



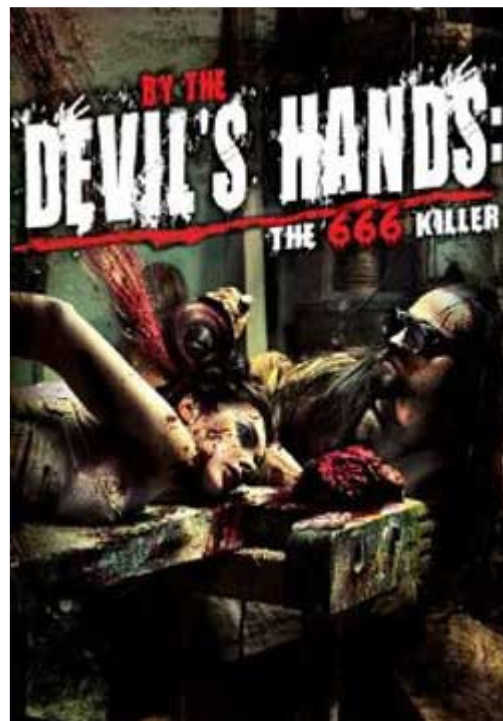
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Film Review: By the Devil's Hands (2009)

Posted on [03/23/2012](#) by [Melissa Voelker](#) [Leave a Comment or Post Review](#)



SYNOPSIS:

The 666 Killer kills 6 victims over 6 days, 6 ways to die...and, unfortunately, Jan victim #6.

REVIEW:

Let us talk about the giant mess that was **By the Devil's Hands**. Though honest to even start. There was just so MUCH that was wacky going on here. Perhaps I production company (and production companies in general):

Dear Filmmakers,

Fancy camera work and interesting effects do not make up for bad dialogue, wa Anyone can take Final Cut Pro and make a movie. That does not mean that just watching.

XX, Me

This is, very obviously, an extremely low-budget production. The audio was ech in others. There was about 10 minutes altogether of musical score, and either it was nothing during a scene. I didn't recognize any of the actors, and I'm fairly ce were just regular people that turned up at the location that day cause they had n convincing extras in the whole film were the cops at the end, and I think that was police directed to do what they would really do in a similar situation. And the stor explain actually. Because it felt like there were two completely different, unrelate of the movie.



Twenty-five years ago a heinous killer went on a magical murder spree. He killed different ways (actually an interesting premise, it seems like forever since I watched a killer movie without any supernatural bullshit thrown in). In modern days a pretty girl gets a promotion at work while fighting off nightmares and episodes of hysterical paranoia with office intrigue and possibly being a crazy person, the 666 killer starts murdering. At the very very VERY end of the film, these two paths coincide. Kind of.

Not only do these two plot lines seem completely unconnected for the majority of the film, they don't even seem to be made as the same film. The creepy violent serial killer scenes are in a dark, claustrophobic, and well lit, shot from multiple angles, contain background music and also include a variety of editing effects. The dialogue is cut down to a minimum. The murder scenes are pretty good, actually. Really the best scenes of the



Because when viewers aren't being treated to those, they are instead being treated to the main character typing on a computer and being told her boss doesn't trust her. The sound in these scenes is off, the dialogue is boring, there is no background music, and scenes shot in the dark are hard to even see. It is also very obvious that the scenes were shot with just one camera, because it is placed in the corner of a room and doesn't pan or angle or anything while stuff happens on the other end of the room. If I had a movie in my living room, it would probably look like those scenes.

It was disconcerting how different the quality of the film was as it moved back and forth between the office stuff and the horror stuff. I found myself wondering if they had actually made two different films, both too short, and so mashed them together. The subplot about one office chick was campy, and seemed out of place. In the end when it turns out there is a link between the two, it's sudden and kind of random that I just didn't feel scared by it. And the twist/plot twist has been there, seen that a million times, not impressed any more.

By the way, what the heck was up with all the phone calls in this film? I don't think it has an obvious role in a horror movie since **Scream**. After the third scene where a character is keeping a tally. They managed eleven phone calls in a 90 minute film, which comes out to about eight minutes. That is just excessive and bizarre, especially when they don't really advance the plot. Which they didn't. They just seemed to be a way to keep from having the characters interact. It was too much trouble to get more than one or two actors together on set at a time.

By the Devil's Hands was made by Windblown Productions, which I had never heard of before. It is their only film to date. It was directed, produced, edited, and written by Christopher Windblown, unknown to me. Surprisingly enough, however, all of the main actors had been in other projects before and after this one. Not exactly big name projects, but they worked pretty regularly. Sean Teague (the actress) had a small role in **Doctor T and the Women** (stupid stupid movie), **Revenge**, **Break**, and Arianne Martin was in the **Crash** television series. Nothing else they've done. Sean Teague, however (who turns out to be the squirrel-y office dude/serial killer man's David Cross) has done voice acting in a lot of anime that I have watched, **Hakusho**, **Fullmetal Alchemist**, **Samurai 7**, and **Romeo x Juliet**. All awesome dubbing. So maybe Mr. Teague should consider sticking to those projects and leaving others.

Because I always like to give credit where credit is due (I'm pretty awesome like that) I did find the initial premise of this film interesting. I liked the idea behind the serial killer. There's really no explanation given on why the original killer does what he does. It is always just some long, convoluted, or just plain campy reasoning behind a villain's behavior.

By the Devil's Hands (2009)

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