Pop Culture Classics

"THE SCARLET WORM"

Everything can be considered an art form, even murder. An early 20th century gunman (well played by Aaron Stielstra, who also contributed an effective musical score) thinks of himself as a genius in that particular medium. And in a dusty wasteland, he's hankering to create his masterpiece. He believes himself to be a religious man, despite the ungodly horrors he perpetrates. With a contemporary edge and relevance, the film explores the moral ambiguity of prostitution and abortion. There's a lyrical quality to the violence depicted. Directed by Michael Fredianelli, with cinematography by Michael A. Martinez, this is perhaps the most visually arresting, thought-provoking western since Peter Fonda's "The Hired Hand." Made on a near-zero budget, by a band of passionate cult film enthusiasts, "The Scarlet Worm" is well worth viewing.

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