

haunted classroom at a local high school, in order to investigate the alleged disappearance of a lecturer and one of his students.

The fact this film is set in a high school is appropriate, as everything about it smacks of an end of term project, cobbled together by some film studies students in the hope of getting the grades to progress to year two. Save for a few establishing scenes shot elsewhere, the whole action takes place within a couple of school corridors and a classroom: perhaps Odenheimer and his team wanted to create a sense of oppressive confinement, but somehow I think that gives them too much credit. Instead it was clearly a ruse to cut costs, as the whole production looks like it was shot with no budget at all. As for shocks, the only jolt I got was when the end credits made me jump and I realised that I'd nodded off. If the film does nothing else it will hopefully serve to put the tired and overused found footage format to bed once and for all.

I was tempted to give Classroom 6 two stars out of sympathy. However, as I couldn't justify giving the extras on the disc three stars - which I would have had to as they are marginally more interesting than the actual film - I've had to go with one star. Watching it, many may say even that is being over generous.

Rating: 🐻🐻🐻🐻🐻

SPECIAL FEATURES:

If there's anything in Classroom 6's favour it's that those involved in its production clearly had fun making it, as can be seen in two of the extras included on the disc. A short film consisting of behind-the-scenes footage shot during the making of

the feature, not only gives a surprisingly interesting insight into the filmmaking process, but also highlights the obvious fun and lighthearted interludes the team experienced during the process. The other extra which highlights this is an interview with Valentina Kolaric, who takes the role of the film's lead female. An accomplished actress, clearly worth more than amateur productions like Classroom 6, Kolaric gives some remarkably candid insights into the lengths Odenheimer and his team went to in order to get an authentic performance from her - situations a lesser actress may have balked at.

Couple these titbits with the film's trailer which, as is often the case, proves more fun than the film itself, an alternate ending that would have neither added nor detracted from the final film as we see it, and a short (and far superior) film from 2012 by Odenheimer called The Interview, and the extras prove the only things that warrant you spending your time or money with this release.

Rating: 🐻🐻🐻🐻🐻

Classroom 6 is out now on UK DVD courtesy of Left Films.

REVIEWED BY CLEAVER PATTERSON

CONSUMPTION

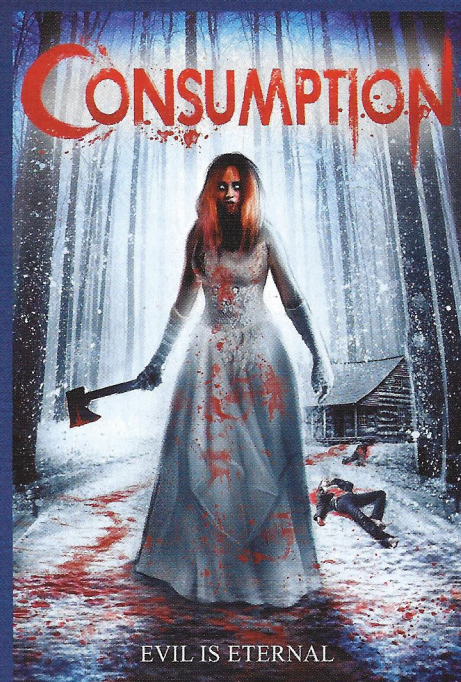
THE FILM:

Four friends take a retreat in the ever so snowy but quite beautiful mountains. All is not as it seems, as even from the off set, everything is a little bit weird and out of place. There is no real hi jinx or enthusiasm for a weekend break, as one might expect but also, as our young friends make their journey by car, factions could be seen and felt amongst the group.

Seth (David Lautman) who already looks half dead, tells a ghost story which does set the tone nicely that paves the way for misfortune and misadventure. When they arrive they meet the odd couple from hell and they interrogate the two girls Becca (Sarah Greyson) and Mallory (Arielle Brachfield) over their belief in god.

With snowy isolation, Seth being strangely overly protective over his suitcase and Eric (Chris Dorman) continuing with his drinking, the vacation is not going to be a good one and neither was the film.

Released by Wildeye and under a new title 'Consumption' (formerly known as Live-In-Fear) this first time feature from Brandon Scullion, doesn't offer much in the way of fear or scares. In the first half of the film, the storyline was quite confusing and I had no real understanding of where it was going or indeed what was going on.



We then had some odd intermission moment, which did break up the film but it lasted way too long. It was like this swirl of psychedelic colours that added no real purpose to the film. Truth be told, I thought it was the end of the film, which did offer some relief because my head was mushed. Fortunately, I skipped past and realised it was just some mad Scooby Doo moment.

The issue that I have with Consumption, is not that it is low budget or indeed that the actors looked bored, it was the music and the practical effects. It stands to reason that if someone has a hand chopped off, it makes sense that it is noticeably shorter in length than the other. The other thing that grated was some of the musical accompaniments, which included plucking of a guitar one string at a time.

I did like the storyline to a point but I feel that the execution was all wrong and that the actors were not feeling it quite as they should be. There was even an appearance from film veteran Maria Olsen and like the others, she was there in character but there was no substance to her role.

Rating: 🐻🐻🐻🐻🐻

SPECIAL FEATURES:

There's a rather nice Behind the Scenes Featurette on the disc along with an audio commentary from the films director. It's these kind of extras that finish off a disc rather nicely. There's a trailer for the film too.

Rating: 🐻🐻🐻🐻🐻

Consumption is released on US DVD on July 26th courtesy of Wildeye Releasing.

REVIEWED BY AMANDA HUNT

