

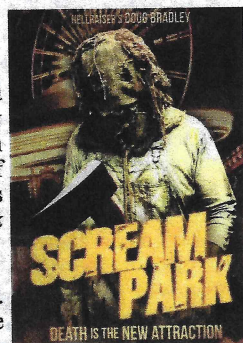
sequence contains very disturbing imagery and is NOT recommended for anyone who is pregnant! Yet this is a female centric story with 3 characters that aren't really who they initially appear to be. Actually the role of Anika as portrayed by Kristina Klebe is the only one who shows her true self every time she's on screen. You'd think she was the villain of the piece but she's really the only one who appears "normal."

Director/writer Zack Parker has an uncanny ability to thwart viewers expectations at every turn. The film holds many surprises as layers are peeled away. Yet when you think you've finally got it, he pulls the rug out from under you. That's the kind of film we desperately need now-a-days since horror has become formulaic for the most part. *Proxy* takes it's time to spin the story (it runs 2 hours) but when the characters and story are so engaging time flies. Also I'll give the film credit for having the greatest cinematic death sequence I've seen this year. It's a doozy that is powerful more for what you don't see. Even the end scene is left to the viewer's imagination. Once again...kudos to Parker for really pulling off a film of near Hitchcockian strength.

I apologize for not revealing more but this film deserves your attention and respect. I know it'll go on my year end list for best films. It's a rewarding experience that chronicles the lives of some very disturbed women. Go see it. Now.

## SCREAM PARK

Stop me if you've heard this one before...a group of kids out at night looking to party (drinking, screwing, etc.) run afoul of 2 men wearing scary masks. They are killed off one by one. How's that for original? Yet as trite and boring as that sounds *Scream Park* isn't really that bad at all.



First off the setting is at an amusement park. The idea of these rides all shut down for the night lends an eerie vibe to the proceedings. Of course some of the rides do come into play, such as one poor fool who is gutted while tied down with his innards splashing all over the place! Other's meet their demise around various parks of the park...including one gal whose face is shoved in boiling oil... French fries anyone? The killer's faces are kept secret for most of the running time. SPOILER ALERT...however it's soon revealed that Nivek Ogre is playing one of the murderous madmen by the name of Iggy (!). Ultimately he's the one aspect of the movie that's falls way short of expectations. Once the mask comes off Ogre plays the character like some redneck buffoon (he seems to be channeling the spirit of Chop Top or The Hitchhiker from *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* movies). His mannerisms and dialog are painfully stupid and ruin the otherwise grim vibe. I'm not sure how much of his mucking about was his fault or the director's...either way it's idiotic and insulting. On the other hand his brother (?) who remains masked (and it's a cool fucking mask to boot...check out the cover of the DVD) is a force to be reckoned with. It's a performance that won't win any awards but as long as he looks good and kills enough folks all is forgiven.

Special mention must go to Doug Bradley who plays Mr. Hyde. He is one member of a long line of older horror stars popping up in every other horror film produced today. His role is limited to a flashback (and probably consisted of him being on set for half a day) yet it's a pivotal part. SPOILER ALERT...he is the owner of the park who gets a wild idea in order to drum up business: what if a tragic accident occurred there which would guarantee to push people through the turnstiles? Yes indeed...hire some killers to wipe out the employees and you have a surefire way to inhale more revenue! Brilliant idea! It's a plot device put into good use over the years and I can say it works just as well in *Scream Park*. However some fans might howl when they notice Bradley playing with a Lament Configuration box on his desk!

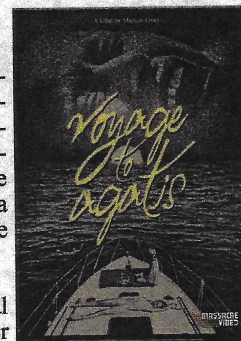


Perhaps the best part of *Scream Park* is the terrific opening theme music provided by Christian Kriegeskotte. It's a full throttle orchestral assault that

harkens back to composers such as Henry Manfredini and Richard Band for example. The white font used for the pre-credit sequence also adds a quasi-*Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>* feel which is never a bad thing. Cary Hill wrote and directed this. While no one will point to *Scream Park* as sticking out from the pack at least it keeps things serious (minus Ogre that is) and has enough deft touches to keep viewers interested. I've seen plenty of rotten horror films over the past few years and trust me when I say you could do much, much worse. Available on DVD from Wild Eye Releasing.

## VOYAGE TO AGATIS

The latest slab from Louis Justin's Massacre Video line is a grim 2010 German underground production. It wallows in depravity...not so much from shocking violence but an overall disturbing tone. Make no mistake...this isn't *Nekromantik* but a more contemporary yarn sure to please the sickos out there.



The plot is paper thin...a dysfunctional couple invite a young gal aboard their yacht. The man seems attracted to her while his wife seems removed from the proceedings. Things escalate to the point where our hapless heroine is strapped down and left to fend for herself. Finally they make it to a nearby island where she's chased, gutted and killed. The end.

Hardly worth remembering, *Voyage to Agatis* simply follows one perfunctory scene after the next winding up as you would expect. The entire affair is filmed in a "you-are-there" style that at first seems like another point of view excursion. While it's not quite first person perspective it sometimes feels that way. The low lighting and grainy look certainly adds to the disturbing feeling the film projects. While the expected violence is shocking, the buildup to it is anything but. Long stretches go without anything interesting happening. It doesn't help that the characters are so one-dimensional either.

The beautiful score belies the action happening and some near poetic narration (mixed to shots of dolls floating in water) leads one to believe this is some sort of art film masquerading as horror. Be that as it may it doesn't make the film any more exciting or noteworthy. It will appeal to fans of underground cinema, which is one aspect that Massacre Video aims for. However casual viewers looking for anything else will probably leave scratching their heads.

Massacre Video's DVD includes interviews with director Marian Dora and star Thomas Goersch as well as 4 short films from Marian. Also on tap is a still gallery and trailers. The packaging on the disc is top notch, as is the wonderful cover art. Eye pleasing to say the least...one only wishes the movie was as good!

## WHAT REALLY FRIGHTENS YOU?

What's immediately apparent about this 2009 production is what it *isn't*. It's not a remake. It's not a sequel. It's not loaded with CGI...or any CGI for that matter. It doesn't star a washed up horror movie star. It's not shot on video from a first person perspective. It's not based on a true story. Have I made my point yet?

*What Really Frightens You?* is a film with a decidedly unique edge to it. The story revolves around a horror fanzine (Ghastly Horror) that grabs the attention of a new recruit known only as "ghost writer." He proposes an article where he will conduct interviews with randomly selected people (under the age of 30) as to what frightens them. The best stories will get published. A trio of individuals decides to

