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## **Review - Hell On Earth**

by Max Ingram

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Director: Ted A. Bohus Production: Elite Entertainment Distribution: MVD Visual Release: Jan 31st, 2012

Most teenagers don't have a very high opinion of their family. In fact, if they're being completely honest, many of them might even say they hate the home they're growing up in. But for the most part, you can just chalk that up to raging hormones and a general lack of life experience. However, in the case of young Bobby, it's all completely justified. Because whether his father is cracking open a







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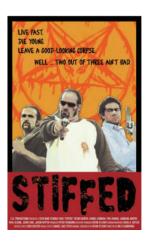
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fresh beer using the hinge on his own son's leg brace, or his mother is yelling at him for being a crippled embarrassment to the family, Bobby has plenty of good reasons for taking solace in the dark arts. He just doesn't realize how dark those arts can really be.

Bobby (Brett Fallon) is a physically disabled young man who wears a leg brace and walks on crutches. His family, which consists of a drunk and disinterested father (Terry Shane), a stuck-up, domineering mother (Teresa Vicario), and a petulant bully of a sister (Kristin Woodburn), are so abusive and negligent that they'd probably get along famously with Harry Potter's nightmare of a foster family.

Everyone treats Bobby like the family pariah and abuses him constantly, with the one major exception of his half-crazy Aunt Sadie (Pat Ceasar). Rumor has it that the old woman is a former witch, and the only reason the family at large puts up with her shenanigans is because she's loaded with money. Bobby, on the other hand, genuinely loves his Aunt Sadie, and finds comfort and solace with her in the absence of any affection from his other family members.



Bobby received a rather unusual and powerful book of magic from his Aunt called the Book of Tarkuhm, or more informally, "The Book of the Dead." And he uses it to innocently conjure up friends and companions to keep him company. What he doesn't realize is that those friends are just playing along in order to get what they really want, a one-way ticket for their demonic boss to invade the world of the living. But once Bobby finds out, and all hell starts to (literally) break loose, the blood, guts and mayhem will start to fly.

Hell On Earth was directed by Ted A. Bohus, the man responsible for the writing behind the classic flick "The Deadly Spawn." So right off the bat, you know you've got someone of interest behind the wheel. And Bohus really did do a great job of capturing a fun, campy spirit with his latest effort, maintaining a level of both humor and grisly carnage that I think a lot of people will enjoy.

The movie is definitely a low-budget affair, and some of the CG effects are so cheesy as to be almost groan-worthy. But when it comes to the more traditional creature effects and prosthetics being used, the special effects team behind this film really manage to shine. They did an absolutely fantastic job on the demons, zombies and other hand-made gore shots. In fact, I almost wish they had left the CG elements out entirely, as I'm a huge fan of well-crafted creature effects and I think the film would have looked better if they

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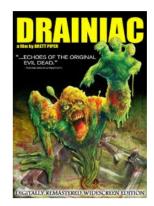




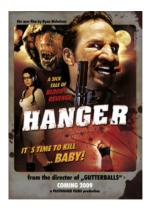


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## Rabid Dog Press: Review - Hell On Earth







had stuck with those by themselves.



The acting in general was well-done, if often dramatically overplayed. But you get the solid impression that they were aiming for a very over-the-top feel for this film, so all the exaggeration seems to fit well with that mood. Even so, there were definitely times when Pat Ceasar, whom played Bobby's crazy Aunt Sadie, seemed to be taking a little too much enjoyment from overplaying her moans, groans and maniacal cackles.

As a quick side note, you might recognize the actor behind the character of Chris. His name is Peter Stickles, and he also played the role of Ben in "George: A Zombie Intervention," which I did a review of back in November of 2011. Keep an eye on him. He does good work.

Hell On Earth is a really fun movie with plenty of laughs, great creature effects, and even the occasional breast shot to brighten your day. I enjoyed taking a look at it, and it's probably one that I'd watch multiple times, just for the fun of it. Check it out, I think you'll enjoy it too.

# This film receives a score of: 8 out of 10

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