

**Rob Freese's  
SLASH-O-RAMA!**

**ARROW VIDEO**

(2-Disc Blu-ray \$39.95) 12/15

**BLOOD RAGE (1987) ♂♂1/2**

D: John Grissmer. Louise Lasser, Mark Soper, Marianne Kanter, Julie Gordon, Jayne Benetzen, Ed French. 82/79 mins.

At the Midway Drive-In in Jacksonville, Florida, twins Todd and Terry sneak out of the car while their mom's playing kissy-face in the front seat with her date to spy on other surrounding patrons getting it on. While watching one amorous couple play slip and slide in their car, Terry, for no apparent reason, takes an axe and chops them to bits, then shoves the bloody axe into his brother's hands and says Todd did it. Shocked into silence, Todd spends the next ten years in the Florida State Booby Hatch until he escapes on Thanksgiving after his mom visits and brings him a piece of pumpkin pie. The murders start anew as Terry takes advantage of his "crazy brother" having escaped to chop up his friends and family. For fans of hack-'n'-slash cinema, **Blood Rage** is a feast of poor writing, over-the-top acting and excellent Ed French-executed gore effects. Filmed in 1983 but unreleased until 1987, **Blood Rage** moves at a quick pace, getting from one kill to the next, and doesn't waste a minute of its abbreviated running time. The flick offers one startling gore effect during the "find the bodies" segment. (You'll know it when you see it!) Lasser is loopy as hell and one wonders how the doctors never locked her up too. In fact, Terry (Soper) is so nutty himself, and Todd (also Soper) is so quiet



and sedate, it makes me wonder why no one ever questioned the fact that they may have actually incarcerated the wrong kid! Producer Kanter also essays the role of the doctor who is trying to find Todd after his escape, and French appears as a businessman dating a hot-to-trot mom looking to hook a wealthy daddy for her newborn baby. Ted Raimi has a small role as "Condom Salesman" in the opening scenes. **The House That Cried Murder**, which director Grissmer co-wrote, is playing at the drive-in. **Blood Rage** was written by Bruce Rubin (not to be confused with **Ghost/Jacob's Ladder** scribe Bruce Joel Rubin), under the name Richard Lamden, who also wrote **Zapped!** and **Zapped Again!** The best line uttered by Crazy Terry repeatedly, "It's not cranberry sauce." Technically, this is a Thanksgiving Day slasher, but the movie doesn't do a very good job setting up any holiday ambience, except for the abovementioned slice of pumpkin pie that Todd squishes and flings onto the wall. Arrow has gone all out with this DVD/Blu-ray release, offering the original home-video version (with abbreviated gore and additional scenes that really add nothing), the theatrical version (which was released as **Nightmare at Shadow Woods**), and a composite version including all the gore and extra scenes. A number of interviews, outtakes and galleries round out the special features. Basically, if you dig slasher films, particularly those from the late '70s and early '80s, you're going to enjoy **Blood Rage**. Other classic babes 'n' blades flicks making their Blu-ray HD debuts include David Paulsen's 1981 shocker **Savage Weekend** (from Kino Lorber), a double feature from Olive Films' Slasher Video line, **Killer Workout** (1986, aka **Aerobicide**) and **Satan's Blade** (1984), and Romano Scavolini's disturbing **Nightmare** (1981) in a deluxe 35th anniversary edition courtesy of Code Red.

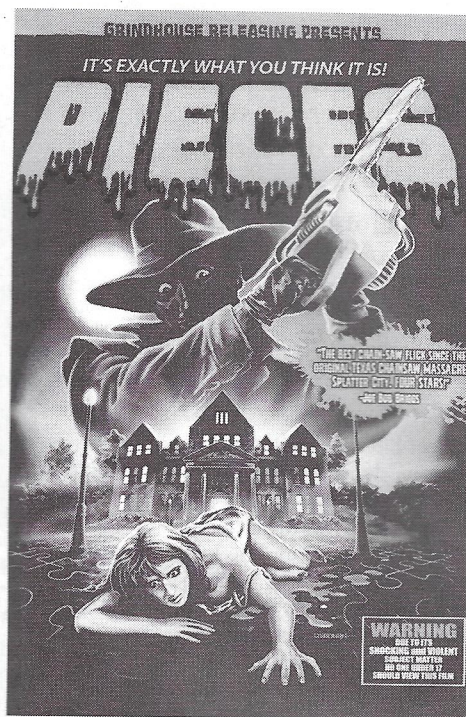
**GRINDHOUSE RELEASING**

(3-Disc Deluxe Edition \$29.99) 3/16

**PIECES (1982) ♂♂♂♂**

D: Juan Piquer Simon. Christopher George, Lynda Day George, Frank Brana, Edmund Purdom, Ian Sera, Paul L. Smith, Jack Taylor. 90 mins.

In 1942, an adolescent horndog is caught by his mother putting together a nudie jigsaw puzzle. Mom goes crazy, screaming at the kid, and the horndog retaliates by sinking an ax blade into her noggin numerous times. After dismembering mama like a jigsaw puzzle, he hides in the closet until the authorities arrive, blaming the crime on an unseen assailant. Forty years later, on the campus of a Boston college, a maniac with a chainsaw is carving curvy coeds for parts to complete his own jigsaw woman. Detective Lt. Bracken (George) is called in to investigate. He employs cop and moonlighting tennis champion Mary Riggs (Day George) to go undercover as a tennis coach. The short list of suspects includes girl-hopping student Kendall James (Sera), uptight biology teacher Professor Brown (Taylor) and bug-eyed groundskeeper Willard (Smith), who seems the most obvious suspect, as we spy



him lovingly caressing his chainsaw moments after an assault on the quad in broad daylight. The unbelievable chainsaw attacks splash the screen red as female students are hacked in swimming pools and bathroom stalls as well as one who is viciously stabbed to death on a water bed in the gym (?). The perverted finale includes a patchwork body made of parts from all the victims and one of the most unbelievably bizarre **Carrie** endings you have ever seen. Everything you've ever heard about **Pieces** is true. As the tag line jubilantly proclaims, "It's EXACTLY what you think it is!" Simon's platter of splatter came along in '83 when the slasher film was dying off. It was unleashed theatrically without a rating and went on to become a big hit when Vestron Video released it on VHS. **Pieces** has become one of the most notorious of the '80s slasher flicks simply because it is so over the top and it does, in fact, deliver the goods that gorehounds crave. You could easily pick the movie apart (I know, I know, what's with the pushbutton phone in 1942?) or you could just sit back, strap in, and have a gory good time. Grindhouse goes all out with its new 3D Deluxe Edition 2-Blu-ray + CD set. Beyond the original U.S. theatrical release, the set includes **Mil Gritos Tiene La Noche**, the longer, uncensored director's cut, presented in Spanish with Librado Pastor's original score. Among the other special features are in-depth interviews with director Simon and costar Smith, an audio commentary by actor Taylor, Calum Waddell's excellent feature-length documentary **42nd Street Memories**, an audio option that gives the viewer a live audience audio recorded at a Vine Theater screening, liner notes by exploitation experts Chas. Balun and Rick Sullivan, stills and poster art gallery, and, for the first 3000 units, an actual jigsaw puzzle. If you only watch one gore movie, make it **Pieces**. And remember, "You don't have to go to Texas for a Chainsaw Massacre!" ♂