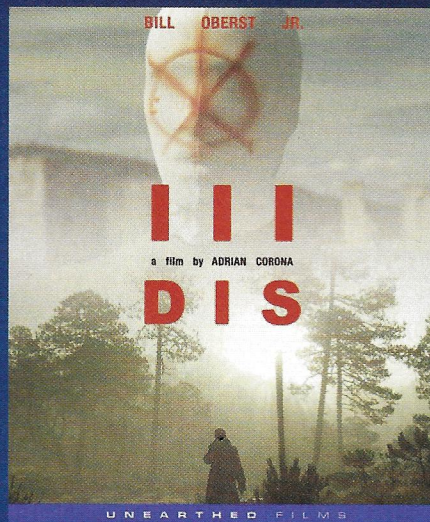
DIS

THE FILM: In Adrian Corona's latest offering an ex-soldier takes refuge deep in the wilderness as a means to escape a criminal past. Whilst searching for a way to atone for past sins the soldier comes across an abandoned building that's haunted by a demonic figure. Not too long after the man finds himself at the mercy of its reign of terror.

Appealing more to arthouse enthusiasts, DIS is a surreal nightmare that harnesses what little it has in resources to craft an unpleasant visual assault for audiences to endure. With DIS Adrian Corona refuses to pander to his audiences and strides forward to craft an unforgettable viewing experience for his audience. His bare and rough sense of direction is a stark contrast to the films stunningly smooth cinematography and it creates an interesting dynamic to the piece that helps maintain the films fever-dream aesthetic.

Although easily distracted viewers may fail to appreciate the effort on display here, those willing to work through the films glacial pace and harrowing visuals can find solace in the solid performance from Bill Oberst Jr. Here he hits every emotional beat of his character using it as raw energy to help drive the dramatic intensity of the film. It's just a mighty shame that the rest of the cast and the overall big bad of the film is so easily forgettable by comparison.

Addressing the bigger problems with this film, Corona's portrayal of sexual violence is problematic. It might serve as a reason why the demonic figure does what he does to victims but there's no need to show it in detail. Simply put, it's pornographic and for that reason, I found it wholly inappropriate. So, when the rest



of the film does very little to entertain its audience elsewhere, DIS becomes a lot of work for very little payoff.

Rating: 🧠🧠🧠🧠

SPECIAL FEATURES: This presentation from MVD Visual comes with a filmed introduction by the director of DIS Adrian Corona. There is also a very brief behind the scenes and photo gallery which, when combined, provide an insiders point of view on how the filmmaking team were able to achieve Corona's vision for the film.

Also included is an interview with the actor Bill Oberst Jr. who talks openly about how he got involved with the project, his initial reaction to the script and about the difficulties experience shooting DIS. Beyond that, Oberst attempts to dive deeper to provide a greater understanding of the motives of the film and about its power to affect its audience.

Lastly, and perhaps my favourite addition to this presentation is the inclusion of Adrian Corona's 19-minute short film "Portrait". In it, a frustrated artist works against adversity and his own sanity to create the perfect work of art. I loved this and it shows that as a storyteller Corona certainly has the chops needed to deliver upon expectation.

Overall, there are a fair amount of decent extras on offer here. So, if DIS is your sort of movie, there's plenty to consume here. A decent effort to flesh out what I thought was a dull film overall.

Rating: 🧠🧠🧠🧠

DIS is out now on **US DVD** and **Blu-ray** courtesy of Unerthed Films.

REVIEWED BY JON DICKINSON

AMERICAN NIGHTMARES

THE FILM: American Nightmares is an anthology film from the creators of Tales From The Hood and Tales From The Hood 2. Written and Directed by

Darin Scott and Rusty Cundieff, the wrap around follows a pair of millennials whose computers are hacked by a mysterious figure only known as Mr Malevolent (played here by Danny Trejo). Unable to stop him the duo is forced to face their own culpability and are made to watch several horror stories.

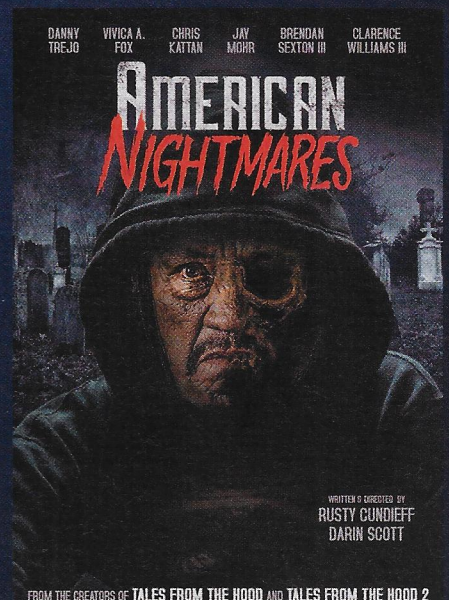
I love the concept behind American Nightmares. Through several segments, Cundieff and Scott deal with themes of abusive relationships, corrupt officials, hate crimes and other equally abhorrent activities to teach us all a very important lesson... don't be a dick to others.

There are seven segments in total. MATES explores the dangers of abusive relationships and embracing new technology. THE PROSECUTOR follows a man running for the governor of Texas when his corrupted past comes back to literally haunt him. WHITE FLIGHT is an interesting portrayal of the phrase "be careful of what you wish for".

In THE SAMARITAN a sex worker is asked to service the needs of a dying man. HATE RADIO, when a radio host's sexist attitudes are reversed on him. Next up is THE HEALER and the final segment is titled THEY WILL BE DONE.

Although the film brings some very important topics to the table, the efforts here are very hit and miss and suffer from its lack of creativity and hurried pace. However, it's not all doom and gloom, as the writers and directors of each segment Cundieff and Scott are able to maintain a consistent level of effort throughout the film and the overall viewing experience benefits from it.

As a whole, American Nightmares has plenty on offer but it shouldn't be taken seriously at all. Each segment is reasonably paced and does enough to keep audiences engaged but anyone



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.

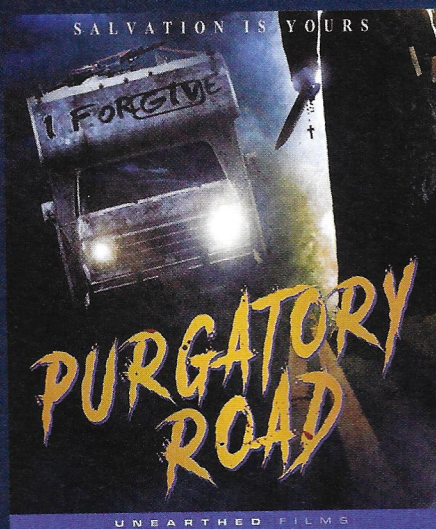
In it a priest and his brother travel the highways of America's Deep South absolving sins with their own brand of murder. As the duo continue their journey disposing of their victims' bodies with precision and utmost care, it would appear that nothing could come between the brothers. That is until the 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 as 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 kidnappers hiding on an island. On their arrival, the duo discovers that the kidnappers 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

