



JULY 6 - 12, 2006

Puppets Who Kill

(VSC, 2003) created by John Pattison, Steve Westren, w/ Dan Redican, Bruce Hunter. Rating: **NNN**

Puppets are so cute. some of my favourite moments: Dan (Dan Redican), the human social worker who runs a halfway house for homicidal puppets, posing as a corpse so he can nail his beautiful necrophile cousin; Bill the serial killer ventriloquist's dummy happily dismembering a body in the bathtub; Rocko (Bruce Hunter) the rage-fuelled doggie getting a federally funded hand job from a beautiful nurse; Cuddles the depressed comfort doll possessed by a demon; Buttons the perpetually priapic teddy bear in the clutches of yet another pair of psycho lesbians, this time hellbent on draining him with a vacuum cleaner. It's very funny, relentlessly raunchy and burdened by absolutely no socially redeeming value. Even Dan, the show's nominal moral centre, is bursting with wickedness.

The puppetry is excellent. The improv moments and outtakes under the closing credits are as sharp as any of the scripted material. The ability to improvise is appreciated because "it's hard to think up jokes" – about the only sensible remark Redican and Hunter make on their rambling commentary.

The rest of the show is a thrift-shop mess. Nevertheless, it has picked up a string of awards, including a Bronze Rose from Switzerland's venerable Rose d'Or Light Entertainment Festival.

It's the kind of show that makes me proud to be Canadian.

Extras Thirteen half-hour episodes, Redican and Hunter commentary on

two episodes, cast and crew bios, TV interview. Full frame.