



## Slaughter Tales

REVIEWED BY: Tim Posted on 17/06/2013

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VHS has been enjoying a low key revival over the last couple of years with dead format enthusiasts blogging, writing zines and making documentaries celebrating the format. One of the byproducts of the video boom was the shot on video zero budget horror flick. These were orgies of gore, nudity and ineptitude in both cinematography and acting. The results ranged from over the top fun cult classics to mind numbing pieces of shit not even worth a watch for the "so bad it's good moments". Slaughter Tales is 15 year old director Johnny Dickie's homage to the SOV era that tips its hat to this era and most importantly shows the DIY spirit is alive and well.

If you're expecting a well crafted film you're in for a slap in the face. This isn't [The Evil Dead](#) or [Deadbeat at Dawn](#) and I'd seriously doubt anyone without an appreciation of trash "cinema" would enjoy this flick. It's definitely not a good starting point for those new to the world of low budget film making. Technically the film is awful. Aspect ratios chop and change, the special effects are crudely done and are pretty laughable. The acting as expected is terrible but still I found this film had its charms and it looks like Dickie had a blast making it. I mean how many 15 year olds would even bother to tear themselves off their

Xbox long enough to even bother making a film let alone be interested in the bygone era of shot on video trashfests?

Slaughter Tales follows the mold of the horror anthology film with five different stories that are contained on a VHS tape a teen steals from a flea market. Despite a warning against playing from a ghost like version of himself, the teen pops in the tape and we are treated to some nonsensical z-grade viewing. The stories are all pretty messy and none of them really stood out for me. I dug how the film never takes itself seriously and wasn't afraid to poke fun at itself. After each segment the teen mocks the rubbish they just watched. "Well that fucking sucked!" damn right it did. Dickie acts in most of the roles himself with help from some family members and friends. Its a total guerrilla production, shot for under \$100. If you like your horror flicks with a big budget and flashy effects you're probably going to want to steer clear of this one. Don't jump into this one expecting a definitive classic of the shot on video genre either because it's not. Its a flawed film but its enthusiastic DIY approach won me over.

Hopefully Dickie keeps at it and keeps the films rolling out. It'll be interesting to see how he progresses as a film maker. Sure, Slaughter Tales was a crude and inept outing but it showed some zero budget innovation and was good humoured and fun. Every good director starts somewhere and this isn't too bad a place to begin. Time will tell whether or not he'll slip into obscurity and never be heard of again like so many of the SOV directors.

### DISC DETAILS:

DIRECTOR(S): Johnny Dickie | COUNTRY: USA | YEAR 2012 | DISTRIBUTOR(S): Briarwood Entertainment / MVD | RUNNING TIME: 91 minutes | ASPECT RATIO: 1.33:1 | REGION: ALL / NTSC | DISCS: 1

### EXTRAS:

On the special features side of things we get a couple of trailers, behind the scenes/special effects features and a commentary from director Johnny Dickie and the VHSitfest guys.

### RECOMMENDED VIEWING:

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- [Deadbeat at Dawn](#)
- [Combat Shock](#)
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### IMAGE GALLERY:



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