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A CONNECTICUT *BANSHEE* SCREAMS ONTO DVD

BANSHEE!!!

Synthetic Cinema International

**Directed by Colin Theys, Produced by Andrew Gernhard, Written by John Doolan;
Stars Ashley Bates, David McCarthy, Kevin Shea, Iris McQuillan-Grace, Troy
Walcott, Kerry McGann and Jess Wakefield.**

Did you think you were safe in Connecticut? Think again. Rocky Hill's Synthetic Cinema has just released *BANSHEE!!!*, an impressively offbeat horror film with one of the most original monsters to slash up the screen in years. The three exclamation points in the title aren't wholly necessary, but *BANSHEE!!!* Earns them. For those unfamiliar with the original Irish legend, a Banshee is a female spirit whose wail kills those who hear it. This version presents a gargoyle-like monster that can stun with its scream, but can also use sound waves to assume the appearance of anyone who hears it. In that sense it's more like the *Rakshasa*, an Indian demon that appears in the guise of whomever its victim trusts the most. When a group of spring break campers intrude on its forest territory, the Banshee isn't the only one doing the screaming. Most of the young, nubile cast is predictably folded, spindled and mutilated (although Troy Walcott makes cinematic history for being the first actor in a horror movie to *hang onto his beer* while running from a monster), but the Banshee is an equal-opportunity destroyer to all in its path. A policeman's head explodes from hearing its scream, and it uses the guise of a smiling Girl Scout to crush a mechanic to death under his own car in an even more ghoulish scene. It's also possibly the first horror movie in which a guitar solo makes a better weapon than a shotgun. While not having any 'name' stars attached, everyone in the cast (all Connecticut natives) acts very professionally, and through the disguise ability of the Banshee, many get to play good and evil versions of their characters. There's not a lot of room for character development when you're fighting for your life, anyway...and refreshingly, the women of the film fight just as hard as the men. While many independent filmmakers are flooding the horror genre with unoriginal torture porn, *BANSHEE!!!* Is a breath of fresh air...replete with screams...and a good old-fashioned monster movie at the same time.

--K.K. (FOCUSGROUP)