



# DOG BYTES



Beaten to a pulp, small-time villain Nick Rendell awaits a gruesome fate in Darren Ward's *A DAY OF VIOLENCE*.

## Toad Waves Occurred Last Night

### A DAY OF VIOLENCE

2009, MVD Visual, 94m 53s, \$16.95, DVD-0  
By Lloyd Haynes

Writer-director Darren Ward's second feature following 1997's **SUDDEN FURY**, this is a not-entirely-successful combination of British horror and post-Guy Ritchie crime film. Bookended, **SUNSET BLVD.** style, by afterlife narration from Mitchell (Nick Rendell) as he lies dead on a mortician's table, the story of his final 48 hours is told in flashback. Mitchell, a debt collector for small-time Southampton crook Casey (Harold Gasnier), steals rather than collects the £100,000 he discovers in the squalid flat of a junkie client. Switching his allegiance to Boswell (Victor D. Thorn), one of Casey's nastier rivals,

Mitchell learns that the stolen money belongs to his new employer. Realizing that he's a dead man if Boswell finds out the truth, Mitchell plans to abscond with the cash and reunite with his estranged wife, but doesn't count on the now-dead addict providing Boswell with damning evidence of his theft.

Released straight to DVD in Britain and making its US debut with this 1.85:1 release, **A DAY OF VIOLENCE** demonstrates Ward's boldness as a director of violent set-pieces: a stand-out sequence involves someone being strung up by his ankles and castrated with a pair of garden shears, a scene far more gruesome and disturbing than a similar one in Steven R. Monroe's remake of **I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE** (2010). A later sequence in which a panic-stricken Mitchell faces a similar fate is

evidence of the mere anticipation of physical violence generating as much fear as the actual following through of the gang's leery, foul-mouthed threats. Elsewhere, the film is let down by incoherent plotting, hackneyed dialogue and uninvolved performances.

The extras consist of a making-of documentary (78m); two interviews (5m and 8m) with 1980s Italian horror star Giovanni Lombardo Radice (aka John Morghen), who has a significant cameo; and a set of deleted and extended scenes.

### DEATH OCCURRED LAST NIGHT

*La morte risale a ieri sera*  
1970, Raro Video, 97m 38s,  
\$17.98 DVD-1, \$24.98 BD-A  
By Lloyd Haynes

Better known for his Westerns (**A PISTOL FOR RINGO**, 1965, **THE RETURN OF RINGO**, 1965), screenwriter-turned-director Duccio Tessari made an early contribution to the *poliziotteschi* cycle with this film before embarking on a full-blown *giallo* the following year with **THE BLOODSTAINED BUTTERFLY**.

Beryl Cunningham whose searching for a vulnerab

