



Unsolved

REVIEWED BY: [Wolfboy](#) Posted on 08/02/2014



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15 years ago, a young woman had her throat cut on campus – right on the steps of her dorm. Her boyfriend was the prime suspect, but was never convicted. Amanda (Jane Bunting) a criminology student at the same university, is given the task of investigating an unsolved crime as a class project. She picks the murder, fascinated that the investigation had seemed to stop dead for no reason. This distresses her tutor and the project is blocked by the Dean of the school (Arthur Scappaticci) who also happens to be Amanda's adoptive father. However, this opposition simply serves to pique Amanda's interest further – and as the case progresses, people close to Amanda start dying...

Unsolved is a production of the Oklahoma University Moving Image Arts programme – which is to say that it's a feature-length student film. Unfortunately, this shows. The film is incredibly uneven – apparently unable to decide whether to play out as an exploitative teen–sex slasher, an investigative thriller, or an episode of after-school TV.

The characters (with the exception of Amanda) are all fairly shallow, and attempts to deepen them trail off into pointless dead-ends. This becomes particularly grating in the case of the homosexual and black characters who are defined by that single trait respectively and become more GAY! and BLACK! with each conversation. Amanda's boyfriend Nick (Josh Shideler) is briefly interesting, as it seems that he's prone to infidelity and his womanising might take the movie in a new direction. Unfortunately we just get a bunch of will–they won't–they about Nick cheating or not, as well as about Nick and Amanda's (very very clean) love life which fails to actually resolve in any direction.

Everything is permanently well–lit and well–shot, which actually tends to detract from the film. Obscuring the odd thing or adding some murk might have built tension – as it is, things seem to look like educational videos even during murder scenes. The murders aren't even especially interesting as murders – the killer uses a knife to cut the victims' throats each time and there's not a lot in the way of blood or interesting scenarios.

There's an attempt at misdirection to allow for a twist ending, but it's all fairly stock so there's not much of a twist in store.

This might have been a passable class project, but releasing it as a feature film was probably a mistake. Not recommended.

DISC DETAILS:

DIRECTOR(S): Lance McDaniel | COUNTRY: USA | YEAR 2009 | DISTRIBUTOR(S): Lost Empire / MVD Visual | RUNNING TIME: 88 minutes | ASPECT RATIO: 16:9 | REGION: 1 / NTSC | DISCS: 1

EXTRAS:

None

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