

AnythingHorror Central

Scream Park (2012)

Posted by [Scott Shoyer](#) on April 23, 2014 · [Leave a Comment](#)



I'm going to start off with a question: Does labeling your film as an "homage" or as a "throwback to 80s slasher films" give the filmmaker the right to be completely unoriginal and uninspiring? It seems for writer-director Cary Hill it does. Some filmmakers seem to use the "homage" gimmick to save their asses. To the younger generation who may not yet have submerged themselves in 1980s slasher flicks, something like **SCREAM PARK** might seem original. But by throwing the "homage" sticker on the film this protects the filmmaker from the older generations bashing the movie as being unoriginal and ripping off 80s-style slasher flicks. But I'm calling bullshit here. **SCREAM PARK** is the most standard, by-the-numbers slasher film that offers absolutely nothing new to the genre.

The plot? Pretty simple. An amusement park owner who owns a failing park comes up with the idea of killing off a bunch of “teens” inside the park in order to get free publicity and boost sales. That’s it. For the next 85 minutes you can sit back and think of better slasher flicks you’ve seen. Lets start with the characters. The characters here are your standard 1980s cookie-cutter characters. There’s Jennifer (Wendy Wygant), the good girl who doesn’t wanna do drugs and have sex; Tony (Dean Jacobs) is the jock who only cares about sexing up his girlfriend; Rhodie (Tyler Kale) is the shy horror movie buff who likes to scare people with his monster masks; Marty (Steve Rudzinski) is the uptight park manager who doesn’t want the “teens” to do drugs and have sex; Carlee (Kailey Marie Harris) is the slut with a huge rack; Roy (Kyle Riordan) is the rebel punk rocker who hates authority and just wants to party; Allison (Alicia Marie Marcucci) is another sweet girl but she’s dating the punk rocker (she also straight up looks like a young Barbara Crampton); and Mr. Hyde (Doug Bradley) is the greedy owner of the park who has no concern for the lives of the teens. You’d think from the way Doug Bradley’s name is thrown around on the promo materials and poster that he has a major part in the plot. Nope. Bradley is literally in this film for about five minutes ... maybe. And just in case this isn’t a standard enough cast for you there’s also Henry the black security guard who not only gets killed first in the movie but who doesn’t even get a credit on the IMDb page. The only person missing in this cast is the crazy old man who warns everyone of the dangers and that they’re all gonna die!!

Every time a new character was introduced I couldn’t help but roll my eyes. After I realized that SCREAM PARK was going to be another bland, 80s slasher rip off I wrote down a list of the order in which the cast would be killed off. I was 90% correct. The plot unfolds exactly as you expect it to unfold. There’s nothing new going on here and SCREAM PARK doesn’t give any nods to classic slasher films. The script reads as though it was written in one sitting and didn’t get any rewrites. For almost the first half of the film Jennifer is looking around for her boyfriend Blake. She subsequently gets other characters to help her look for him. She also sees his car in the parking lot. Who is Blake? Where was he early in the film? Was he killed by the slashers? We don’t know. Half way through the film Blake is dropped quicker than your interest for this film. It’s a lazy script with standard characters, predictable action, and ‘seen before a million times’ death scenes.



Watch out the killer is ... not very scary!!

As the killings began and my interest was already severely fading I had the brief optimistic thought that the one saving grace of this film would be the gore. Surely Hill would bring me back into this film by having fantastic gore effects.

Not a chance.

Not only were most of the killings done off screen, but the gore that was shown was horribly executed. Example: A girl gets her face plunged into a deep fat fryer and when we see her it looks as though she had a sunburn. The other “gore” here was typical stab wounds and such. I never got the feeling that writer-director Hill was a fan of the horror genre. He seemed to just be going through the motions to try and make a quick buck.



Oh no ... he's covered in grape jelly!!

By now you probably get the gist of this film. SCREAM PARK is full of your typical list of slasher stereotypes (there's even a goth girl who "dreams about being crushed between the gears of one of the rides"), offers nothing new to the genre, has a standard and predictable plot, and has some truly embarrassing and shitty special f/x. Trust me when I tell you that you've already seen this movie a thousand times before. There's literally nothing here that I can recommend ... so I won't.

SCREAM PARK is available now on DVD from Wild Eye Releasing and ask available on VOD.

My Summary:

Director: Cary Hill (& writer & producer)

Plot: 1.5 out of 5 stars

Gore: 2 out of 10 skulls

Zombie Mayhem: 0 out of 5 brains

Reviewed by Scott Shoyer



Not even the brief screen presence of Doug Bradley could save this film!!

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