

31st July A NICE OLD FASHIONED COMMUNITY: A  
Review Of JUG FACE



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In our lifetimes most of us will be approached by at least one cult. Be it one of the large ones like Scientology or Mormonism, or one of the lesser ones, like the nature worshipping hippies that live on communes, most of us never join and to be brutally honest the main reason i never did was fear.

I'm sure most of these groups and their members are essentially harmless but there's just something i find creepy about them, these people so dedicated to a belief system that comes across as so strange to those of us outside of it. Perhaps I'd overcome this phobia if it weren't for news stores galore about such groups and the horror they instill upon their followers, from isolation and alienation tactics, to rape to just plain torture.

The mystery and possibility of such horrible things going on in secret make cults, and more specifically those who build their own communities ripe for the horror

movie treatment. We saw hundreds of films come out of the 60's 70's and 80's that used this concept quite successfully but unfortunately the sub-genre has all but died out mostly due to the disappointment caused by the horribly misleading and just plain boring 2004 film *The Village*. *Jug Face* gives this sub-genre a much needed spark of life.

*Jug Face* follows the tale of Ada, a young woman, living in a strange backwoods community built up of people who worship a water filled pit and the creature that lives within it. The creature demands sacrifice regularly and guides the hands of the village's Pottery maker, possessing him and making him sculpt the face of it's next sacrifice.

Ada becomes pregnant after a brief affair with her own brother and soon after is told she is promised in marriage to another man and that before that marriage takes place she must be tested to see if she is still a virgin.

To make things worse Ada finds the clay jug the pottery maker has made and to her horror it is her face she finds adorning it's front. In desperation she hides the Jug but the creature who has chosen her will not be denied. Ada desperately tries to get away, enlisting the help of the pottery maker himself, but where do you run when everyone and everything you know is suddenly against you, even your own mind?

From it's disturbing beginning to it's pulls no punches heartbreaking ending, *Jug Face* is everything a creepy Cult thriller should be, Ominous, dark and very strange. While the unseen creature in the pit is, indeed monstrous it is the cult members themselves that are the true monsters, sacrificing their own people to get "healed" by the bloody waters found in the pit and moving on with their lives as if nothing has happened, their apparently kind and old fashioned attitudes and faces hide truly grotesque and twisted souls willing to do anything at all to preserve their way of life.


The biggest thing this film has going for it though is it's cinematography and ingenious use of settings, costumes, and lighting, subtle and dark colors permeate throughout the film lending to it's bleak story and conveying a mood of life without hope. Everything looks somehow gritty and dirty as if the darkness in the souls of the cult members is beginning to manifest in their physical appearance as well.

The story, while fast paced doesn't rely on kills to keep us intrested (although there is certainly some pretty gorey scenes) Instead using the tactic of a continous build up of steadily worsening events that comes to a head with a climax that will leave you shaken.

I Give this film No middle fingers up, many will be sickened when they witness the ending and wish for a happier one, but i felt everything about this film was dark (as it should be) and anything less then what we get would have been contrived and felt fake.

While i did enjoy watching the film on my tv, the film was obviously made to be enjoyed on the big screen and if you enjoy dark thrillers with a twist i highly recommend you check this one out when it hits theaters August 9th.

Posted 31st July by [TheB movieavenger](#)

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