

**The Mind's Eye**

The amount of technology and film-making vision currently recreating and rehashing 1980's horror cinema could make your head explode. With very few exceptions to the rule, *The Mind's Eye*, written and directed by Joe Begos (*Almost Human*), has found acceptance, having been embraced by fans, peers, and film festivals.

The film tells the tale of Zack Connors, played by the talented Graham Skipper, as he keeps a low profile, searching for the ones he has lost and drifting across the Rhode Island landscape until he is picked up by the authorities. Once he is in custody, the infamous Dr. Slovak (John Speridakos) offers a chance to help him control his vast mental powers. Zack accepts and is taken to a facility where he learns that a woman he has been searching for, Rachel (Lauren Ashley Carter), is also being held under the same circumstances. Coming to grips and learning to control his power, he must stop Dr. Slovak's experiments, escape with Rachel, and confront the madness in a larger-than-life telekinetic battle that will blow viewers' heads right off!

With a thin story surrounding the goeey inside of practical and visual FX, impactful makeup, over-the-top performances, and really dedicated (possibly insane) shooting conditions and sets, *The Mind's Eye* proves that Begos is a rising force in the horror landscape with so much respect for the influences that have brought him here. It is just balls-out FUN, in the vein of classics like *Scanners*, *Firestarter*, and more. These films have enabled a creative mind like Begos to continue his journey

to entertain, push the limits, and cultivate his passion. 🔥



by Jay Kay



**Jack Goes Home**

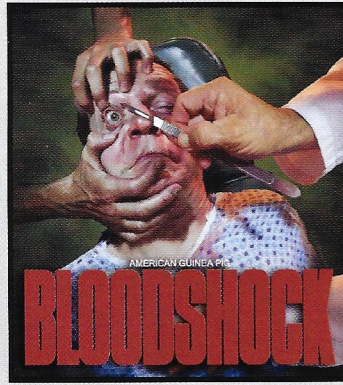
Jack, a rising Los Angeles publisher, goes back to his home following the tragic death of his father. He is met by his mother, played by Lin Shaye (*Insidious*), a venomous woman with a violent temper. Jack, played by Rory Caulkin (*Signs*), is trying to settle his father's affairs and piece together a largely clouded recollection of his childhood. As the layers of truth are peeled away, Jack's haunted by a spirit that leads him to revelations that shake the foundation of his being. Rory's performance is amazing ... an outwardly stoic man who connects with his emotions as he is losing his mind. Lin's portrayal of Jack's mother is equally powerful.

Thomas Dekker (*Terminator: the Sarah Conner Chronicles*) wrote and directed *Jack Goes Home*, which is a story that found its inspiration in Dekker dealing with the loss of his own father. The arc of this film is slow (purposefully) and full of self-realizing pain. The use of SFX is sparse, but, when it is used, it's very effective. This film draws its power from its visual impact and cinematic value. It is shot beautifully. The relationship between the story and the use of the camera as a storytelling tool is sublime. A cerebral horror film, *Jack Goes Home*, is "artsy" in a Kubrick kind-of-way. The descent of man into madness is portrayed in a beautiful manner with horrific themes. This film requires your attention and an open mind, and, in the end, Dekker has proven to be a brave

filmmaker and bold storyteller. 🔥



by Jason Hignite



**American Guinea Pig: Bloodshock**

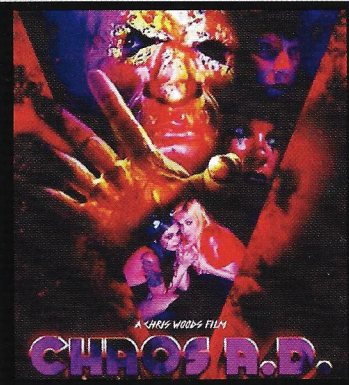
The follow up to *Bouquet of Guts and Gore*, Unearthed Films' *Bloodshock* tells the story of a hell of penance, addiction, and torment. With relatively little exposition, a man played by brilliant cult actor Dan Ellis is taken and put through different levels of sensory-inducing torturous activities by a mysterious doctor who looks to experience the sensations and pleasure of suffering. As the man sits in his white room and deals with the repercussions of the experiments, he is passed notes by a mystery patient (Lillian McKinney) in the next room. As their communication grows, so does their non-verbal bond. Their destiny forms through each terrifying experience within the caged walls.

Watching this film in different stages, it shows what art truly can be under such macabre understanding. This film succeeds on every level of craftsmanship, from the incredible and haunting location to the intimacy of the cinematography within each set and the realism of the practical effects and makeup work that create a bond with the sensory-inducing sound/score. The complete opposite of *Bouquet of Guts and Gore*, *Bloodshock* has a more well-crafted story, powerful performances, and smart editing that puts this monochromatic-stylized puzzle together to create a pallet that is lush and truly horrifying. Take the time to savor the brilliance that is *Bloodshock*, one

of the best horror films of my 2016. 🔥



by Jay Kay



**Chaos A.D.**

As raw as an exposed nerve and smacked over and over until it explodes, the latest entry from Chris Woods entitled *Chaos A.D.* is a graphic, highly sexual gore fest. Woods pays homage to the twisted pleasure of 1970s and 1980s low-budget, underground sleaze. This violent trip down a spiked rabbit hole is based around an organization known as Chaos A.D. The group abducts a politician, a house wife, party goers, and a family. The gang led by Bytch, with a quartet of insane monsters, creates an inferno by putting each captive through games of explicit torture, sexual abuse, and murder. With each victim being pushed beyond their limits, we learn that sins become the fuel for the sick and damned.

I had the disturbing pleasure to experience this film at Slaughter in Syracuse. Witnessing the visceral and unhinged power on the screen really blew me away! The saturating feel of the colors giving a surreal canvas for the over-the-top sexuality, violence, and death made me think back to early works by Hooper and Craven. While the film is extremely underground, raw and low budget, it features some distinctive and well-crafted villains, as well as some strong female characters. The film lacks in development on several fronts but is laced with emotion that is amplified with the '80s reflective score. Hats off to Woods for this despicable treat, perfect for the darker side of All Hallows' Eve. 🔥



by Jay Kay