

WOOD sessions are presented as well. As if *that* wasn't enough you also have a full length audio commentary by Trenchard-Smith along with original trailers including the American re-title under the **ESCAPE 2000** moniker.

TURKEY SHOOT is an essential purchase. For those 'in the know' I shouldn't have to remind anyone how entertaining it is. For the unfaithful out there do yourself a favor and grab the Severin Blu-ray...it's a great combination of mindless fun and cinema history all wrapped into one package.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO SOLANGE?

In his audio commentary with Kim Newman, writer Alan Jones reasons that **WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO SOLANGE?** ranks in the top 10 giallo movies of all time. I would concur.

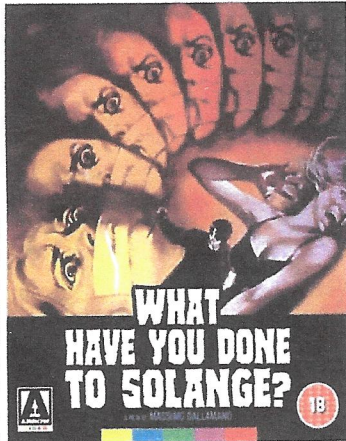
A girl is brutally murdered and one lone witness thinks she may have seen something, but her recollections are vague. To compound matters she is in a love tryst with her teacher (Fabio Testi) who happens to be married. As more murders occur, the police are hot on the trail of the teacher whose affair with his student places him in the midst of trouble...both on a professional and personal level.

Interestingly, the film takes a severe turn when a key witness is wiped out leaving the teacher (and the rekindled love from his wife) to sort things out. The name 'Solange' isn't even spoken (nor hinted at) until the 70 minute mark. At this point her sordid tale is slowly unwoven as the murders and her 'regressive' behavior are finally explained.

Director Massimo Dallamano took a few left turns when he helmed this giallo thriller in 1972. For starters the focus isn't on the murders (they are grisly but the lurid details are shown only after the fact). Secondly the three leads (one of which doesn't make it to the end of the film) are compelling, thoughtful and three-dimensional. Finally the story arc is not one that viewers will anticipate, nor will they figure out who the killer is until very late in the game. As for familiar tropes, the lush and lovely score by Ennio Morricone remains another feather in his crowded hat. Cult figure Joe D'Amato was the director of photography (as well as providing a Alfred Hitchcockian cameo). Finally American stalwart Camille Keaton would gain entry into the world of cult stardom with her silent role portraying Solange.

Arrow Video has preserved Dallamano's film in a splendid 2k transfer that showcases D'Amato's (under his real name Aristide Massaccesi) wonderful photography with shades of black and white and yellow (naturally). The English dubbing (which was apparently forced on the production to ensure International success) and Italian audio are the featured viewing options.

There are a host of welcome and pleasant extras. An interview with actress Karin Baal reveals her to be less than complimentary about the movie. She lists a number of 'error's inherent in the film (all of them justifiable), shows her disgust at the various sexual/sleazy situations (exclaiming that she refused to do any nudity and tried blocking out another actresses breast much to Dallamano's disdain!), and finds the spoken dialog to be rubbish (remarking that Testi in particular simply 'mouthed' parts of his performance).



Testi goes solo for a 2006 interview where he talks about his role in ...Solange as well as his many other appearances in cinema. Starting out as a stuntman, Testi reveals that his role as actor was to *not* become typecast in westerns.

Producer Fulvio Lucisano talks about the film in a 2006 interview. He is candid about the dialog and mentions the wonderful work that Massaccesi and Morricone brought to the proceedings (also wondering why Morricone hadn't won an Oscar). He talks about attending the movie premiere with Keaton in tow (a few choice photos are provided as evidence).

There is a visual essay that goes into detail on the 'Schoolgirls in Peril' trilogy as well as the aforementioned audio commentary. In summation this is another winner from Arrow who has raised the bar for subsequent giallos to be treated so well on Blu-ray. While ... Solange isn't usually mentioned amongst other notable giallos, perhaps now it can be received by a new crowd...to hopefully get the recognition it so rightfully deserves.

TOP 10 FAVORITE BLU-RAY FROM 2015

In my editorial I bemoaned the lack of movie watching I did in 2015. While some might glean the idea that I no longer care about watching movies, of course that couldn't be further from the truth. What I am lacking is *time*. With that said I did manage to watch stuff that wasn't sent to me as a screener (therefore **no** titles are included from VINEGAR SYNDROME, SYNAPSE FILMS, ARROW VIDEO U.S., GRINDHOUSE RELEASING, SEVERIN FILMS or DARK SKY FILMS). The following discs are therefore ones that I choose to collect. I am guilty of double, triple and quadruple buying but as I stated on page 2...I am done with that. In any event most of the titles listed below previously had releases on DVD but the Blu-rays are clearly the way to go. These aren't in any particular order and aren't necessarily ones that would go on any best of 2015 lists. They are simply films I love watching in high definition.

THEM! – Out of all the giant bug movies churned out in the '50s this one is tops. It's a flawless exercise in suspense, scares, heroism and scientific wonder all wrapped up in a delightful package. Warner Brothers basically duplicated their previous DVD release but the razor sharp print is a thing of absolute beauty. Even with the enhanced resolution the FX on the ants remains as striking as ever. As far as I'm concerned this is one of the greatest monster movies ever made...*period*.

THE CAR – I initially missed out on the original Anchor Bay DVD release of this one so rather than pay ridiculous amounts of cash for it on the secondary market I downloaded it. It is a wild ride (pun intended) with plenty of deaths and nary a dull moment passes by before something exciting happens on screen. I dig James Brolin in the lead. Shout Factory! gave us a splendid Blu-ray release with plenty of nifty extras. The company was as busy as ever in 2015, so picking one title of their inventory was really hard but **THE CAR** always delivers...besides who could a film featuring an opening quote from Anton Lavey be that bad?

BLOOD & BLACK LACE – Out of all the wonderful restorations divvied out in 2015 none compare to the one Arrow Video supplied for Mario Bava's seminal giallo flick. I can't think of a more deserving film worthy of the Blu-ray format than this. The bold and vivid use of color can now be savored...and what a palette it is! From the opening credits right to the very end, this is cinema as art (or vice versa). Interestingly enough it has yet (as of March 2016) to land on U.S. shores so I imported the region free U.K. disc rather than wait to see if an American version will