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Box Office Totals.

Weekend Box Office Estimates, May 10-12

1. Iron Man 3	\$72.5 M
2. The Great Gatsby	\$51.1 M
3. Pain and Gain	\$5.0 M
4. Peeples	\$4.9 M
5. 42	\$4.7 M

Source: Box Office Mojo
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THE SCARLET WORM (2011)

Published by [David Carter](#) on 2013/5/1 (47 reads)

Directed by Michael Fredianelli
Review by David Carter



Released by Unearthed Films
Running Time: 93 minutes
Rating: Not Rated
Color format: Color
Audio/Subtitles: 2.0 Dolby Digital English/Spanish Subtitles
Region Code: 1, NTSC
Aspect Ratio: Widescreen 2.35:1
16:9 Enhanced: Yes
Special Features: Two audio commentary tracks, behind the scenes
Trailer Online: [Yes](#)



Short Version: Super-violent western black comedy

Few periods in American history have been as inspirational to artists as that of the "old west." The combination of lawlessness, exploration, and innovation were unprecedented in American and perhaps world history, and it allows artists to bring to it whatever ideas they would like. There are western romances, comedies, and even musicals, but the genre to which it lends its name is a mixture of action and drama that often focuses on the difficult moral decisions faced by those living in the period. These ideas are certainly at the forefront of THE SCARLET WORM, now available on DVD and Blu Ray from Unearthed Films.



Print works as a problem-solver for rancher Mr. Paul. Print's standard method of solving problems typically involves brutal murders, but he thinks of himself as something of an artist. Print likes to bring a poetic flair to his murders, which allows him to view himself as more than simply the hired killer that he is. He has a crisis of conscience after his latest job ends with him stuffing the corpse of his victim inside of a cow and the grotesque tableau he creates brings the reality of what does into focus.

He has little time to reflect on it, as Mr. Paul approaches him with his most challenging task to date. He's charged with assassinating Kley, an ultra-religious brothel owner who performs brutal abortions on the girls. Further complicating the job is the fact that Paul wants Print to train Lee, an unpredictable and uncultured ranch hand, in the ways of being an assassin. Print and Lee go undercover in the brothel while Print seeks to establish an artful way of committing the job. His methodical approach backfires, however, and Print is forced to reevaluate his methods and his entire life.



THE SCARLET WORM plays with several western tropes, but the most notable of these is that of the "gentleman killer." Print completely embodies this archetype, fancying himself as more of a poet than an assassin and refusing to do a job until he can devise an artistic flourish for it. While we've seen this before, SCARLET WORM is the first film that really pushes this character to its limits. Print is forced to make alternate plans when his patented methods fail, and we get to see the man behind the "art," a real person rather than a stereotype. Thanks to an incredibly strong performance by Aaron Stielstra as Print, this character examination is intriguing enough to carry the film through the familiar waters of its plot.

I was very pleased when I received this DVD from Unearthed as they've been one of my favorite labels for a while and their releases have slowed some. That absence has not lessened the quality of their output at all, though, as SCARLET WORM is as solid a DVD as you'll find from any source. Commentary tracks are always more

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interesting on smaller independent films than blockbusters, and the two included here are no exception. THE SCARLET WORM makes an excellent night's viewing for western fans who are more interested in decisions and consequences than gunfights. There is plenty of the latter though, so there's something here for everyone.

Bond Editor
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