



THE GORE MET

MENU: AMERICAN GUINEA PIG

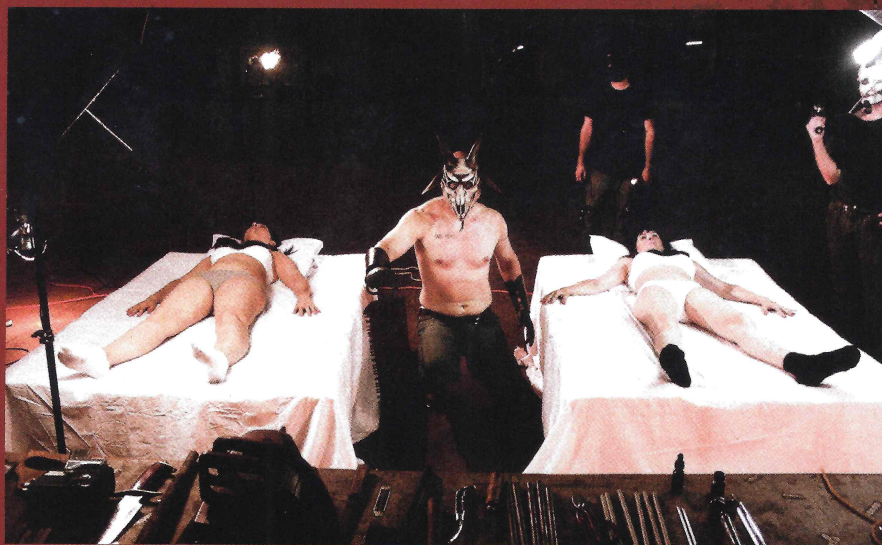
The Holy Grail of video tape trading back in the late '80s and '90s the Japanese *Guinea Pig* films. Sourcing copies that weren't a half dozen generations away from the original JHV tapes was next to impossible. Needless to say, it was a red letter day when I was handed a first-generation copy of the ultimate film in the series, *Guinea Pig 2: Flower of Flesh and Blood* (1985), by my partner in piracy whose identity I cannot disclose.

The hunt for quality copies ended in 2005 when Stephen Biro, a video store owner in Miami, acquired the North American rights to the films and launched Uearthed Films to release them officially.

"My partner actually worked with the company over in Japan so the rights weren't hard to get," reveals Biro. "Unfortunately, if you didn't grab copies of that release, you're forever doomed to eBay. Trying to re-release them will never happen. The actors are actually famous now and it brings them great shame due to the child murders that happened during [that time]."

Biro is referring to the discovery of a copy of one of the *Guinea Pig* films in the massive VHS collection of notorious Japanese serial killer Tsutomu Miyazaki, known as the "Little Girl Murderer" for killing, cannibalizing and molesting the corpses of four girls between the ages of four and seven in 1988 and 1989. Unable to secure the necessary rights for a re-release, Biro decided to go ahead with his own series: *American Guinea Pig*.

"I've been trying to work with the company JHV in Japan to make a new series ever since we picked up the rights back in 2002," Biro relates. "The main guy actually retired and said 'Fuck it' and gave us the rights. We are working with them, but they want no part of it. Several of the producers don't want credit or anything since they knew where I am going to take the series."



American Guinea Pig: Bouquet of Guts and Gore is the first entry, which Biro wrote and directed. Take it from me: it is without a doubt the most brutal gore film ever made.

In the opening sequence, a man in a gas mask abducts two women after setting off a gas bomb in the back of their car. The film then cuts to three men who don creepy papier-mâché masks and descend into a stark basement where the women are chained to beds placed before a table piled with tools and surgical implement. The victims are then injected with a paralyzing drug and dosed with LSD before being told by their principal tormentor (YouTube star Eight The Chosen One, a.k.a. Eigh8t The Chosen One) that they can expect nothing less than to be "systematically tortured to death while being filmed for our benefactors."

What ensues is a raw cavalcade of carnage shot by underground legend Jim Van Bebber (*The Manson Family*, *Deadbeat at Dawn*) in a style ripped straight out of the '70s.

"I see many new films since I run Uearthed," says Biro, "and, to be honest, so many people are trying to go overboard and show pee, poo,

cum, cutting, vomit and such, just to get a rise. *American Guinea Pig* is all about the gore. It might get twisted and be too much for a lot of people to handle."

That is an understatement courtesy of the extreme gore effects from *100 Tears* director Marcus Koch, who is signed to direct *Bloodshock*, the second film in the series, which will also be written by Biro.

"He can direct actual emotional scenes and story lines," he says about Koch, "so it makes sense to have our FX wizard direct the next installment. You can even say it's the *American Guinea Pig* love story!"

Bouquet of Guts and Gore will be released by Uearthed Films on July 23rd in two DVD versions. The single disc will feature "drunken commentary" by Biro and Marcus, and a second track with Biro and Van Bebber. Other features include a music video from metal band Perdition Temple, a stills gallery and behind-the-scenes material. The three-disc limited edition will contain a soundtrack CD, a 105 minute-long making-of with a ton of extra gore effects and behind the scenes shenanigans, cut scenes from the movie, unused scenes, a 25-minute-long FX preproduction video, more uncut scenes and a massive stills gallery. You get all this, plus a twelve-page booklet written by Scott Gabbey of *Ultra Violent*. Brace yourselves! 🍷

