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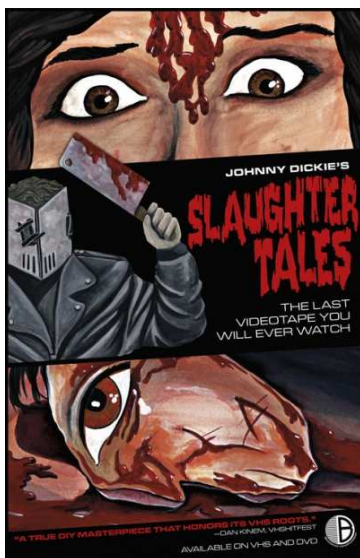
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Dare You Invest Time Or Money To Watching "Slaughter Tales"? Review

by Anders Nelson

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2012



If you make a bad movie on purpose, is it still bad? Of course it is, but it opens some interesting questions about the film-maker's intentions, not to mention presumptive audiences. *Slaughter Tales* advertises itself as a 'trashterpiece', a name it lives up to with its non-existent production value and atrocious sense of style, so there's really no question as to whether John Dickie knew exactly what he was doing. One could argue from now until rapture, however, as to whether creating this endurance test of a movie was worth doing, let alone sitting down and watching it.

Some punk kid steals a video tape called "Slaughter Tales", then takes it home to watch it, despite being warned not to by a ghost or something (in spite of the fact that he repeatedly calls it terrible before even watching it). He pops it in, only for the anthology horror film to manifest as reality. If you're hoping that Dickie would include anything to differentiate between *Slaughter Tales*, the bad movie that you're watching, and "Slaughter Tales", the bad movie that our protagonist is watching, you're out of

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luck. The entire film appears to be shot in the same house, with the same camera, with actors who all look like one another, making a barely coherent story even more confusing.

On its box (crucial to understanding what's actually going on here), *Slaughter Tales* claims to be a throwback to the 'shot-on-video' era of film-making, but it's hard to remember (or imagine) a period when films this poorly made were commonplace, let alone act as part of a movement that people would be nostalgic for. There were any number of low-budget horror movies that made their names on home video in the 1980s (a safe presumptive reference point in horror these days), but they never really looked or felt anything like this. In truth, *Slaughter Tales* looks and feels like a middle school class project, which it may well have been, only with the savvy to constantly refer to itself as awful. In which case, mission accomplished.

SPECIAL FEATURES

There are some trailers, two featurettes, and a commentary by Johnnie Dickie and VHSitfest.

"Slaughter Tales" is on sale December 11, 2012 and is not rated. Horror. Written and directed by Johnnie Dickie. Starring Lloyd Kaufman, Johnnie Dickie, Joe Ankenbrand, Katrina Basilio, Joey Davalos, Matt Desiderio.

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