

NIGHT TERRORS

A woman with a shocked expression and blood smeared on her face is the central focus. She is in a dark, claustrophobic space, possibly a tunnel or a narrow hallway, illuminated by a sickly green light. The walls are textured and appear to be made of stone or concrete. The overall atmosphere is one of intense horror and suspense.

ISSUE #8

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

MY BLOODY VALENTINE

GREETINGS!

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF 2016! I DECIDED TO WAIT UNTIL FEBRUARY SO I CAN COVER THE VALENTINE'S DAY HOLIDAY. WITH THIS HOLIDAY WE HAVE THREE MOVIES I WANTED TO COVER. THERE IS THE CLASSIC SLASHER "MY BLOODY VALENTINE" AND IT'S AWESOME 3D REMAKE. THEN THERE IS THE UNDERRATED 2001 SLASHER "VALENTINE" THAT GOT OVERLOOKED DURING IT'S ORIGINAL RUN. I ENJOY ALL THREE MOVIES A GREAT DEAL AND WAS GLAD TO REVISIT THEM FOR THIS ISSUE. I ALSO COVERED THE NEWLY RELEASED MOVIE "THE FINAL GIRLS" THAT TAKES THE SLASHER GENRE AND DOES SOMETHING QUITE ORIGINAL WITH IT. I REALLY ENJOYED IT AND I THINK FANS OF THE GENRE WILL TOO.

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This is a fan ezine, made up of my opinions of said movies.

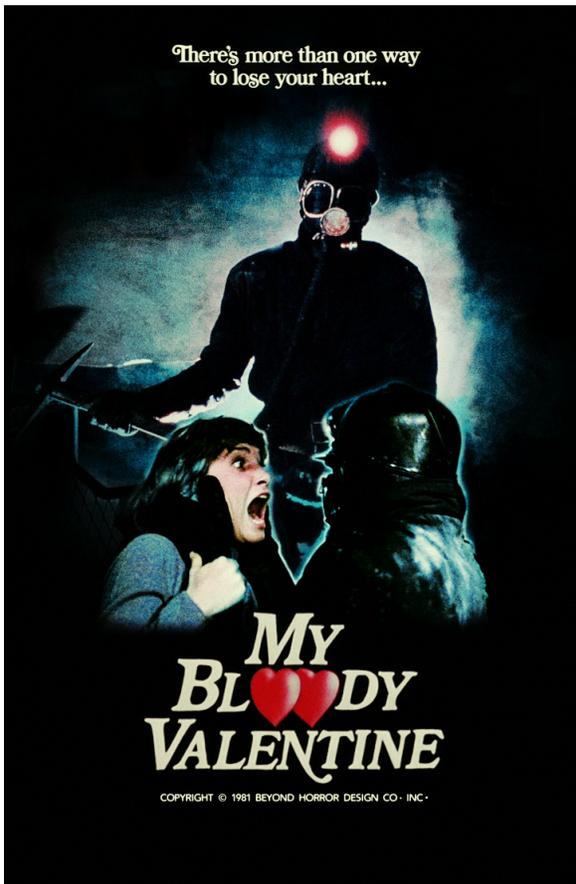
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My Bloody Valentine (1981 & 2009)



I have been waiting to write this article for some time! The original 1981 "My Bloody Valentine" is perhaps my favorite slasher of all time. The movie contains all the clichés of the genre but yet the story makes it all work really well. I did not get to see MBV when I was younger. I recall seeing the iconic VHS box at local rental stores but for whatever reason, I never rented the movie. It would not be until Paramount released their first DVD with that god awful box art that I finally saw the movie. I remember the hype surrounding the release and the hope that the movie would be restored with all it's cut footage. Unfortunately Paramount did not listen to it's fans and released the movie in it's R version with no extras. Paramount was not kind to it's horror fan base in the early days of DVD. That being said, I loved the movie. The



atmosphere of a slasher set in a mine was unique. The tunnels had a claustrophobic feeling to them and the killer could be anywhere lurking in the shadows. The kills were severely edited but the movie was so good that the absence of gore did not detract much. That is when you know you have a great slasher movie, when the gore is absent yet the flick remains a classic. MBV is set in a small Nova Scotia town (yes it's a Canadian movie and proud of it). It appears the coal mining operation is the heart of the town's economy. TJ, whose father owns the mines, has returned to town after a long absence. He had disappeared without any reason and left his girlfriend, Sarah, high and dry. She has moved on with another guy, Axel. TJ believes that since he is now back, Sarah should just go back with him. Obviously this causes friction with Axel who believes TJ has no right. Sarah seems to give off mixed signals and this complicates the issue further. Meanwhile the town has decided to hold a Valentine Day's dance once again after not having one for 20 years. As told in slasher flashback form, the last dance took place back in 1960. During the dance, a group of miners were trapped in a mine. It took the town's people six weeks to dig them out. Once found, only a single survivor remained. It was Harry Warden. He had

survived thanks to cannibalism! Harry was sent to a mental hospital for the next year however he escaped the following Valentine's Day. On that day, he murdered several people in town and vowed to kill again in the years to come if there were more Valentine's Day dances. Hence there is your reason why the town has banned the dance. For whatever reason, on the twentieth anniversary, some feel it is time to move on and celebrate the holiday. A few of the older folks in



town do not like the idea of the Valentine's dance returning. One such person is the local bartender who reminds me of the "Crazy Ralph" character from the first two Friday the 13th movies!

As the movie progresses, hearts in Valentine boxes start to show up along with a few deaths. The final straw is when an older lady who runs the laundry mat, Mabel, gets killed and is toasted inside one of her dryers! This incident causes the mayor to cancel the Valentine's dance and prohibits anyone from even throwing a party! Of course people don't listen to him and the main group of characters decide to have a party back at the mine.

Most of the party takes place in the mine's break room but some of the party goers decide to head off into other areas. One couple decides to head to the locker room area. The boyfriend decides to get some beer while the girlfriend stays behind. She meets her



grisly fate by the killer! Once her boyfriend finds her impaled on a shower head, he rushes back to the party and alerts everyone. Most of the people get the hell out of there

except Axel and TJ. While the party was going on, a group went down into the mines, Sarah being one of them. Alex and TJ decide to go rescue them. The killer manages to get to most of the people in the mine before TJ catches up to them. Axel joins up a bit later but quickly disappears, presumed dead due to falling into a pit of water. Eventually the group of characters wind down to just TJ, Sarah and the killer. During the final confrontation between killer and survivors, Sarah pulls off the mask of the killer to reveal that it is not Harry Warden but rather Axel!! We then see a flashback to when Axel was a young kid. He hid underneath a bed when Harry Warden had killed his father many years ago. Apparently the anniversary of the dance, along with relationship issues, has caused Axel to snap. The mine begins to collapse due to the fighting that has gone on and Axel gets trapped under the rubble. The police and a local lynch mob are heading down the mine shaft when they run into TJ and Sarah. They inform the sheriff who the killer is and where he is trapped. The group rush to that area of the mine to find Axel's arm sticking out of the rubble and that he is still alive. As they begin to dig him out, Axel cuts off his own arm(!) and runs off, yelling out some crazy talk. You can tell that he has multiple personalities as he speaks in a different tone and sounds like a different person. Thus ends one of the best slasher movies of the 80s! The movie set itself up for a sequel but unfortunately it never came to be. The director of the movie wanted to do a sequel back around 2001 but Paramount was not interested. A new movie would not come until 2009 when Lionsgate decided to do a remake.



Before moving onto the remake, I would like to mention the Special Edition DVD/Blu-ray that Lionsgate put out. Both releases are now out of print. The DVD can still be found at a decent price but the blu-ray has gone up in price! This release features most of the cut footage from the movie! Yes, the trimmed gore scenes were found and re-inserted into the movie. They have not been well kept thus there is some damage to the film and the audio was missing. Lionsgate did some color correction to the footage and added music/sound effects to the scenes for the release. I think they did a pretty good job all things considered. It's kind of neat when you are watching the movie and when you see

the quality of the movie drop a bit, you know some bad shit is about to go down! This extra footage extends all the death scenes in the movie except one, which was the drill scene. Apparently that footage is still lost. Most slasher movies had an off scene death that was discovered later on by the main characters, so the drill death could fit that criteria. This reinserted footage has lifted MBV from a tame slasher to one of the most brutal slashers of the early 80s! Compared to today's movies it may not seem like much but when taken in context of the horror films from the late 70s/early 80s, holy shit are these death scenes mean spirited! If this movie was released uncut back then, one could only wonder if it would have spawned a franchise like Friday the 13th. I personally think it would have. But alas we will never know.



When the remake hit theaters in 2009, I was pretty excited to see this 3D reboot. By that time, I had pretty much got over my disdain of remakes as there were some that ended up being decent. Would this remake be good and faithful to the original or a piece of shit? Fortunately the movie turned out great! My first surprise going into the movie was that TOM ATKINS was in it!!! Holy shit, I did not see that coming! Tom Atkins is one of my all time favorite actors, so it was a huge surprise to see him. The 3D aspect of the movie worked really well in the theater. It did have some gimmicky shots but for the most part, it worked really well. As for the story, it stayed true to the original yet had it's own spin.

The movie started out with a montage detailing a mine collapse caused by Tom Hanniger. The Tom character is TJ from the original. Tom's inexperience in the mine caused a malfunction resulting in the mine collapse. After six days, rescuers found the sole survivor, Harry Warden! Harry went into a coma for a year until he awoke in a hospital



and went on a 22 person killing spree! Meanwhile back at the mine, some of the younger adults are having a party. Sarah and Tom arrive at the gathering, meet up with Axel, his girlfriend and others. Tom is hesitant about going into the mine since he messed up the previous year causing the accident. Harry Warden has made his way back to the mine from the hospital and is dispatching the party goers. The police arrive before Warden can kill off the three main characters (Tom, Sarah and Axel) and we are left seeing Harry run off into the mine after being shot. Jump ahead 10 years later, Sarah and Axel (now sheriff) have married each other as Tom skipped out of town after the Warden incident. Life has moved on in this small town until Tom shows back up. He came back to the town of Harmony to sell his majority stake of his family's mining company. This does not bode well with a lot of people considering the mine is the life blood of the town. People are constantly giving him shit, even the old timers. In the meantime, a killer is on the loose. The police come across a crime scene where a truck driver and local girl "Irene" had been killed along with the motel manager. This causes panic throughout the town. Axel notices Tom in the background of the sex tape found at the scene. This causes Axel to zero in on Tom and keeps him high on the suspect list for the rest of the movie.

The killer later appears in the Hanniger mine where he attacks and traps Tom in a cage then kills another miner before disappearing. The police try to rule out Harry Warden as the killer but the evidence seems to support it. Tom Atkin's character keeps telling





them that Harry is dead and offers up proof. He takes them to a grave where Harry was shot dead by the police ten years ago. However the grave was empty! So was Harry dead to begin with or did someone/thing disturb the ground!? Spoiler alert, Harry was dead. What happened, which was a nice surprise, was a switch of the roles from the



original to the remake. In the original, Axel was the killer. In the remake, it's Tom who is swinging the pick axe! The first time I saw this movie, I really liked this twist. Looking at the movie since that time, there are hints scattered everywhere to indicate Tom is the killer. Knowing that Tom had mental problems (it is revealed that he spent years in an asylum after the initial Harry Warden killing spree), you can see how delusional and paranoid he is throughout the movie. Tom's problem has resulted in a

split personality where the second personality is that of Harry Warden. So when Tom switches over to the Harry persona, he can not remember what happens during that time period. The end of the movie left it open for a sequel as we see Tom do a switch a roo with one of the rescuers/medics that appears at the end of the movie, but the sequel never came. This is a shame because this could have been the start of a new franchise. The remake did pretty good business so I am not sure why Lionsgate decided against doing a sequel. Then again, Lionsgate was doing some odd ball things with horror movies around that time. If I recall correctly, they were wanting to shift away from the genre and do more "mainstream" style movies. It always pisses me off that when horror films help a small studio for so long and when that studio finally gets big, they brush horror off to the side like some unwanted child. But that is a rant for another day...

HARRY
STEP



"My Bloody Valentine" is a good example of a classic slasher movie with a great remake. The newer movie took the basic premise and put it's own spin on the storyline. It was not a carbon copy (*cough*Psycho*cough*) and it did not shit on the original story neither (*cough*numerous remakes*cough*). The killer miner, be it Harry Warden, Axel or Tom, is an iconic figure. Why there are no toy figures or other memorabilia related to him is mind-boggling! I do want to mention the sequel proposed back around the early 2000s. An idea was pitched to Paramount which would see the killer in a carnival setting IIRC. That proposal went nowhere as Paramount was not interested. The idea of this sequel was to include the "extended" death scenes cut from the original movie in a flashback form. Fortunately Lionsgate put out an uncut DVD/BD so we can finally see them. However it would have been neat to have seen a sequel but the remake will have to do. Maybe in another twenty years we'll get another remake? Hopefully Lionsgate wises up one of these days and do a sequel to their remake. We can only hope!

-bP



Valentine

In the late 1990s/early 2000s, we had a glut of Scream clones that hit the theaters and DTV market. I never jumped on the bandwagon of hating these clones. At the time I really enjoyed them and I still do to this day. They represent an era of mainstream horror and that's fine. One of my favorites to come out during this time period was "Valentine."

This 2001 slasher is based on the novel of the same name.

I have not read the novel so I can not judge how well of an adaptation this movie is.

The movie starts off like a typical 80s slasher. Yes, this movie has more to do with those slashers than the Scream clones of the time.

We see a school dance taking place where a nerdy character by the name of



Jeremy Melton is going around asking various girls to dance with him. He is constantly shot down until he comes to a girl (Dorothy) that finally accepts his offer. She is the less popular girl so she can relate to the loneliness that Jeremy is experiencing. Later on the two are behind some bleachers, kissing each other, when a group of boys come up and start harassing Jeremy. They ask Dorothy if Jeremy attacked her and she says yes because of the embarrassment of being caught. This causes the boys to jump Jeremy and thus ends the segment. Later on in the movie we find out that Jeremy ends up getting sent to various other schools and eventually a mental institution, so right away, we know



the incident that creates motivation for the killer. This formula has been used in early slashers but the thing is, who is Jeremy Melton in modern day and is he the killer? The movie skips ahead 13 years to modern day where we see one of the girls, after an unsuccessful date, go back to a lab to do some work. Unbeknownst to her, there is someone else in the lab. A figure dressed in black with a cherub mask begins to stalk her. After a short sequence, the killer finds, then kills her. The story contains the formula of each girl receiving a bizarre valentine before getting killed. The police and other



characters are trying to find out who the killer is. The movie ends at Dorothy's party when the killer is revealed. But all is not what it seems.

What I really like about Valentine is that it feels like it could have been released in the 80s, with some changes in wardrobe attire of course! An interesting note about Valentine is that when it was set to release in theaters,

Warner Bros decided to trim down the violence. The movie had already received a R rating but WB felt that due to the political climate of the time, they should trim it down to almost PG13 levels. To date the original R version has not been released. This is a shame and hopefully one day it will be released but WB is not kind to restoring unaltered versions. A perfect example is their blu-ray of "Jason Goes to Hell" which only features the R version. Another example is their blu-ray of "Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning" which too only contains the R, not the unrated version. That being said, the violence that is portrayed in the movie still works with the film in that it is not noticeable like the two movies I mentioned earlier.

Valentine is not a deep film. It's a typical slasher that is light on the nudity and gore but for one that came out in the Scream era, it's actually pretty decent and worth a watch.

-bP



Modern Review: The Final Girls

It seems as of late, not too many horror films make it into mainstream theaters. Those that do are either remakes or supernatural (ghost/demonic possession) stories. These days it seems one has to search the indie scene to find the latest and greatest horror flicks. 2015 had quite a few great horror films but most people would not even know it since they did not get mainstream exposure. One such film is "The Final Girls." This movie is a mixture of horror and comedy but presented in a sort of parody/homage way. The story involves Max Cartwright. Her mother, Amanda Cartwright, was a struggling actress who could not break away from her horror movie past. While coming home from an audition, Amanda and Max are in a vehicle accident which resulted in the death of Amanda. The movie jumps ahead a few years where a local college is showing "Camp Bloodbath" 1 & 2. The organizer of the event asks Max to attend as a honorary guest since her mom was a part of the first Camp Bloodbath. Max reluctantly agrees. During the movie, several events, almost in a "Final Destination" style, take place and the theater erupts into flames! Trying to flee the fire, Max and her friends head towards the movie screen. They cut into the screen to escape but some how through the magic of movie making, they are transported into the movie itself! They arrive at the beginning of Camp Bloodbath. What I really found interesting is that Max and her friends have to play along with the movie to get anywhere. If they do



not go along with the plot that is already set out, then their perception of reality just goes in circles at every 92 minutes, i.e. the length of the movie to which it restarts itself. So in order to move along, they must play along with the characters of the film. I may make it sound more confusing than it really is but I like that they are forced to abide by the rules of the movie and just can't do whatever they want.

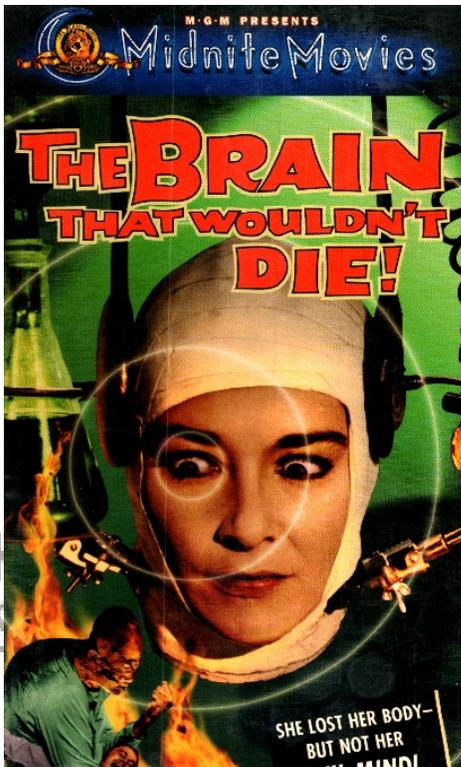


Camp Bloodbath is your typical 80s slasher with all the clichés that come with those types of movies. Max and her friends can't believe how these characters behave but yet it goes both ways. While the Camp Bloodbath characters may seem unbelievable, in a way they are not, as that is kind of how people acted back then. Perhaps not to the extent of over exaggeration that typically shows up in these slashers but there is definitely a generational gap between the two. As I mentioned before, Max's mom is a character in Camp Bloodbath who goes by the name Nancy. Right away Max is drawn to her mother's character and tries to connect with her. Over the course of the movie, they do develop a bond, but obviously it's not as strong as their real life counterpart.

An event happens in the story that changes how the movie plays out. The original "final girl" gets killed and now the rest of the characters are moving into uncharted territory. I really like how the ending plays out. I will not spoil it but it plays right along with the slasher formula.

"The Final Girls" is rated PG-13 and that may turn off some fans. Personally I do not think it hurts the film. The movie really does not feel like a slasher. Sure it is about going into a slasher film but the merging of two worlds is your main focal point along with the mother / daughter connection. Now the extra gore would have been nice if it was filmed but the studio who made the movie wanted a PG-13 rating from the get go. Kind of odd considering it never made it to mainstream theaters, so what was the point?

Overall rating: 7 / 10



MGM Midnite Movie: The Brain That Wouldn't Die

A staple in the Public Domain library, "The Brain that Wouldn't Die" is a Z grade movie that at times feels like a precursor to "Re-animator." I don't know if it inspired that movie, which itself was based on a H.P. Lovecraft story. but it seems like it was. At any rate, we have a fun movie involving some strange mad science!

Dr. Bill Cortner and his girlfriend Jan are in a car accident. He does not want to lose her, so he saves her head from the accident scene and is able to regenerate it back in his lab! This does not satisfy him as he wants a body to go with the head thus for the rest of the movie he is searching for the perfect body for her. In the mean time, Jan is in torment and wants to die. She is able to telepathically communicate to a monster who is locked up in Bill's lab. Apparently she is not the first of his experiments! The monster is a failed experiment

but is kept alive rather than destroyed. She is able to get the monster to kill Bill's lab assistant and eventually the monster busts out of it's cage to kill Bill. This catches the lab on fire and Jan's head is destroyed. That is pretty much the movie in a nut shell but it's quite sleazy due to it's main character Bill. He goes to various bars/clubs to find women and he is quite the scum bag. You want this guy to get killed in the end!

MGM released this movie on it's VHS line of Midnite Movies but for whatever reason, it never received a DVD release. The movie would be released on DVD by numerous labels, including a restored version by Synapse. Scream Factory eventually released a blu-ray of the movie and it's fantastic! I HIGHLY recommend that version if you have a BD player, otherwise the Synapse version is the way to go for DVD. The VHS Midnite Movie version can be found very cheap if you want it for your collection.



Fun Facts:

- Actor Eddie Carmel (the monster) worked as a circus giant. Barnum & Bailey publicity listed him at an exaggerated 500 pounds and nine feet tall.
- The entire film was shot in 13 days, on a budget of \$150,000 with most of the interiors set in the basement of a hotel.
- After the film was made, it remained unshown for three years while the director looked for a distribution deal.

Budget DVD Mini Review:



name: Tales of Tomorrow: Frankenstein

company: Pacific Entertainment

info: An episode from the "Tales of Tomorrow" TV show. This episode features Lon Chaney Jr as the Monster in a 25 minute retelling of the Frankenstein story. The monster is up and running within minutes of the show and the action doesn't stop until the end. I found the episode to be a bit bizarre as Chaney seemed to act strange. Looking this up on IMDB, there was trivia that stated Chaney arrived drunk on set during shooting of this episode. Classic!

video: This episode is crammed onto one side of a DVD with other movies and TV episodes. The resolution is 352x240. The episode is sourced from a VHS tape and the picture is quite soft. When I watched this on my LCD TV, it seemed to display the episode ok. Taken into consideration the source, it seemed to emulate that fine. But when I went to do a screen capture on my PC, the quality seemed much worse. Perhaps the fact I sit about 10 feet back from my TV helped disguise the bad encode...? I'm going to base my grade on my TV viewing experience rather than how it displayed on my PC. C-

audio: I didn't have a problem hearing the dialogue and sounded fine for the most part. B-

extras: Part of a 25 movie collection. Well technically they are not all movies as there are TV episodes, some are from the "Tales of Tomorrow" series.

overall: I found this collection for \$5 at K-mart and at that price, it's worth checking out. Doing a quick glance at some of the other movies on the set, the encode seems to be the biggest problem as they tried to cram so much shit onto two dual sided DVDs.

NEXT ISSUE:

This will be a good one! The next issue will cover all the BLIND DEAD movies!!! The Knights Templar will rise again!

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SPRING 2016!

ISSUE 008