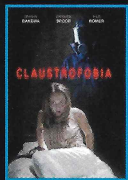




OVERLOOKED, FORGOTTEN AND DISMISSED

THIS ISSUE: LANCE IS CONFINED TO QUARTERS

LOCK UP YOUR DAUGHTERS



CLAUSTROFOBIA

MVD Visual

Cleithrophobia is the fear of being trapped or locked in an enclosed space and is far more debilitating than claustrophobia, which is the fear of being enclosed in small spaces. It's a shame the makers of this Dutch film didn't look up the definition when they named their movie, which is about a university student who wakes up handcuffed to a bed in a dingy cellar where a mysterious abductor harvests her blood and organs. An interesting premise, but the early reveal of the abductor's identity and the fact that she's able to escape her locked prison repeatedly make *Claustrophobia* a chore to watch. Not even a hilarious bludgeoning with an iPad can save this steaming piece of *stront* from the delete bin!

BODY COUNT: 3, plus one rat

DAYS TRAPPED: 6

LIKE TALKING TO A BRICK WALL



IRON DOORS

MVD Visual

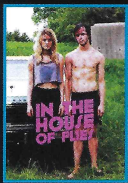
Imagine partying one night only to wake up the next day locked inside a concrete vault, with only fluorescent lights and a dead rat to keep you company. That's what happens to the unnamed, completely annoying Eurotrash character in this German production who quickly realizes that his predicament is not a harmless prank. Although *Iron Doors* is a bold attempt at what is essentially a one-man

show full of frustrated contemplations and furious meltdowns, it becomes increasingly silly and pretentious. The protagonist's one-liners and annoying quips are so loathsome you'll want him to die in captivity — I sure as hell did. But if you manage to watch to the end, the *what the fuck?* reveal will leave you gobsmacked. You have been warned!

BODY COUNT: One rat

DAYS TRAPPED: 5

CAPTIVE AUDIENCE



IN THE HOUSE OF FLIES

Parade Deck Films

Heather and Steve are two young lovers finishing an idyllic day at Niagara Falls. But just after they climb into their car to return home they are overcome by a noxious gas and pass out. They wake up in an underground bunker where their abductor communicates with them by phone, demanding that they hurt themselves or each other to earn food, water or a chance for freedom. Though

it sounds like a *Saw* wannabe, *In the House of Flies* actually is far more psychological than gory. Wonderfully shot and competently acted, it features the sadistically authoritarian voice of Henry Rollins as the mysterious, sadistic abductor. But best of all, this Canadian film opens with Saga's '80s rock-anthem "On the Loose" — need I say more?

BODY COUNT: 2, plus zero rats

DAYS TRAPPED: 17

LAST CHANCE LANCE

protagonist. With no dialogue to convey her rage, her cold stare and animalistic mannerisms go a long way in selling Zoe's descent into this monstrous state. She also spends most of her screen time covered in blood and dirt and generally looking like hell. It's as unglamorous as it gets, and she nails it.

If you're looking for some rape-revenge catharsis with a side of resurrection, *Avenged* delivers with guts... literally.

RON MCKENZIE

EVERY DAY I'M SHUFFLING

Z NATION: SEASON ONE

Starring Kellita Smith, D.J. Qualls and Keith Allan

Directed by John Hyams, Luis Prieto, Tim Andrew, et al.

Written by Jennifer Derwingson, Craig Engler,

Karl Schaefer, et al.

SyFy

Since they rebranded themselves a couple of years ago, SyFy has released a steady smorgasbord of original movies and series for their fans to munch on. So it was only a matter of time before they decided to team up with low budget opportunist *The Asylum* to try to cash-in on the success of *The Walking Dead*.

Set three years after the zombie epidemic has levelled the planet, the series follows a group of survivors attempting to cross the US in an effort to bring what could possibly be the only person immune to the virus to a medical clinic so an antidote can be made.

Always on the look-out for food, ammunition and health supplies, the gang encounters bands of cannibals, other survivors with less noble intentions, tornadoes and loads and loads of zombies. Sound familiar?

Storyline aside, there are plenty of gory kills in just about every episode, and although there are some ham-fisted CG effects

peppered throughout the series (a laughable zombie baby, for example), for the most part the gore gags are effectively gruesome.

The casting is similarly uneven; some actors are only competent at best, but a couple standouts provide just enough gravitas. D.J. Qualls (*The Core*, *Supernatural*) is a highlight as the lone survivor of an NSA outpost at the North Pole who guides the hapless band across country by using what's left of the global communications network. His whimsical repartee and cabin fever antics keep things lively and serve as a welcome departure from the sometimes-monotonous sojourn of the main cast.

The first season run of thirteen episodes comes with a handful of interesting special features including both a gag and a zombie kill reel. Though it's admittedly the illegitimate offspring of the far superior *Walking Dead* series, sometimes it's fun to sit back and see what the fuck that redheaded step-kid will do next!

LAST CHANCE LANCE

