

Zombie A-Hole

2012

MVD Visual

Grainy film stock reveals a chase through dark woods. A woman runs into frame, one of her breasts popping through a rip in her shirt as she breathes heavily. She's being pursued by a nut. Soon, we see her victimized through the eyes of her sister, who is completely naked and terrified. A hand comes out of nowhere: she's trapped in the clutches of a nut with a blade. It's the very first scene of the movie, and already we have naked girls and bloody cannibalistic murder, setting the stage for loads of extreme insanity in this grindhouse homage of a zombie flick from hell! Then we get the rug pulled out from under our expectations: an epic confrontation between brothers who look exactly alike. What does it all mean?

Mysteries abound.

We're slowly introduced to our zombie hunters, Frank, a southern gentleman with a deadeye shot and an intense hatred for dime-store skeletons. He swears vengeance on a zombie a-hole and we're off to a roaring good time. He's a mean negotiator, proven by a quick stop at his local voodoo supply guy, and then he's off on the road. Soon, he meets Castor, a nerdy young loner out on the road with his own psychoses to deal with. It's our friend from the opening scene again. Turns out Castor's got some secrets. Is he a good guy, a bad guy, or something else? Turns out, he's the brother of our titular a-hole and looking to hunt his sibling down before he can kill again. Finally, there's beautiful one-eyed death-dealer Mercedes, who uses her robotic hand to fix up cars and seek vengeance. She plans to make that a-hole pay for her lost eye and her missing digits, not to mention her sister who died at the hands of Pollux, Castor's zombie a-hole brother. Turns out, Pollux has a thing for twins, victimizing them exclusively. (Castor and Pollux, get it? Greek and Roman mythology? The gemini? Jesus... read a book.)

We soon find out though, this a-hole ain't your daddy's zombie. Dressed like Al Capone on a bender and rotting from the outside inward, Pollux opens doors without touching them, takes bullets with nothing but annoyed blinks and apparently has unusually long arms judging from one kill where he jams his entire arm through a girl and tears out her heart from underneath a bed. It quickly becomes apparent that this particular zombie a-hole isn't on anyone's side but his own, making him a special case. He's a lone wolf, not beholden to his undead brethren, and murdering naked human girls left and right.

Worse yet, he's all possessed by a demon. What an a-hole. So it's hunters versus a-hole complete with babes, blades and plenty of blood. Soon, more family connections are revealed. Writer/Director Dustin W. Mills knows how to keep an audience guessing and plenty of surprises are kept bubbling just under the surface throughout the film.

The cinematography is magical. For an ultra low-budget film (rumors say under \$1000), it's shot extremely well, and the gritty style gives it a feel somewhere between a messed up documentary and a

classic 70's horror flick. They play with dreams, flash edits, and even pull out an animated sequence. The special effects are totally b-movie most of the time, but they play it straight and go over the top with reckless glee. Sure, some of the blood looks like grape jam sliding down a torso, or spaghetti noodles attached to a woman's innards. Sometimes an obvious strobe light will start flaring away when the a-hole shows up, or a stream of acid will look exactly like silly string. But for every time something looks more like food than viscera, there's a scene that looks disturbingly real, like the awesome decapitation that happens early in the film.

Watching our victim's body take a few steps without a head before hitting the floor is hilariously awesome, and there's not a wire to be seen. It's damn impressive. A truly rock and roll moment in low budget gore flicks! And holy crap, take a special look at the little zombie puppet dude that helps Frank out on his hero's journey. Every weirdo in the world is going to want one for the home. He looks amazing and suitably mystical and creepy. I also have to give a special mention to the band Slug for writing the songs for the soundtrack. The tunes fit the vibe and color the southern fried culture perfectly.

Favorite line of the movie: "This... is a tiny coffin. And inside this tiny coffin, something's gonna open your eyes... call into question everything you believe... and maybe... just maybe... make you poop your pants."(Frank, about to introduce Castor to his 'little friend' Zombie A-Hole mixes comedy, horror, sex and fun in a way that few movies dare, and is totally worth digging up next time you have a house full of dead naked people to entertain. Rock and roll.