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Monday, October 14, 2013

## Jars of moonshine and a pit full of blood - Jug Face (2013) [Review]



Jug Face (2013)

Starring: Sean Bridgers, Lauren Ashley Carter, Larry Fessenden

Writer and Director: Chad Crawford Kinkle



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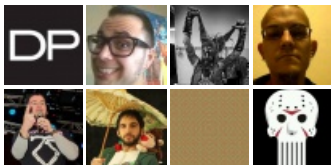
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In 1993, both Addams Family Values and Man's Best Friend hit cinemas! Saw Man's Best Friend in theaters and have watched it several times since. Fun flick.



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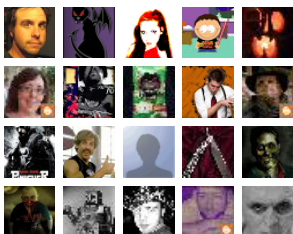
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**Directive 4: [CLASSIFIED]**

Eric King

**Synopsis:**

A backwoods community worships a mysterious pit that contains an entity inside, which requires a sacrifice to keep the them safe. The face of whomever is being sacrificed is crafted onto a ceramic jug. When a teenage girl discovers she is the next to be taken, she hides the jug out of fear and unspeakable horrors are unleashed upon the community.

**Review:**

No, I did not make that up. I gotta give props to writer/director Chad Crawford Kinkle and the rest of the crew, because *Jug Face* is one of the most refreshing horror films I've seen this year. I've always appreciated the backwoods sub-genre, even if a lot the films within said sub-genre are relatively the same. This one felt a little different, though. The community we meet in *Jug Face* kind of reminded me of the woods-folk from *Pumpkinhead*, but stepped up a bit, since they live in trailers rather than shacks. They have more conventional items. This doesn't make them any more civilized, however. They're dirty and set in older ways.

Have you ever been on a long drive out of state and on the highway find yourself surrounded by nothing but mountains or massive hills? I have. The drive from Florida to Kentucky provides plenty of that. Every once in a while, you'll see a mountain with one lone dirt road that starts from the bottom and zigzags all the way up and over. I've always imagined what kind of folk live on the other side of those mountains. I've wondered what they do, how they live and whatnot. I always end up concluding that it's probably people like the ones in *Jug Face* (who are creepy enough before the horror aspect even takes place) and if I ever went to investigate, I'd never be heard from again. That may be a horrible misconception, but I cannot help myself.

The film has a great look to it, and the cinematography really puts you into the locale. But the best visual aspects of *Jug Face* are from when Ada, the teen girl, starts seeing visions of impending horror. It's a big mash-up of overlapped sequences being thrown at you with a swiftness. Flashes of her in different situations, flashes of grue, etc... It takes a little time to understand what's going on, but the payoff is quite rewarding.

Lauren Ashley Carter straight up kills in her role as Ada, a frightened teen not wanting to commit to the community's insane tradition of sacrifice. There's some other more personal demons the character keeps hidden, as well. Sean Bridgers plays Dawai, the community local who creates the jugs that determine a person's fate. Dawai is timid and somewhat looked down upon, and Bridgers pulls the character off really well. Larry Fessenden and Sean Young play Sustin and Loriss, Ada's parents. Both are off the deep end, but it's Loriss who is scariest out of the two. Fessenden and Young chew their roles up big time, though. It's hard to say who's doing the better job, because as a collective they're just really on point.

FX man Robert Kurtzman handles the bloodletting of *Jug Face*. Honestly, the actual kills aren't really showing you a whole lot; it's the aftermath of them that's intense. Lots of gore strewn about and whatnot, but I'll leave it at that.

The score is perfect for what's at hand. The opening theme is eerie and somber with a southern vibe. There's also a bluegrass-like jam session in the movie. It all fits with the setting of the film.

**Final Word:**

I didn't know what to really expect from *Jug Face* but at the end I was pleasantly surprised. Definitely not your "Hi, we're backwoods cannibals and we're gonna eat you" type flick, and nobody is forced to squeal like a pig. But there is plenty of other unspeakable madness going on. Recommended.

**Blu-ray:**

*Jug Face* is presented in 1080p with a Widescreen Aspect Ratio of 2.35, audio presented in 5.1 surround.

**Special Features**

**The Story of Jug Face** - a documentary on the production of the film and how the idea came