

CULT OF EXPLOITATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2013

Mark of the Devil (2012, Cheezy Flicks)



The history of film has seen many gimmicks to try to get people to get off their lazy asses and into theaters. There's the wonderful creation of 3-D. Then there was William Castle's traveling interactive films (The Tingler for example). The 70's brought along a new reason for the public to go to the movies. The times were changing and movies were becoming more risqué, so what better reason to go see a movie than the chance you might get to vomit? Okay, I bet I know what you're thinking right now and the answer is no, I have not been sniffing white-out again. When Mark of the Devil, the first film to be rated V for Violence (or so the tagline said), was released in theaters, every ticket holder was also given a free barf bag. What a novel idea. But you know what? It was a smash.

Mark of the Devil takes place in England in the early 1700s, I think. They had those triangle Paul Revere hats so it was somewhere around there. Witch hunting has become a favorite past time of many God fearing town folk and it seems that it is starting to get out of hand. In comes Lord Cumberland (Herbert Lom) and his assistant Christian (Udo Kier) to keep order and prevent the wrongful deaths being caused by the sadistic witch hunters. All seems to be improving until Christian discovers that even his mentor is accusing the innocent, allowing the accusers to rape, torture and kill the accused. After Christian falls for a woman who is accused of being a witch (Olivera Vuco) does he try to put an end to the madness.

Mark of the Devil is a vicious portrayal of how so many were wronged in the witch hunting craze. The tortures are pretty brutal including tongues being ripped out, beheadings, severed fingers and burnings at the stake. There wasn't really anything that made me feel like I needed a barf bag, but I'm sure there were few films like it at the time. The cast was great and it had a nice little story. Not necessarily a great film, but watchable nonetheless. Though the DVD, courtesy of Cheezy Flicks/MVD is a little rough looking but it's cheap and it comes with a barf bag so there's no excuse to not pick it up!

RATING: 7/10

Posted by [Cult of Exploitation](#) at 5:45 AM

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