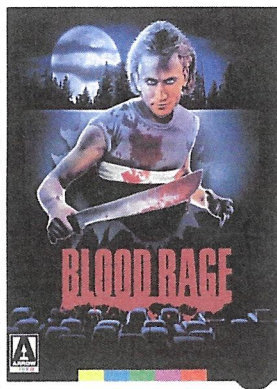


brother will come out on top?

This entertaining romp is never boring. With whip smart performances (especially the dual role essayed by Mark Soper as the two brothers) and lots of gore this is a winner through and through. Add to the mix some sleazy situations, Old Style beer, pot and hard liquor and you have all the key ingredients for a good time. The various axe attacks, body slicing, throat slashings, stabbings, hand lopping and decapitations are rendered in loving detail by Ed French (who also essays a weird and odd looking rich guy). It should be noted that this is one of the bloodiest and goriest slasher films you'll ever see.



Yet if you happened to see the version titled **NIGHTMARE AT SHADOW WOODS** then you didn't see much of the gore since it was edited out. Thankfully Arrow Video has come to the rescue to unleash no less than *three* different cuts of the film. The aforementioned Nightmare...version is the weakest of the bunch. In fact aside from a lengthy pool side encounter (that establishes some situations and character motivations) there isn't a lot of extra footage save for extra seconds of sexual situations. The composite cut puts everything together for the longest version. However the theatrical version...under the **BLOOD RAGE** title...is the way to go. Arrow realized this and restored it for maximum effect. The print is clean and colorful, and the pounding electronic score (along with some orchestral moments) by Richard Einhorn come through loud and clear.

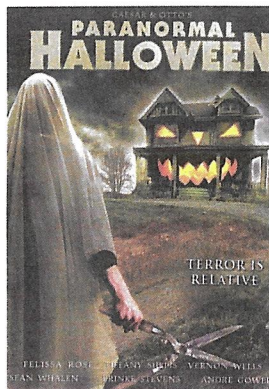
There are scads of extras scattered about this set. Mark Soper is interviewed about his participation in the project. He talks about how the film has taken on a life of its own even when initially it seemed to fall through the cracks. Louise Lasser spends some minutes talking about her career (including her breakout show **MARY HARTMAN MARY HARTMAN**) before discussing the 'oddsness' surrounding her character in **BLOOD RAGE**.

Producer/actor Marianne Kanter reflects back on being a woman producer on a low budget horror flick. She is proud of her work and was thankful her character was killed off early! FX technician/actor Ed French looks back at his early days as a goremeister with fondness. He reasons if it wasn't for his work in horror, his career never would have taken off. Finally 3 minutes with Ted Raimi is just that. Ted talks about how close he was to quitting acting when no offers came in. Yet at the last minute (before packing it all in and working for his father) the audition for **BLOOD RAGE** came up and the rest is history. I do wish he would've talked about why his character (condom salesman!) was dressed like Walt Gorney from **FRIDAY THE 13<sup>th</sup>**. Not to be outdone is an audio commentary track with director John Grissmer. Fans can get the scoop on the film from nearly every key player with these fascinating extras.

This amazing set is a must have for hardcore horror fan. It was a treat seeing this in all its gory glory. Easily one of the best films from that time period (shot in '83, copyrighted '84 but not released theatrically until '87) that will only get better with age. Remember that it's *not* cranberry sauce!

## CEASAR AND OTTO'S PARANORMAL HALLOWEEN

Unlikely brothers (one fat and grey the other well-built and young) Ceasar and Otto accept an offer from a governor (who has no hands) to stay in his house...the only problem is the place is haunted. Through the course of the film they encounter all kinds of strange things...swiped from various horror films. This is a pastiche of '80s and current terror tropes from the opening which echoes Carpenter's **HALLOWEEN** (replete with a funny jab at Dr. Phil) to a mock-up from **THE CONJURING** (featuring Felissa Rose).



this effort corrals all of the vulgar stuff and aims for something grounded. While a lot of the jokes and situations aren't that funny, they aren't stupid either. Several bits are quite amusing including a great moment poking fun at **THE SHINING** with Brinke Stevens doing the honors. Another jab at the **PARANORMAL ACTIVITY** series was probably the funniest bit in my eyes... great stuff guys!

Director and writer Dave Campfield belies his low budget with inventive camera work, various swipes and split screens, colorfully lit scenes and plenty of energy. While horror and humor rarely work (at least in my eyes) there is enough here to pass the time. With horror vets such as Beverly Randolph, Sean Whalen, Vernon Wells, Tiffany Shepis and Debbie Rochon along for the ride makes it easier to sit through.

The DVD from Wild Eye Releasing includes director, cast and crew commentary, blooper reel, a Robert Z'Dar tribute, bonus shorts and videos plus trailers. A nice package all the way 'round.

## COME UNDER MY SPELL/ LADY DYNAMITE

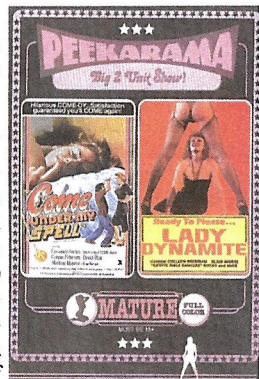
In this splendid Vinegar Syndrome "Peekarama-Big 2 Unit Show" we have more Carolos Tobalina nuttiness.

First up is **COME UNDER MY SPELL**. David (Blair Harris) and Fernando (Fernando Fortes) are buddies with different sex lives. David pulls all the pussy while Fernando only fucks animals and his hand! David tries to help him out by purchasing a book on hypnosis. It works all too well. Soon Fernando is going from shooting loads into a Fanta can (!) to squirting on the back of every girl he can wave his magic wand at! David too gets in the act (even overzealously shooting some cum on Fernando's back!). Things really heat up when Fernando hypnotizes an entire wedding party with a camera. He intones "Fuck and suck without restraint!" His bride soon arrives from Mexico, but Fernando is laid up in a San Francisco hospital from too much screwing. David falls in love with his bride leaving Fernando despondent. He tells the nurse "fuck and suck me until I die." However even the grave can't hold him and the shock **CARRIE** ending will no doubt have viewers picking their jaws up off the floor!

In **LADY DYNAMITE** the effervescent Colleen Brennan stars as a frustrated housewife (married to the same guy...Shone Taylor...for ten years) who finds out her hubby infected her with gonorrhea. Since that proves he is cheating she goes off on a wild spree looking for love wherever she can get it. After some wonderful adventures (including an all-girl party infested with male strippers) she comes back to her man who promises her things will be different. Yet her final words to him are *not* what he wanted to hear.

Both films are enjoyable romps filled with hot sex. **COME UNDER MY SPELL** has the better plot, with plenty of fun moments from Fernando which livens things up quite a bit. Yet **LADY DYNAMITE** gets my vote for best sex scenes simply because Colleen Brennan is one of the top stars from that time period (1979). Her mere presence, let alone sexual prowess, gives any production an added boost.

Another outstanding presentation from Vinegar Syndrome, both films look and sound utterly amazing. I had a Colleen Brennan compilation DVD that included scenes from **LADY DYNAMITE** and I can assure you the new print (scanned in 2K from a 35mm camera negative) wipes out any and all previous versions.



Unlike the Wayans brothers crude and outlandish spoofs in the Scary Movie sweepstakes, at least