

# DVD REVIEW: SLAUGHTER TALES (2012)



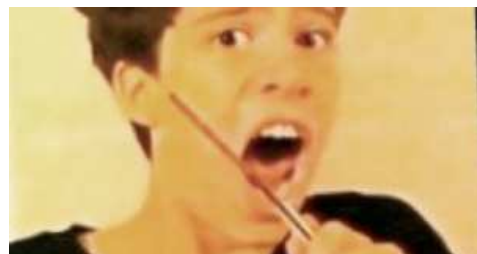
*SLAUGHTER TALES* is a total piece of shit that was created by a kid not even 15-years old, but *SLAUGHTER TALES* is one of those "so crappy it's completely awesome" kind of things and is full of laughs and great entertainment value. Director, actor, producer, cinematographer, screenwriter, make-up artist, and every other type of job one can think of needed on the set, Johnny Dickie, wears a plethora of creative hats. He is the creator of a zero-budget, z-grade, production with a zero-talented cast of "actors" that underneath it all is full of so much heart and soul that it is everything **SHU-IZMZ** personally loves about independent filmmaking, and specifically in the genre of horror.

**Johnny Dickie**, if that is in fact your real name and not an obscure porn star's pseudonym, you have made one of most unique piles of shit that I have seen in quite some time. There have been some films, straight to VHS, that have far more potential, money, and talent at their disposal and can't come even close to either making a film this hilariously bad on purpose or just naturally bad. It is so bad I loved it.

*SLAUGHTER TALES* is a collection of **Dickie's** previous short horror films that he decided to put all together, that I believe were previously up on [Youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (or were going to be put up on [Youtube](http://www.youtube.com)), and edited them all together under the premise of a zombie ghost in his bathroom warning little Johnny NOT to watch the VHS tape he stole earlier from a yard sale. The rest of the segments are loosely strung together through various nightmares, clips of what is supposed to be on the tape he bought mixed in with what is actually happening to him because he is watching the movie. There is a crazy dude wearing what looks like a knight's helmet chasing him with various knives and machetes in several scenes that just comes in his house randomly. There is a segment where little Johnny is turned into some sort of demon with really shoddy make-up and starts to kill his own family. There are mock trailers of more killings, blood splattering, limbs being lopped off, and various other pieces of random images or horror and gore pieced together.

Not only are the special effects fun to watch and full of schlocky ingenuity, but the dialogue and facial expressions this kid has throughout the performances is fucking hysterical. For instance, there is one really cool segment where **Dickie** creates some stop-motion animation and has a whole sequence with worm-like slugs that I felt reminded me of *NIGHT OF THE CREEPS* and nonsensical films like *THINGS* (which was released by **Intervision** on dvd), as well as other more mainstream films like slashers like *HALLOWEEN* (as in his bit called *HALLOWEEN NIGHT*) with a masked slasher wielding a knife.

Various scenes cracked me up as in a few scenes **Dickie** is wearing a **555** t-shirt, or another scene where the young filmmaker is wearing a *RETURN OF THE LIVING DEAD* shirt, showing fans of horror that this kid was raised watching the some of the best horror films out there. As time went on, though, it became apparent that watching 91 minutes of this crap really takes its toll on one's sanity and mind. I was hitting the can of **Monster** energy drink to keep me high on sugar and various chemicals designed to keep one in a chemical coma. This film took a few times to watch without falling asleep, as certain points in the film were killing me with the God-awful synth soundtrack that did not seem to vary much throughout the whole film. When there was no sound in a scene, it seemed almost worse than the drone-synth created from a **Casio** keyboard that was probably a **Target Superstore** special.



Aside from **Johnny Dickie** playing a million roles, **Joe Ankenbrand** played the father in the film in a brief role. **Katrina Basilio** played **Kat** and **Joey Davalos** played the metal masked killer, Jackson Strawdell, Joey, and Jackson. **Davalos** is a boy of many characters. **Matt Desiderio** played **Matt**. **Molly Russakoff** played the mother in the film. There even is a cameo from **Troma's Lloyd Kaufman**. Not that really any of the other characters who were so poorly acted in the film really are worth even

mentioning, I do want to make note that **Jason Wolf** played a Slug rape victim, and is probably one of the only actors to be credited as a slug rape victim on [IMDB.com](http://www.imdb.com).

If one really is ambitious and would like to sit through this film that cost less than \$70 to make, please do so while listening to the guys from **VHShiffest** as they do the commentary with **Johnny Dickie**. It is most amusing, much more so than the most of the film itself. I do think that **Johnny Dickie** has some sort of charisma, an almost even likeable quality to himself and it may have been an even more arduous task to stomach a viewing if the lead actor was completely annoying on screen. **Johnny Dickie** is a prodigy in amateur filmmaking and has so much promise as a filmmaker. Give this kid a few more years experience,

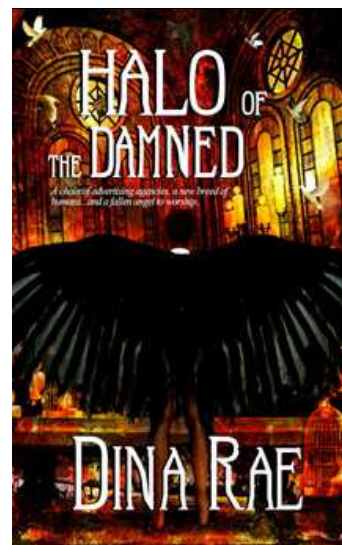


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SHU-IZMZ is always accepting submissions of films, novels, short stories, comicbooks,

as well as a few more hundred dollars, and I think the sky's the limit for this kid. He is oozing with creativity and heart and that is the main reason I sat through the film and went back to it when I needed a break. I recommend watching this film as an example of one giving everything they got and putting it in a film of horror purity of daunting proportions. A young mind is always so honest and fearless in life and aren't afraid to try new things and it is most evident in *SLAUGHTER TALES*.



I recommend watching *SLAUGHTER TALES* if one is drunk, high, trying to make themselves feel better about doing a worse job on making a film, or just plain masochists that enjoy self-loathing. As I noted before, the film is so bad it is hilarious but there are some moments one will break down in tears and pray for the 91 minutes to be over with. It is just one of those films. So bad it's good...but it's bad.

Head over to **Briarwood Entertainment** and one can pick up a deluxe package including a VHS tape, DVD, book box, and poster of *SLAUGHTER TALES*.

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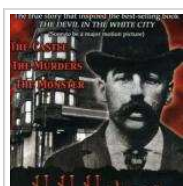
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