

the foliage as well...for no apparent reason at all. The various traps that are sprung immediately call to mind **ZOMBI HOLOCAUST** and the sickening titty torture harkens back to **CANNIBAL FEROX**. The amazingly vile and hideous actions doled out must be seen to be believed! Of course Mattei wraps it all up with a climax that is equally absurd yet perfectly fitting.

Imagine a WIP flick that cross-cuts the Jack Hill Filipino flicks with gory Italian trash and you'll have some idea how insane this is. Mattei also used most of the same cast that populated his cannibal and zombie features. Thankfully he opted to use lovely Yvette Yzon as the lead. She is as sexy as Laura Gemser and as resourceful as Roberta Collins. I should also mention that *everyone* gives it their all. Hard to imagine this wild WIP feature was lensed but ten years ago (as I type this). Nobody else was churning out anything *close* to this in 2006!

This winner from Intervision will have your jaw on the floor but pick it up in time to witness some neat extras. Interviews with Yvette Yzon (& Alvin Anson) are most welcome. Yzon speaks English but we can understand why she was dubbed. The talk doesn't focus on **THE JAIL**...at all but that really doesn't matter since the Mattei movies are pretty much all interchangeable. It's interesting to hear how the Italian/Pilipino dynamic worked...or in some cases *didn't* work. A separate interview with producer Giovanni Paolucci & screenwriter Antonio Tentori (along with a trailer) round out the extras.

It's hard to imagine a better DVD release that occurred in 2015. This, along with **ZOMBIES THE BEGINNING** are my personal "Vincent Dawn" favorites but *all* of 'em deliver the goods. Mattei's standing amongst the Italian chunkblowers is much higher now that these overlooked gems are now getting legitimate releases in America. Check them out pronto!

MANOS THE HANDS OF FATE

Unlike most folks who saw this on MST3K I had never seen this prior to viewing the blu-ray. While it is undoubtedly 'bad' it is by no means the 'worst film ever made' like those hacks at Entertainment Weekly would lead you to believe it is.

A family is going on vacation (seemingly in the middle of nowhere) when they get lost. A building mysteriously pops up so they decide to venture inside. They meet Torgo, a weird servant of sorts who repeatedly talks about his 'master.' When their daughter wanders off she unwittingly stumbles across the 'master' and his cache of wives. This 'master' talks about his 'master' Manos. After much stumbling and bumbling around the family makes a break for safety...but are they able to survive or will Manos become victorious?

The story is in similar vein to Dracula with Torgo playing Renfield and the 'master' clearly portraying the count. His wives could all be vampires too for all we know. Granted that's not what was intended but it plays out as such. The movie is very stilted with post synch dubbing adding to the odd feel. The wooden performances are a few steps removed from Ed Wood territory (minus his uncanny dialog). Not a whole lot happens for a good portion of the 70 minute running time but it has an odd and enveloping atmosphere that pulls the viewer in.

Perhaps one key element (that is sadly overlooked in the extras) is the music (credited to Russ Huddleston & Robert Smith Jr.). Consisting of heavy piano the mood shifts between lounge and jazz to some eerie passages. Entire segments are filled with upbeat sounds from clarinets and breezy vocals that

fill the opening and closing credits. It is *very* early 60's sounding and would play perfectly fine removed from the visuals.

An entire cult has sprung from the ground up when **MYSTERY SCIENCE THEATER 3000** aired the film back in the early '90s. Some attribute that cheeky hipster 'so bad it's good' vibe to it, but will they be able to enjoy it minus the wise cracks from robots and what not? In any event one fan that took it to the next level (and then some) is Ben Solovey. Solovey painstakingly restored the film (with help from a Kickstarter campaign that amazingly raised over \$48,000!!!) and the results are laid bare for all to see on Synapse Films Blu-ray disc.

The movie looks as good as it did when it sprawled across Texas theaters back in '66 (to which played in front of gawking viewers) with bright colors and a bold soundtrack. Viewers willing to see how the film looked prior to restoration can view the 'grindhouse' cut. Solovey also created a documentary (with help from Daniel Griffith) to shed some light on the creation and production of the film. It is filled with interesting tidbits like the fact a single woman dubbed *all* the female voices in the movie and nobody knows anything about her. Solovey also contributes a restoration featurette that's heavy on the technical mumbo-jumbo but fascinating none-the-less. A short look at a puppet (!) version of Manos is included along with an audio commentary featuring actors Tom Neyman and Jackey Neyman.

This is a wonderful disc of a film that more-or-less defies description. The lavish attention it received from all the participants is impressive. Their efforts (along with the work of Don May Jr. and Jerry Chandler from Synapse Films) are now available for all to view. A key release from 2015 (or any other year for that matter).

MANSION OF BLOOD

This empty headed mess was pure tedium from start to finish. A large gathering is held at some 'haunted' mansion where young people (guys with ridiculously sculpted abs/stomachs and girls with stupid-looking fake tits) hang out and die. Way too much time is spent with shitty characters that whine and/or generally act dumb. Some older characters pop up (including Robert Picardo) to simply stand around and drink alcohol. For some reason zombies, vampires and black garbed demons (?) show up...but they too are idiotic fuck faces.

The only thing(s) worth mentioning are some of the cast. Gary Busey is top billed but only has limited screen time (fancy that). While he actually is *fucked up* in real life, that just means he's perfectly suited to play the ghoul-of-honor just like a modern version of Bela Lugosi or Lon Chaney Jr. Also veteran actress Terry Moore (who tamed **MIGHTY JOE YOUNG** back in 1949) plays a ghost. Hard to believe she was in the ballpark of 84 years old when this was filmed! However even she is topped by the appearance of Carla Laemmle who shows up in the final segment (acting with more gusto than her young co-stars) who had to have been over *one hundred* years old when her scene was filmed. It's an incredible achievement to say the least. I met her at the Monster Rally show back in 2000. She's notable for having the first speaking part in the 1931 version of **DRACULA**. It is a damn shame that such an awful film was her last project (she passed away in 2014 at the age of 104). Yet her performance is so good that I'd advise anyone to fast forward to the 90 minute mark just to see her scenes.

MANSION OF BLOOD is god-awful garbage destined for the bottom of the bin-feed-dump at your local Walmart. This DVD was released in 2015 on the MVD visual label.

