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Naked Torture Show Double Feature DVD Review

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Today we are going to check out a double feature inaccurately named The Naked Torture Show. Sure there is a little 70s nudity present but no torture really. Despite the sensational title, these two exploitation movies from the early 70s fit pretty well as a double feature as they are of similar quality and themes. I'm sure that older horror fans remember seeing the posters for 3 on a Meathook and maybe even Flesh Feast at the mom and pops video stores of their youth, but how many actually rented the VHS? Well, here is your chance to see what you have been missing all these years...

Flesh Feast

As a scientist works out of a dormitory to find a way to reverse aging, various people die and are fed to the maggots who she believes is the key to the cure. Soon reporters, cops and some very bad people all show up with an interest in her secretive work. Will the cure work and who is it truly being created for?

This movie feels like a Twilight Zone episode that was roughed up and dragged to 3 times its intended length. The majority of the movie plods along, often nonsensically, as those that are brave suffer through the cheap horror effects and off-screen killings for the big twisty ending, which is partially telegraphed on the back of the DVD case.

Flesh Feast is definitely not a bad movie and for most people is entirely skippable. In fact, one could just skip to the last 10 minutes and watch the good stuff without missing much of anything. This one is definitely one for the completionists (like myself) who love all things early 70s horror and exploitation.

3 On A Meathook

When a foursome of beautiful young girls finds themselves stranded with car problems in a remote rural area, they are obviously happy to accept the offer of a passing teen named Billy to let them stay at his house for the night. Even the emergence of his angry father, the town butcher (hence the meathooks), who does not want them to stay on the property does not dissuade them from their decision to sleep over. Dad pulls Billy aside to beg him to reconsider, because they both know how Billy can get when there are girls around but the boy has made up his simple mind. The next morning, right on cue, Billy finds all 4 girls dead, presumably by his hand and the story slows down as he heads into town. In town the socially awkward Billy overdrinks, (probably to stop the bad music he is listening to in the bar...) and wakes up to find himself in bed with the friendly waitress who served him his drinks. The two inexplicably hit it off and she agrees to head out to the farmhouse with him for the weekend. I think I can pretty much stop right here as you know where the movie is headed.

Clocking in at barely an hour, it's surprising to find that the movie cannot even fill out that amount of time on its own. There are a few full music performances tossed in to eat up time as they don't fit at all with the movie. Especially noticeable is the disco number when Billy is having a drink in the bar. The story itself telegraphs the ending quite early on but still there are a few good death scenes and fun reveals mixed in with the madness that is 3 on a Meathook.

An interesting cliff note about this movie is that it is yet another horror movie loosely based on famous ghoul Ed Gein. That is probably the one context in which it can be discussed alongside such films as Psycho and Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Now, interestingly enough, this 1972 piece was written and directed by the semi-notorious William Girdler, who would go on to do other horror cult movies such as Abby, The Manitou and Grizzly.

The transfer on both movies, especially Flesh Feast is quite rough and grainy. These are direct rips from aged source material and they are not remastered or cleaned up. Now, given the movies and their humble Grindhouse style low budget roots, this really does not distract from watching them.

This very misnamed double feature captures a pair of earl 70s gritty horror films that are probably sitting on a lot of horror fans' "to watch" movie lists. Now while neither movie lives up to the notions that their names and cover art drum up, 3 on a Meathook is still worth checking out, if for nothing more than the decapitation scene early on. I would say this is a rental for most horror fans but lovers of low budget 70s exploitation will want to pick up this inexpensive release for the collection.

Special Features

Original theatrical trailers

The N Torture Horror Show is available on DVD now, courtesy of MVD Releasing and Grind Global Media.