

# NIGHT TERRORS



ISSUE #4

THE SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY NIGHT  
FRANCHISE RETROSPECTIVE!

CHRISTMAS 2014 EDITION

You've made it through  
**WELCOME!!!**  
now try and survive  
Christmas.

**THIS IS THE CHRISTMAS EDITION OF THE  
NIGHT TERRORS E-ZINE. IN THIS ISSUE, I  
TAKE A LOOK AT THE "SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY  
NIGHT" SERIES. DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS,  
THIS ISSUE WILL HAVE LESS REVIEWS THAN  
NORMAL. I WAS WANTING TO GET THIS OUT  
BEFORE CHRISTMAS DAY, THUS I COULD NOT  
FILL OUT THE ISSUE LIKE I NORMALLY DO.  
HOPE YOU ENJOY WHAT IS PRESENTED!**

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Issue #4 / Christmas 2014 edition

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# SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY NIGHT

You've made it through  
Halloween,  
now try and survive  
Christmas.

The movie starts out on Christmas Eve, 1974, where a young Billy is with his family (baby brother and parents) to visit grandpa who resides in a mental institution. This plot point establishes that mental illness runs in the family but also sets the tone. While at the institution, grandpa is in a catatonic state. The family leaves Billy alone with gramps while they talk to a doctor. Grandpa suddenly turns and looks at Billy, sort of signifying that he has been fucking with the doctors and actually is aware. Grandpa starts telling Billy the horrors of Christmas and Santa Claus, to warn him to stay away from Santa! This startles Billy a great deal. On the ride home from the



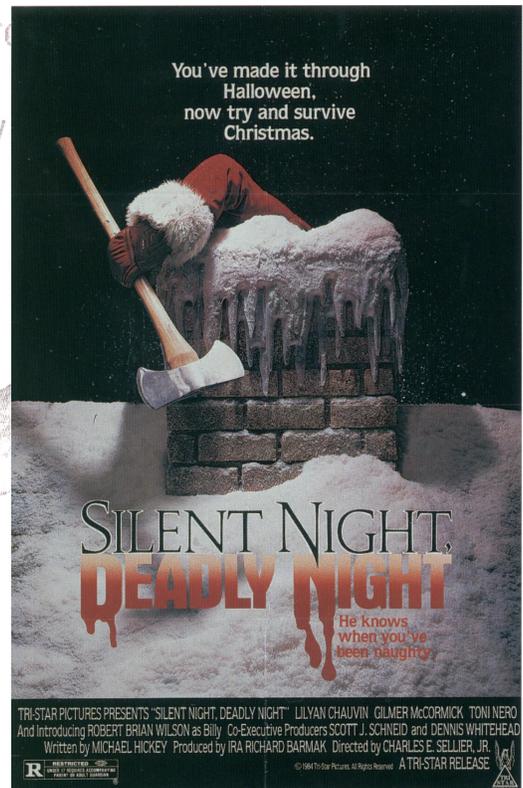
institution, Billy

tells his parents of the warning that Grandpa told him and before you know it, the family comes across a Santa Claus waving his hands in the middle of the road. This is a set up for a burglary that turns into murder.

Young Billy watches as his dad is shot multiple times and his mom was stripped and killed. The

Santa killer calls out for Billy but does not find him. The movie then jumps ahead some years when Billy is in an orphanage (with his younger brother but the movie focuses on Billy). Billy seems to be normal except around Christmas time. Trying to snap him out of his behavior, the head nun, Mother Superior, puts Billy through various methods of discipline. She also verbally goes after him with talks of naughtiness. So

you have the traumatic murder of his parents from a Santa Claus killer, a discipline happy nun and a family history of mental illness all contributing to the mindset of Billy. It's no wonder he ends up fucked up!!!



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The movie jumps to when Billy hits the age of 18. One of the nuns at the orphanage, Sister Margaret (whom looks after Billy), helps him land a job at a local toy store. When Billy starts his job, in true 80's fashion, we get a montage! Yes, a montage! It had been awhile since I last saw this movie and had totally forgot about this scene. Definitely had me smiling. As time goes on, Christmas is coming up. Billy's attitude at work starts to change and he sort of becomes an ass to his co-workers. The store's Santa Claus had an injury come up which forced the owner to find a replacement. And who does he choose, why Billy of course!! One of the best scenes of the movie is when Billy, as Santa, has a young girl sit on his lap who is being a bit antsy. Billy basically traumatizes her with what he says and she goes off crying to her mother. I know the scene is meant to show how demented he has become but it comes off a bit campy. Later that night the store has a Christmas party and alcohol is brought into the equation. During the party, the toy store



boss tells Billy that he needs to go out and be Santa. Billy takes this as he needs to fulfill his destiny of being the punisher of those who are naughty. He heads towards the back where two co-workers are kissing. The guy gets into it a bit too much and starts ripping off the woman's shirt, resembling the same thing that happened to Billy's mom when he was younger. Billy confronts

them and his transformation to a psychotic killer commences! He kills both of them and begins killing the rest of his co-workers. From there, Billy terrorizes the town. One of the most famous scenes from this movie involves Linnea Quigley getting impaled on a set of deer antlers!



Towards the end of the film, Billy brings us full circle and heads to the orphanage to take care of Mother Superior. The police arrive in time to shoot and kill Billy. We then see Billy's younger brother who is still at the orphanage. This leaves the movie open to a sequel. SNDN is a fun exploitation movie. It moves at a brisk pace until the last quarter of the movie where it seems to crawl a bit. The gore is decent and DVD/BDs of the movie restores the cut footage that was missing in the theatrical run. The reason the movie is such a cult classic is because of the ad campaign that angered parents back when it was released. People just don't seem to understand that controversy equals money and that is exactly what happened. The people complaining back when it was released would have been better off if they did not even protest the movie, letting it get lost into the flood of other slashers at the time. The movie's success would bring us 5 more movies (so far).

## SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY NIGHT 2

Part 2 picks up many years after the first one. Billy's younger brother, Ricky, is now grown up and in a mental institution (mental illness is a problem in the family after all!) and is talking to yet another psychiatrist. He tells the doctor his life story, of which 40 minutes of the movie is recapping the first film! Yes folks, it is one of those sequels. One of



these days I plan on doing an issue on sequels that use stock footage from their original film as there are quite a few of them that do this! Fortunately the footage they use are mostly violent and nudity filled. The filmmakers know who their audience is and go the exploitation route. When the first part of the movie is over, we move into the proper sequel. Ricky informs the doctor that after Billy was killed, the orphanage shut down and



he was placed into a foster home that does not celebrate Christmas. For all practical purposes, Ricky had a normal life. Then one day, in his late teens as he was walking a back road, he came across a couple who was having a picnic. He sees the man get rough with the woman before stopping and heading back to his vehicle for another beer. This flips a switch in Ricky's head and he

enacts his first kill. However he lets the woman go free, whom actually thanks Ricky in the process for taking care of her boyfriend!! The next flashback goes to a confrontation Ricky has with a hustler outside his workplace which results in an umbrella killing! LOL These incidents are not what led Ricky into the insane asylum but rather the next flashback that involves Ricky and a girl he hooked up with. During this scene we see the girl's ex boyfriend coming into the picture and eventually Ricky has enough. He murders the man with electrified jumper cables and then kills his girlfriend in the process. This causes Ricky to go full fledged crazy and he starts killing everyone he comes across, except a small little girl. I am surprised at this as the movie is pretty damn sleazy. Every scene results in a murder and almost half of them involves some kind of sex/nudity situation! After recapping all these stories, we come to the present and see that Ricky has killed his psychiatrist. Now to fulfill his brother's mission, Ricky sets off to kill Mother Superior. Unlike his brother Billy, Ricky succeeds in this venture. Afterwards, the police catch up with Ricky in Mother Superior's apartment and shoots him dead....So we are lead to believe.

A lot of people give this movie shit for it's extensive use of footage from the first movie. As I have mentioned before, a lot of horror sequels has done this, but 40 minutes of the movie dedicated to the original is quite a bit.



10 minutes at the most should have been sufficient but it was a

cheap way to fill out a movie's time length. The second half of the movie is non stop killing. Hell, the first part is too, but just from the first movie! This is a slasher in it's most primitive and pure form, just nudity/sex and kills!



## SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY NIGHT 3

We are lead to believe from the last movie that Ricky is dead, well guess what, he's not! Why would anyone want to keep a mass murderer alive is beyond me and what they did here is crazy. Ricky, who is now played by Bill Moseley (!), has a glass dome over his brain and is in a coma!!! I am not making this shit up. He sort of resembles a Frankenstein's monster. The movie's main actress is Laura. She is a blind woman who has a psychic bond with Ricky. She interacts with him via dreams, sees his thoughts, etc... She has a "special gift" that lets her communicate with people who are comatose. Laura is leaving the hospital for home during Christmas vacation. After she leaves, a drunken Santa Claus stumbles into Ricky's room, which obviously causes Ricky to wake up from his coma! He kills the Santa and leaves the hospital, following the footsteps of Laura. Believe it or not, Ricky actually makes it to Laura's grandmom's house before she does?! Not sure how that happened. For the next third of the movie, nothing. Literally nothing happens that moves the story forward. We see Laura's doctor riding around a police car, looking to find Ricky. This is very similar to Loomis and Brackett from Halloween. Then you have Laura, her brother and his girlfriend at grandma's house

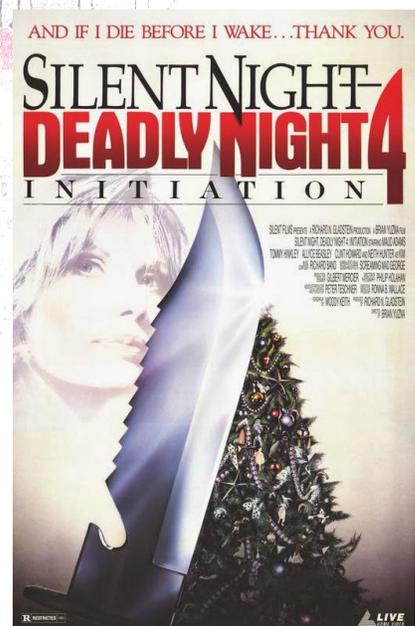
You've made it through



wondering where Grannie is at! Ricky finally shows his face and goes after the three. Laura over comes Ricky and thus ends the storyline with the character. The film moves at such a snail's pace, there is no tension to be found. The death scenes are nothing like the previous films. The sleaze factor is no longer present. The whole movie is just a bore. I had watched this movie a few month's ago and when I decided to do a respective on the entire series, I really dreaded having to go through this movie again! Lowest of the series, you won't miss a beat skipping this one!

## SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY NIGHT 4

From this point on, the movies in the series have no connection with each other and are only SNDN in name only. After part 3, perhaps that is a good thing! The title to this one is actually "Initiation: SNDN 4". The movie starts off with a woman jumping off a rooftop while on fire. How she burned up and why she jumped is the mystery that sets up the story for the rest of the movie. At home, Kim sees this on the news and is



fascinated by it, thinking it is a case of human spontaneous combustion. She works with a local newspaper doing the calendar and classified ads. She wants to be an investigative reporter and pushes to do a follow up story to this bizarre suicide. Asking her boss for permission to do the story, she gets ignored and the story goes to her boyfriend instead. Furious, Kim decides to do it herself and on her own time. She heads over to the crime scene and starts looking around for clues. While there, she goes into a



book store at the bottom of the building that is ran by Fima. Kim picks up a book on spontaneous combustion but Fima also gives Kim a book titled "Initiation of the Virgin Goddess." This book is the catalyst of which this whole movie is about. As we find out, Fima is the head witch of her coven, whom are based out of that particular building and wants to use Kim as part of their rituals.

As you can tell, this movie has nothing to do at all with the previous films. The only thing it has in common is that it used STOCK footage from part 3 for a scene (being played on TV)!!! Yes, it appears to be a tradition in the series to use stock footage from a previous movie. Even though I did not mention it, part 3 did use footage from the first movie a few times! Thus it continues with this one. There is also a character by the name of Ricky that is played by Clint Howard of all people. This Ricky is not the same person from the previous three films, just a coincidence, perhaps a nod. Reggie Bannister

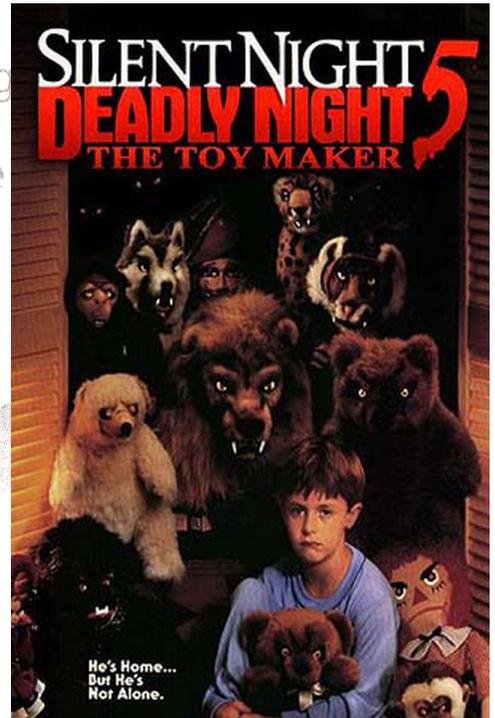
plays Kim's boss, Eli. Reggie is known for his "Reggie" character off the Phantasm films, so it was cool to see him here. The movie is directed by Brian Yuzna, who directed the two Re-animator sequels and the score is by Richard Band. These two have worked together before and if you seen those movies, this one kind of feels the same. The effects in the movie by Screaming Mad George is pretty neat. They have that late 80s early 90s feel to them. Overall, the movie should have just been



called "Initiation" and left the SNDN name off it. The movie barely touches on the fact it is Christmas and since it takes place in Los Angeles, no snow is on the ground. It is a decent time waster and worth checking out once.

# SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY NIGHT 5

You've made it through  
Halloween,  
now try and survive  
Christmas.



SNDN 5, the Toy Maker, is yet another standalone entry in the series. This story starts with young Derek. Late at night, he goes to find his mom, only to see her in a sexual situation with her husband. So Derek leaves the room and heads downstairs. He opens the front door to find a present signed to him but warning him not to open until Christmas. So what else does he do!? He starts to open the present! While opening the present, his dad (whom we later find out in the movie is his step-dad) comes down stairs and scolds Derek for opening the door late at night. Derek goes up stairs and watches his (step) dad open up the gift. Out comes an innocent enough looking ball but that soon turns into an evil Santa toy that proceeds to suffocate the man, eventually causing him to trip and fall onto a fire iron. This event traumatizes Derek and he begins to withdraw from all around him and will not talk to anyone. Sarah, Derek's mom, decides to take him to a local toy store to get a present, hoping that will help him along. Starting at the toy store, we are introduced to three characters, of which two are red herrings. All three characters act weird and the movie will lead you to believe that any one of them could be the person causing trouble through out the film. There is the toy store owner, Joe Petto (played by Mickey Rooney!), his awkward son Pino and a third mysterious character that lurks from the outside circle of the main characters. It is later found out that third character is an old boyfriend of Sarah's and is also Derek's true father. The movie is a killer toy movie, similar to the killer doll films of the 80s (Puppetmaster comes to mind). It does not take much thought to figure out that Pino (think pinocchio) is not human. He is actually the son that Joe never had thus built. As is the case, Pino becomes angry with Joe, whom can not fully accept him, and that causes Pino to lash out in violence. Decent movie though nothing special. I do want to give kudos to the death scene gag featuring the babysitter and her boyfriend! Watch the movie for that scene if nothing else.



You've made it through



## SILENT NIGHT

We come to the final movie in the series, "Silent Night." This was suppose to be a remake to the original film but is actually one in name only. The movie takes place in Cryer, Wisconsin, a small town that has seen it's better days. Mysterious presents are showing up at various houses and people start to die. The killer is dressed up as Santa Claus with a clear mask covering his eyes. The main character, Deputy Aubrey Bradimore (Jaime King of My Bloody Valentine 3D), is trying to find the killer while the town itself is flooded with fake Santas due to a Christmas parade. The sheriff, played by Malcolm McDowell, is a hard yet smart ass character whom sort of undermines Bradimore at times. Unlike the previous entries, the identity of this Santa is not known until the very end. There is a short segment during the middle of the movie where an "urban legend" is told of a man, who dressed up as Santa, decided to kill his adulterous wife. As the viewer finds out at the end of the movie, this was not an urban legend but actually happened. The son of said man is the killer and was enacting revenge on those he thought were responsible for his father's death. Not as memorable as Billy and Ricky's motives, it sort of feels like something thrown in at the last minute. The movie is a fun ride, has brutal kills and moves at a brisk pace. Like the original, it starts to drag a little towards the end but that's just nitpicking.

The visuals are pretty nice with lots of Christmas-y lighting washing over various scenes. There are several nods to the original such as the antler impalement and the catatonic grandpa warning his grandson about Christmas, but the original did both scenes much better. The grandpa scene in this movie is so out of place that it should



You've made it through



have been cut out. The antler impalement at least makes sense in the scene it is used in. Jaime King is great in this movie but Malcolm McDowell hams it up. Not Anthony Hopkins (in Red Dragon) ham, but gets kind of close. I enjoyed the "remake" and recommend it.

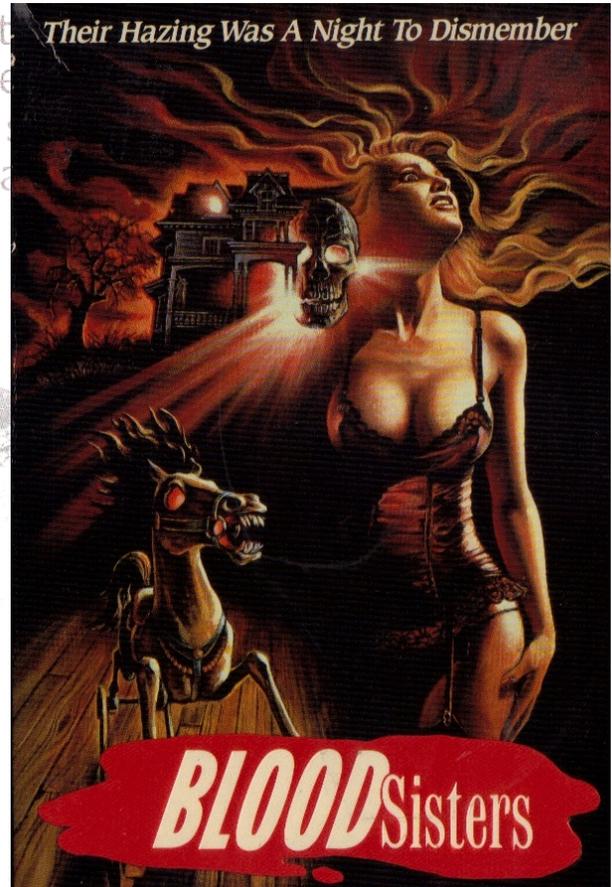


Final view of the series is that it is an "ok" franchise. About half were good the other half were so - so. The original is still the best in my opinion but I did obtain a new found appreciation for the sequel. I recommend getting the double feature DVD of the first two (I hear the blu-ray of the original is pretty bad quality wise and on par with the DVD) and the blu-ray of the remake.

-bP

The Quick Word on....  
**BLOOD SISTERS**

Synopsis: Eight beautiful, sexy sorority girls attempt to brave the night in an abandoned haunted whorehouse. Unbeknownst to them, their boyfriends have rigged the house to scare the ladies witless. However, the old house seems to have a mind of its own. Our heroines face a triple-threat; the increasingly more dangerous practical jokes, a psychotic murderer and the brothel itself!



Quick Word: "Blood Sisters" is a film about eight college girls who must brave a night in a local haunted mansion before becoming sorority sisters. The house is actually haunted to everyone's surprise. The mansion used to be a brothel and thirteen years earlier, a double homicide took place. Ghosts of former prostitutes still haunt the hallways (though not sure why all these ghosts are around as their murders were not shown, I guess one could assume there was more than two murders in the past, just not shown in the flashback sequence). The wannabe sorority sisters must spend the entire night in the mansion and do a scavenger hunt. While on the hunt, a killer emerges and what you have is a mixture of supernatural and slasher film elements!

The film is your typical 80s slasher, though the supernatural element is a nice surprise. However, it's still filled with bad acting, some gore and of course T&A. If you dig 80s slashers, it's worth checking out at least once.





## YONGARY: MONSTER FROM THE DEEP

An A-bomb test in the middle east causes earth quakes to occur and they are heading towards Seoul, Korea! The earth quakes are the result of an awoken creature by the name of Yongary. This monster is Korea's answer to Godzilla and is pretty much a rip off of said monster. Yongary does have a charm about him that makes this movie a must see IMO. The idea that Yongary consumes oil, which causes him to do a "drunken"(?) dance is quite hilarious especially when you see him do it! The effects are way below what the Japanese studios put out before hand but they get the job done. MGM has presented Yongary in a restored widescreen format! Most of us have probably seen the movie in a dirty looking pan and scan version but this DVD features the film in it's 2.35 glory and clean as a whistle! Unfortunately this is the US edit as the original Korean version is still considered lost. If you like giant monsters, it is worth picking this up. The movie is double featured with "Konga."



There are no "Midnite Movie Fun Facts" listed on the case for this movie.

There would be yet another Yongary movie in 2001 when the film "Reptilian" was released. While I tried to enjoy that movie, it was just bad in the sense that it was not fun to watch but rather a chore. This is too bad but hopefully we will see Yongary return yet again!

## BUDGET DVD MINI-REVIEW:

name: **Slaughter High**

company: Lionsgate

info: Another 80s slasher! Poor Marty is the subject of cruelty from his class mates. One joke goes too far and puts Marty into the hospital due to multiple burns. Flash forward to years later, these same class mates get invited to a class reunion. Once they arrive at the school, their party turns into a slaughter! Typical 80s slasher full of boobs and blood! Gotta love it!!! Film is presented in it's uncut form.



video: From a video master, presented in full frame ratio. The image gets dark at times to a point it gets hard to see. Despite the flaws, it's an enjoyable ride! C

audio: Better than the video, but that's not saying much. B-

extras: Part of the 8 film Lionsgate Horror Collection 2.

overall: Great slasher, shitty presentation. However, the collection is well worth the \$5 as it features other good films!



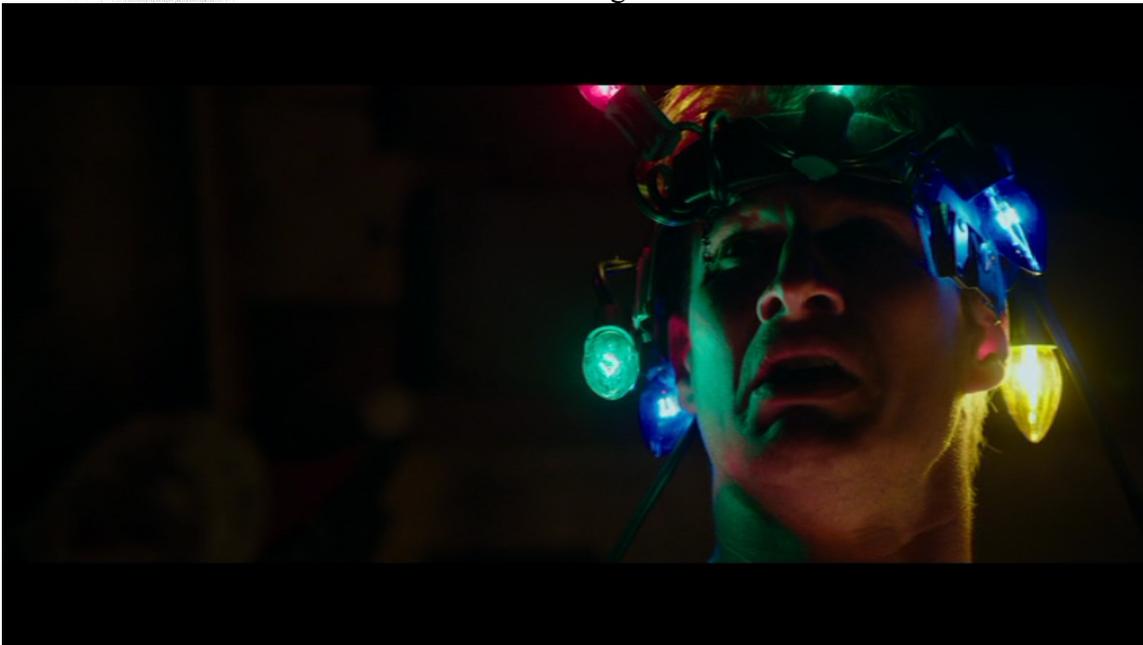
Been an awesome first year for NIGHT TERRORS! See you next year!!!

You've made it through  
Halloween,  
now try to survive

Random shots:  
Yongary



Silent Night



Next Issue due out in the early Spring time.  
I plan on making it a fairly large size issue, hoping to push the 30 page mark! -bP

**ISSUE 004**