

Rob Freese's

## Drive-In DELIRIUM!

### DARK FORCE ENTERTAINMENT DRIVE-IN DOUBLE FEATURE #18 WEEKEND MURDERS/CONCERTO PER PISTOLA SOLISTA (1970) ♂♂♂

D: Michele Lupo. Anna Moffo, Evelyn Stewart, Gastone Moschin, Giacomo Rossi Stuart, Christopher Chittell, Marisa Fabbri. 98 mins.

A family gathers at the British estate of the family patriarch for the reading of a will, only to be disappointed to the point of murder when mousey niece Barbara (Moffo) inherits everything. There is much inner turmoil amongst the horrible family members, and soon Inspector Thorpe (Moschin) is up to his chinstrap in dead bodies. Anyone can be the killer and everyone is suspected of the dastardly crimes until they turn up dead. This is a hugely enjoyable mystery made in the style of Agatha Christie's mysteries with gobs of humor. Although British set, this Italian production offers a cast of familiar faces for fans of European genre films. The standout here is Moschin, who plays the bumbling Thorpe to perfection, which pays off when the simple-minded country constable solves the crime. Not a giallo in the true sense, but an excellent drive-in mystery flick with lots of charm and dark laughs.

### WHOSE CHILD AM I? (1976) ♂♂♂

D: Gerry O'Hara. Kate O'Mara, Paul Freeman, Edward Judd, Bob Sherman, Frances Kearney, Ronan O'Casey. 91 mins.

Paul (Freeman) and Barbara (O'Mara) Martin are trying to conceive a baby but are not having any luck. (If the opening scene is any indication, it is not from a lack of trying!) Barbara becomes frustrated, so Paul goes into a sex shop to purchase a book on conceiving. They try monitoring her body but still nothing. They finally turn to a doctor and learn that Paul is sterile. Artificial insemination is suggested. It takes Paul a bit to warm up to the idea, but when he does and they try it, the attempt fails. Barbara goes to a professor who suggests "natural insemination" and she gets involved with surrogate Michael (Sherman). She becomes pregnant and all is well until the daughter later inherits a fortune and her "real father" blackmails the couple for custody. There are also subplots about a young lab tech dating an older man who may be her father via artificial insemination years prior, a hippie couple who learns the wife was made pregnant from the donor of a different race, and a

lesbian couple who want to have a baby. This film falls firmly into the category I call "Drive-in Drama." These are exploitation movies that play their plotline straight, but do not really fall into any specific genre. This drama is like the pages of a sleazy tabloid come to life, and each new story revolves around this fertilization clinic. It's got its roots grounded firmly in sexploitation but wants to be seen as a bit more respectable than that. However you want to define it, I found it incredibly entertaining and watchable, and the Cringe-O-Meter is given a workout as each new story unfolds. Freeman turns in solid work and then a whole new dimension of weirdness filled the film for me when I realized he was Belloq in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*! Hammer fans will recognize O'Mara from *The Vampire Lovers* and *The Horror of Frankenstein*. Solid drive-in sleaze! As with all of the entries in the Dark Force Entertainment series, this double feature (spotlighting the Alabama Marbro Drive-in, per the cover) offers the films as single features or Demon Drive-in mode in which you get both movies, trailers and intermission for the full drive-in experience.

## — PSYCHO CYCLES —

### BURY ME AN ANGEL (1971) ♂♂♂

D: Barbara Peeters. Dixie Peabody, Terry Mace, Clyde Ventura, Joanne Moore Jordan, Dianne Turley, Stephen Whitaker. 86 mins.  
(Shout! Factory)

At a party with biker friends, Dag (Peabody) witnesses the senseless shotgun murder of her older brother Denny (Dennis Peabody). She

shuts down after the murder but when she collects herself, she hits the highway in search of the man responsible. Goofy Bernie (Ventura) and Jonsie (Mace) tag along to help. They get hassled by a redneck cop while camping and meet a witch who Dag asks for help. She has intense, bizarre dreams and closes in on the man who killed Denny. It ends with a shocking revelation that turns viewers upside down and shakes them for all they're worth. This biker flick is unique in its approach, with the action propelled by a woman on the vengeance trail. Peabody, although beautiful, is an imposing figure at six feet and toting a shotgun like she means business. This lady is not fooling around! Unfortunately, Peabody appeared only in one more film, *Night Call Nurses*. Director Peeters worked for producer Roger Corman on *Summer School Teachers* and *Humanoids from the Deep* before embarking on a career directing episodic television. This barebones release is just the thing when you want something different from the biker genre.

### NAM ANGELS (1989) ♂♂1/2

D: Cirio H. Santiago. Brad Johnson, Vernon Wells, Kevin Duffs, Rick Dean. 93 mins.  
(Code Red)

Lt. Calhoun (Johnson) leads a semi-successful rescue mission into a region of Vietnam—where local hill people protect a cache of gold—in order to save American children held prisoner. Two of his men are left behind. The area is due to be burned off the map in mere days, but Calhoun is determined to get his men out. Without proper resources to put a rescue team together, he enlists incarcerated members of the Hell's Angels who were in Vietnam raising hell. He tells them the mission is to take the gold; they will get a share and their freedom for their participation. Once they're dropped behind enemy lines, Calhoun keeps them in the dark and drives them toward bad guy Chard (Wells) and his army of hill people. When the Angels realize they are on a rescue mission, they are in it too deep to turn back. Prolific Filipino director Santiago delivers with this enjoyable blast-fest. No big thinks here, just a lot of '80s style shoot-'em-ups and explosions to keep the action moving forward. (Calhoun actually uses a lasso, which is unique.) Exploitation war movie historians know this is the second mission the Hell's Angels had in 'Nam, the first being Joe Solomon's totally bonkers *The Losers* (1970), directed by Jack Starrett and featuring William Smith, Adam Roarke and Paul Koslo. Presented uncut and in HD for the first time, Code Red's disc features an interview with star Wells, an option to watch it in Katarina's Drive-in Theaters Mode (presented with a horror host segment), and the original trailer. ♂

