



Bikini Bloodbath
Halloween: Unrated Director's Cut
Hatchet: Unrated Director's Cut
Hack!

What would Christmas be without a fresh selection of slasher flicks from which to choose gifts for loved ones? The tradition, I suppose, extends all the way back to pre-VHS days with **Silent Night, Deadly Night** and **Black Christmas**, both of which arrived in 1974. By now, of course, the release of horror movies isn't limited by time, season or appropriate behavior. A Christmas launch of **Bikini Bloodbath**, for example, seems every bit as reasonable as if it occurred on Memorial Day. There's no character more eternal than the perverted lesbian volley ball coach, and, as we know, slumber parties and shower scenes never go out of style. This one has plenty of both.

It also makes some kind of weird sense that the director's-cut edition of **Rob Zombie's Halloween** be released a week before the world celebrates Jesus' birthday. The former rocker's adaptation examines the forces that were responsible for **Michael Myers'** questionable behavior. The director's cut of **Hatchet** promised cultists a return to the good old days of horror films, when every swamp carried a deep, dark secret and no body part was safe from the cutlery.

Hack! invites viewers along on a field trip to a remote island, where horror-mad students are encouraged to participate in a deadly game of Survivor. To survive, they are forced to fall back on their knowledge of genre clichés. Like too many other contemporary horror movies, **Hack!** attempts to blend horror with comedy. Only students of slasher flicks, however, are likely to get the jokes. -- *Gary Dretzka*

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