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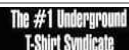
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SCREAM PARK (2014)

Published by [David Carter](#) on 2014/5/11 (134 reads)

Directed by Cary Hill
Review by David Carter

BUY IT

Released by Wild Eye Releasing
Running Time: 81 minutes
Rating: Not Rated
Color format: Color
Audio/Subtitles: 2.0 Stereo English
Region Code: 1, NTSC
Aspect Ratio: Widescreen
16:9 Enhanced: Yes
Special Features: Commentary Track, Bloopers
Trailer Online: [Yes](#)



Short Version: Retro fun

Carnivals, circuses, and fairs have become a staple of horror cinema throughout the years. The list is so long that you could make that argument that these films could be considered their own subgenre, but notable by its absence on this list is the slasher film. Only one qualifying film springs to mind: Tobe Hooper's THE FUNHOUSE. THE FUNHOUSE is considered a classic now but it was not as commercially successful as anticipated when first released, and that fact likely contributed to the dearth of amusement park slasher films.

Undaunted by this, new director Cary Hill ventured back to the amusement park for his first feature SCREAM PARK. Coming over thirty years after Hooper's film, SCREAM PARK harkens back to the early eighties' brand of slasher cinema with some modern twists thrown in as well. The film's been making the rounds of the festival and convention circuits, and it is now available on DVD from Wild Eye Releasing.



The Fright Land amusement park has fallen on hard times. It seems like people are no longer interested in rickety old rides and rigged games, so tonight will be the last night the park is open. That suits Fright Land's teen staff just fine, as they are all about to graduate and welcome a chance to escape from nerdy manager Marty. They aren't going to pass up an opportunity to throw a party on their last night in the park, however, and they break out the alcohol as soon as the last guests are gone.



Something isn't right. Good-girl Jenny is the first one who notices it when her maybe-maybe not boyfriend Blake doesn't show up at the end of the night. She reluctantly goes along with Marty to search for him, while the remaining teens are left unsupervised. The first pair of teens to sneak off for some mischief finds themselves brutally murdered by a pair of masked psychopaths. The rest of the teens don't realize they are being stalked until it is too late, and it's left up to Jenny to save herself and Marty too. Marty doesn't do much to help Jenny out, but he may just hold the secret to why they are in such a predicament.

SCREAM PARK is a faithful recreation of an early eighties slasher film. It gets the formula perfect, right down to the one punk rock guy that inevitably showed up regardless of whether or not he fit in with the rest of the teens. SCREAM PARK's overly conscious construction may feel cold to some viewers. It's a valid criticism - this is truly a paint-by-numbers slasher film - but I actually found this aspect enjoyable. The majority of the newly

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released slasher films are more concerned with including in-jokes and references to classic slashers that the plot becomes an afterthought. SCREAM PARK avoids needlessly trying to prove its pedigree and instead delivers a solid film that wouldn't have been out of place on any video store shelf in 1987.

Wild Eye Releasing adds SCREAM PARK to a growing list of new horror titles. It fits in well with the rest of their catalog and this disc is put together well and includes a commentary and some bloopers. SCREAM PARK has some fun moments but likely won't make you forget any of the past classics. This strong effort by first timer Cary Hill and the young cast makes me think we'll be hearing more from all involved in the future.



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