

DVD REVIEW: ZOMBIE A-HOLE (2012)



The indie horror film **ZOMBIE A-HOLE** starts out with a half-naked girl in a thong with her tits hanging out running from some crazy maniac with a machete of sorts, and is followed up by a completely naked girl running down the same path immediately after the previous girl is getting hacked up to death. So far, the first five minutes had my attention. Completely. I let it slide the fact that the film has a shoestring budget and is going for a grindhouse look and feel to it with lots of gratuitous nudity as a serial killer with a twin brother goes around hacking twin sisters. Most of the twins are getting hacked up while taking showers, undressing, or going to sleep in the nude. I really liked where director, writer, editor, cinematographer, and producer Dustin Mills was going with this film. I think **Dustin Mills** also played three of the nude girls getting hacked up, but I may be wrong on that point.

Now that readers know that a good amount of female nudity can sway my ever-so-classy perspective and opinion on what does or does not make a cheap, low-budget horror film enjoyable to watch lets get to the finer points of the film. Mills has so much more to offer than lots of female nudity and even before the credits finish rolling he displays that **ZOMBIE A-HOLE** is also going to possess a fair amount of style and substance to the whole production with grainy shots our lead actor **Josh Eal** playing the bounty hunter-type character Frank Fulci (a nod to **Lucio Fulci**, perhaps?) as he seeks revenge upon the immortal psychopath twin who goes around the country killing twin sisters. See, Frank has a personal grudge against this dirtbag maniac because the Skelator-looking demon of sorts also killed one of his twin sister's, of whom **Mercy (Jessica Cook/Daniels)** was spared by only having her eye gouged out. This bit totally reminded me of **THRILLER: A CRUEL PICTURE** a.k.a. **THEY CALL HER ONE-EYE**. I guess that is a good enough reason to devote one's life to hunting down a serial killing monster.



Director **Mills** looks like he is going for the **HOBO WITH A SHOTGUN**-look with the grainy type film and saturated color lens and look to it, maybe over using slow-mo camera shots for bullets flying through the air, but it looks pretty cool and it is just a really low-budget film with pretty shoddy sound (which may be on purpose) and a lot of stylized dialogue that reminds me of movies have scripts written that think they are having their actors and actresses saying shit that is important or witty, but really is just super annoying- at least to me it was. Hell, I sometimes get bored and annoyed with the over-hyped directorial style of most film buffs'

favorite director of cult-type films and exploitation-fare flicks made by **Quentin Tarantino**.

I also dont know for the life of me why the scenes in the film that totally exploited the female in them, such as the extended shower scene with the brunette whose sister has a fist explode from her stomach (in a scene that just looks like the girl was laying on the edge of the bed and someone just thrust a fist up in the air, making it look like the fist was thrust from out of her belly, using a small amount of CGI for blood splat effects) could not have had a more curvy and sexier actress or model in the scene instead of thin, bony chick whose figure resembles a young boys. Hey, if one is going to exploit a woman let's follow the sexploitation master Russ Meyer and follow suit with some girls with voluptuous curves and figures. I think one of the two actresses from the beginning scenes before would have done just nicely. I brought this point up with my girlfriend, whom also watched most of this film, and even she agreed.

Aside from what I felt was miscast female nudity, the film has a super cool scene where this little skeleton guy starts talking to Frank after he sticks a key in his belly and turns it on with some unexplainable power. The effects looked very professional, if only the voice a little off-putting, and it reminded me of a major Hollywood film for a few minutes. The special effects, executed by what I will assume was **Sherriah Salkil** a.k.a. **Sherriah L. Filipponi**, since there seems to be no other individuals listed in the credits on **IMDB.com** and she is listed as the make-up artist, but the effect may have been some stop-motion effect in which credit would go to **Dustin Mills** since he performed just about every other operation needed in the film. After listening to the commentary, the director explains that it was a mixture of digital and practical effects and I think it looks spectacular. One can tell just a wee bit that the head is a little different tone and lighting than the rest of the body but it still looks pretty awesome!

A good idea was to have twins in the film so that each actor and actress can play two parts. It also helped to

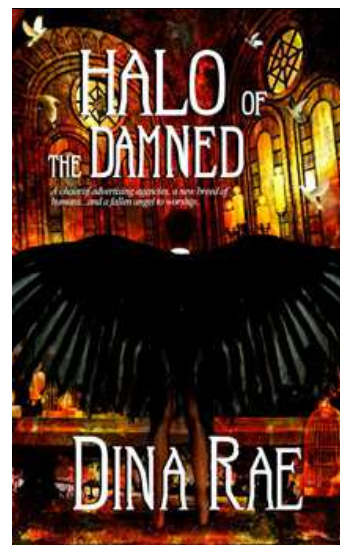


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have one of the lead actors, **Brandon Salkil**, married to the make-up artist, **Sherriah Salkil**. The crew was fairly small, as stated in the commentary on the movie, and basically consisted of Mills and the Salkil's. The film really draws from a bunch of other influences seen in various horror and cult films, from the slow-mo gunshots to the lone wolf-type character that could be a nod to any number of spaghetti westerns in the Italian cinema genre.

Another creative touch the film had was when **Mills** decides to throw in some animation while a story is told by our lead **Castor (Salkil)** as he talks about his twin brother and how he started going on this killing spree. I welcomed this creative spike in the flow of the film. It was a really nice change of pace. One thing that drove me nuts though, was after getting used to seeing every female actress in the film shed some clothes, I got pretty annoyed when during the 2nd half of the film many of the scenes that could have offered some titillation didn't. I was just so used to the women in this film taking it all off!

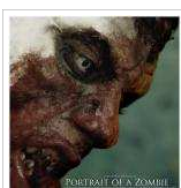
As far as low-budget or no-budget b-horror films go, **ZOMBIE A-HOLE** is definitely a cut above the rest. I really enjoyed the amount of effort that went into creating a horror film that entertaining, full of nudity and gore, creative mediums of technique, and cool special effects. The soundtrack to the film was pretty solid, original music created by **Jared Kaelber** and a band by the name of **SLUG**. I recommend watching this film when one is looking for some B-Movie madness!

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