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## Zombie A-Hole

2012

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"The Best Place to Buy Your Stuff"

How do you know when a certain type of film has really managed to run its current course? It's when everyone seems to suddenly realize that this is what is selling so they get on board and make a movie to fit nicely into that niche market. As we've pointed out previously in other reviews, zombies have become the new vampire with everyone trying to turn a quick buck off their present popularity and while there is life left in things like *The Walking Dead*, the sadly reality is that the zombie has now become a horror film commodity that even someone with a minimal amount of finances will try and exploit.

Somewhere in the south of America zombie hunter Frank Fulci (Josh Eal) has been stalking his most elusive and deadly prey but this isn't any ordinary zombie. Frank has been trying to find a former friend who has now become one of the undead and, according to the Necronomicon that he has, the zombie is the host to a demon trying to open portals to bring more of its kind to our world. Frank isn't alone in his quest however and Castor (Brandon Salkil), the brother of the zombie, shares a unique psychic bond which Frank hopes will help to lead them to their target before all hope is lost.

Or, for a much more entertaining synopsis (sarcasm implied), why don't we take a look at the entry that director Dustin Mills posted on IMDB.

*Zombie A-Hole takes place in a world that's a bit different from our own. A realm that teeters on the edge of sleaze and comic book stylized awesomeness. It's Planet Terror meets Sin City meets The Good The Bad and The Ugly. All the men are hard-asses, and all the women are bombshells. Just because vengeance is your way of life doesn't mean you can't look damn sexy while you dole out hearty doses of whoop-ass. Everything is just a bit bigger and more interesting than their real life counterparts. This is an exploitation flick with a southern gothic flair.*

I'm fairly confident in my assessment that Mr. Mills and I watched two completely different films as his comparisons to notable cinema fall incredibly short of what is actually offered in this movie. As far as independent cinema is concerned, I'm all

for it as long as it's done in such a way that it brings a memorable result. Were it not for the indies, the Romero's, Raimi's, and Carpenter's of this world might have never managed to get their start or recognition but unfortunately what they delivered to the world in contrast to what has been done over the past decade will always stand head and shoulders above the new crop of low budget cinema.

*Zombie A-Hole* is just a bad zombie movie with nothing that really ever manages to push it into that cult status that any indie film craves to be considered a part of. The movie is filled with bad actors, horrible special effects, and a plot that is so water thin and uninteresting that it makes sense that the movie has plenty of filler added in. By filler, I mean shower scenes with the women in the movie but instead of going with the quick tease like horror movies are often prone to do, Mills seems to take every opportunity he can to extended these moments for as long as possible to the point where they are uninteresting.

The plot hinges on the revenge factor, a rather overplayed approach in most cases although for a zombie film it isn't used too often since generally this type of horror movie is about survival. Through most of the film though we have a single zombie roaming around in a pin-striped suit no less, who kills only for the purpose of adding something in the movie but one of the most laughable scenes comes when our undead villain vomits on poor girl, only in this case it isn't any real regurgitation but instead what it obviously Silly String. Then there are the poorly designed minions which show up towards the end of the movie which look like rejected decorations from the seasonal Halloween store, another instance in *Zombie A-Hole* which ends up coming across as more humorous than anything else and if that's the intent that Mills was going for; mission accomplished.

There are only a few special features found on the DVD. There is a commentary track by Mills but like most of these, I skipped it. There is also a single deleted scene and a look at the trailer.

*Zombie A-Hole* is a very amateurish presentation and while I can have a moderate amount of respect for what was attempted here, the final product ends up becoming nothing more than a mess. Cutting some of the extraneous nonsense would have worked wonders for the movie in some regards although in the end it probably wouldn't have helped to push it to the next level of cinema. Instead of having the potential of a cult classic *Zombie A-Hole* instead is just an example of how zombies have become the "in" thing and anyone can make a movie featuring them, for better or for worse.

-mike-

Directed by:  
Dustin Mills

Written by:  
Dustin Mills

Cast:  
Jessica Daniels  
Josh Eal

DVD Features:  
Aspect Ratio: 1.78:1  
Audio: English Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo  
Commentary by Dustin Mills  
Deleted Scene  
Trailer

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