



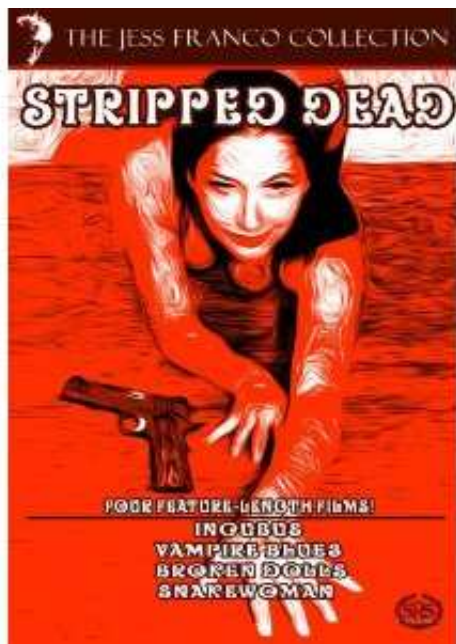
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## The Jess Franco Collection Stripped Dead DVD Review

December 24, 2010 1 Comment



With over 190 directing credits over a 50 year time span to his name, Jess Franco has definitely carved a niche for himself and draw a fanbase. With that many films there is also the inevitable bad Franco movie as well, as we will see when I discuss Broken Dolls. This collection, Stripped Dead comes from Sub Rosa and features 4 of his post 2000 movies.

Incubus is the best written of the movies in this collection. It tells the story of artist Johan, who makes a deal with evil to guarantee a successful career. When it becomes time for Johan to pay the price, in the form of his firstborn daughter. Incubus is a tale of the supernatural told in very erotic fashion. Like most of Franco's older Eurotrash movies, there is a lot of both male and female nudity mixed with incest, S&M themes and softcore scenes of sex.

Despite a well used storyline about selling your soul to the devil for success, Incubus is a very watchable movie and one that most Franco fans will enjoy. He uses children's dolls quite effectively in setting up an unsettling mood. The extremely poor line delivery by Carsten Frank as Johan singlehandedly took me out of the movie unfortunately and caused it to lose a lot of points in my opinion.

Vampire Blues tells the story of a young American girl who draws the attention of the Countess Irina von Murnau while travelling in Spain. As Franco's vampires inevitably end up being, the Countess is of the lesbian persuasion and becomes quite enamored with the girl. Honestly, I did not care for Vampire Blues at all. The lack of story turned the movie into more of a collection of disjointed sex scenes. Countless earlier Franco stories have tackled the vampire mystique more effectively and intelligently.

Broken Dolls is a bizarre story of an overweight eccentric actor who has retired to a remote island with his bizarre family. The movie is little more than a collection of scenes of voyeurism, incest and softcore. Quite frankly it is the worst Jess Franco movie I have ever seen and have no desire to revisit it ever again.

Snakewoman fares much better than Broken Dolls but again, is no where near Jess Franco's trademark movies. When a publicist travels to an aged actress' estate to purchase the rights to her music and life story she has visions of a nude woman with a massive snake tattoo across her body. As the visions become more real she finds herself drawn into a web of passion and lust as the snake woman begins to dominate her thoughts.

Snakewoman is the best of the four on this disc although it still pales in comparison to Vampiros Lesbos despite a similar content. The dialogue is in Spanish with English subtitles but most of the film really needs no translation for the viewer to understand where it is going. Like a lot of Franco's later films, the story is a thinly threaded plot linking various softcore scenes together. This one features a few scenes of cheaply constructed effects of genital mutilation mixed in just to spice things up.

As far as the audio and video quality of these releases, they are limited by the shot on video source material. Since all four movies are post 2000 releases, the quality is decent in terms of grain and print damage, however the movies have not been cleaned up or remastered for this release. What Jess Franco shot is exactly what you get.

The four films in this collection are nowhere near Franco's best work despite the watchability of Snakewoman and to a lesser extent, Incubus. The other two films will probably only appeal to Franco Completists wanting to check out some of Jess Franco's later films. If you are looking to check out some of Jess's later works then by all means give this 2 disc set a rental but these movies really do not need to be in your collection.

## **Not Recommended**

### **Movies Included:**

Incubus  
Vampire Blues  
Broken Dolls  
Snakewoman


Jess Franco's Stripped Dead is available on DVD now, courtesy of MVD Home Entertainment and SRS Cinema.



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One Comments to “The Jess Franco Collection Stripped Dead DVD Review”

1.  *Roger Robert* says:  
[December 24, 2010 at 3:17 pm](#)

Hey Mr. Bulin. I quite agree with you on this set and also the other ones from the series. Low quality Franco all over. All these were produced by a film company called One Shot but it is more likely «one take». Bad acting, no production value, bad scripts. Bring back his 70s and 80s films anytime!

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