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A crazy clown and his demented daughter unleash gore galore through the furious swinging of his mighty and massive cleaver and her head-bashing hammer. Together, the two are a formidable threat and, as a clown and clown's kooky kid, they do their job, leaving their, er, "fans" in pieces. Director Marcus Koch nimbly applies liberal doses of horror and humor, making a melding of matters, fusing the elements in a freakish and finely balanced way. The humor lends the film a great degree of its dementia, which heightens the horror. Koch deftly plays one genre influence off the other, bringing them together, as well as against – but not in opposition to – each other. The horror makes the humor more manic and crazed and the humor, oroborous fashion, does

likewise for the horror. The lunacy is balanced by a grim seriousness that grounds what might otherwise be campy elements but here are instead ghastly markers of maniac minds. The finely balanced production comes at the viewer through an equally delicate balancing act that rustles up a cinematographic sheen anything but delicate but bristling with beauty. The gritty, textured look does wonders for the claustrophobic atmosphere of 100 TEARS, but also demonstrates a keen eye for lighting, composition and color scheme. The visual palette of the film is dirty and pretty and plays a vital part in its flying-colors success. The clown and his simple rather than garish makeup are a marvelous character, thanks in great part to a strong performance, one among several. Solid (and unique and interesting ...) characters crafted from good writing and delivered with believable performances help sell the story. A dwarf, a cute chick reporter, a big and likeable dude reporter – both from a tabloid – in addition to the psycho clown and his equally sicko progeny, all make for a rather rich cast for peopling this film. Colorful characters, a colorful (symbolically and literal) visual style, striking gore sequences and a rather novel story slash backstory are among the heavy hitters in the roster of Reasons Why 100 TEARS Works So Well. It's a strangely endearing film for being of such a hideous nature. I mean that in a good way.

[Note: This review is also published at www.theblood-shed.com]

www.mvdvisual.com

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