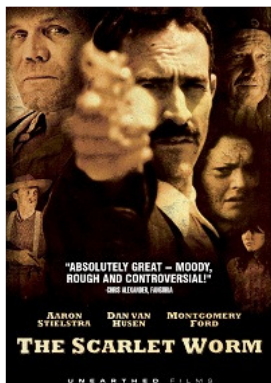




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## Scarlet Worm, The

REVIEWED BY: Tim Posted on 06/04/2012



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The western may very well be the most under utilized established genre in film (well perhaps aside from musicals). Fans get to sink their teeth into something only a handful of times at the most and it seems film makers have forgotten some of the more trashier elements of the genre's history and opt for a more Oscar friendly period drama piece with a few gunfights. is a return to the more pulpy roots of the genre, which if your tastes are anything like mine is a welcome change of pace.

The film concerns itself with a top of his game hired gun named Print (Aaron Stielstra) who likes to put a personal "poetic" touch to his assassinations. Print is given the task of killing a cat-house owner (Dan van Husen) who has been performing abortions on his knocked up ladies. Hearing this premise I was a little worried that this flick would have a batter-the-audience-with- ideology-hipster-media-studies type script. Thankfully it didn't and the makers steered clear of driving home some sort of "message".

I thought **The Scarlet Worm** was quite reminiscent of the post-**Young Guns** flicks of the late 80s where smaller studios put out a bunch of flicks to cash in on its success. These films incorporated elements of the traditional western with the 80s action flick. **Dances With Wolves** would eventually come along and change this style and the genre has largely followed that style for awhile now. **The Scarlet Worm** takes these lower budget flicks of that era's style and combines it with the grit and crudity of the HBO series **Deadwood**. I thought this was a winning combination that was both entertaining but grounded in reality enough to not be insulting to those who like a more realistic setting and tone to their westerns.

The cast as a whole performed well and there weren't too many ham-fisted moments that you come to expect from lower budget productions . Nice to see veterans Montgomery Ford and Dan can Husen on the screen again too. My only complaint was the contrast of the film which I thought was far too bright and would've looked better if it was turned down and made darker. That minor complaint aside **The Scarlet Worm** is a class production utilizing the most out of its small budget. A lot of directors really should take note as this is how it's done.

**The Scarlet Worm** is a solid flick that fans of quality independent cinema and western aficionados will enjoy. I for one enjoyed this approach to the genre a lot more than the recent slicker Hollywood productions because it got the vibe of the classic era spaghetti flicks and pulp novels down as well as incorporating elements of the modern era. Michael Fredianelli really excelled with this one considering the small budget. It just goes to show you don't need millions of dollars to make a good film. I'll be looking forward to seeing future productions.

The extras include a few different trailers, audio commentaries with pretty much everyone involved with making the film and a behind the scenes making of (or perhaps it could be more appropriately goofing off!). There's only Spanish subtitles weirdly enough. Just the right amount of extras really no overkill or filler. The disc boasts a really nice 16:9 high definition transfer too.

DISC DETAILS:

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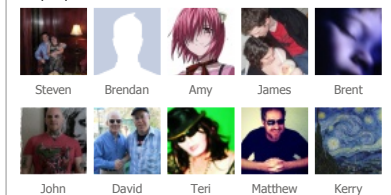
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DIRECTOR(S): Michael Fredianelli | COUNTRY: 2011 | YEAR 0000 | DISTRIBUTOR(S): Unearthed Films / MVD Visual | RUNNING TIME: 93 minutes | ASPECT RATIO: 16:9 | REGION: ALL / NTSC | DISCS: 1

**EXTRAS:**

- Audio Commentary
- Behind The Scenes
- Trailers

**RECOMMENDED VIEWING:**

- [Deadwood](#)
- [Django](#)
- [A Fistful of Dollars](#)
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