

## **EIGHTIES (1981-1990) D-E** **All reviews by Michael J. Weldon**

**A DAY OF JUDGEMENT** (Thorn EMI, 81) D Christopher Reynolds, S Thom McIntyre, P Earl Owensby

This Southern morality tale is long (101 mins.), but has better acting than you might expect and manages to weave five storylines together. During the 1920s, a small town preacher quits because church attendance has dwindled to three old ladies. Neurotic widow Mrs. Fitch (Helen Tryon) poisons the pet goat of some neighbor kids and drives her black lady servant away with insults. A greedy gas station worker tricks his old parents into going to a county home. A fat bank president (William T. Hicks) forecloses on a farm which leads to a suicide. A department store worker has an affair with his boss's wife (Careyanne Sutton). They accidentally kill her husband and hide the body. Charlie (Brownee Davis), an alcoholic who had gotten a girlfriend pregnant then sent her away to have an abortion, shoots his ex wife and the former friend (Harris Bloodworth) he blames all his problems on. Arms drag Mrs. Fitch into the earth and the Grim Reaper decapitates Charlie with his sythe. The damned scream in Hell (represented by a painted backdrop and some skulls). The effective ending has them all shocked awake from their nightmares, then joining the whole town back at church. FX include near subliminal flashes, red lights, lightning and flames. Owensby, whose next movie was **DOGS OF HELL**, sold his E. O. Studios in Shelby, NC, to Dino DeLaurentiis in '84 and ended his ten year run of interesting regional filmmaking.

**DEAD END DRIVE-IN** (New World, 86) D Brian Trenchard Smith, S Peter Smalley, P Andrew Williams

This came out just after the third **MAD MAX** movie, but is not the usual imitation. In the post nuke future, young people are lured to The Star Drive-in, actually a teenage concentration camp without guards. Everyone there except Jimmy (Ned Manning) wants to stay. They don't have to work and the government provides drugs, mindless entertainment and junk food. Jimmy and his girlfriend Carmen (Natalie McCurry, who has a topless scene) live in his red '56 Chevy convertible. When a busload of Asian inmates arrive, she mindlessly joins the racist majority chanting "Asians Out." Jimmy says "They're not the enemy, they're prisoners just like us!" while plotting to break out. The music (some very good) is very 80's new wave. Peter Whitford plays the smiling, meek looking manager. Australian movies being shown in this Australian movie include the director's own **MAN FROM HONG KONG** (75) and **ESCAPE 2000** (81). He went on to **LEPRECHAUN** sequels.

**DEATHSTALKER 2: DUEL OF THE TITANS** (Vestron, 87) D/S Jim Wynorski, S Neil Rutenberg, P Frank Isaac Jr.

A wide eyed deposed princess (Monique Gabrielle) teams with Deathstalker (John Terlesky) to try to regain her throne from her evil blonde vampire duplicate. This sometimes resembles an R rated version of **THE MAGIC SWORD** as they encounter a graveyard full of zombies, an all female tribe (led by Toni Naples in black leather), pig men (from the original **Barbi Benton** movie) and other obstacles. After the major (evil twin on top of hero) sex scene, Gabrielle gets to KO herself. Terlesky also battles the evil Jerak (John LaZar) in an Errol Flynn type sword fight and Queen Kong in a wrestling ring. Terlesky (also in **CHOPPING MALL** and **VALET GIRLS**) is a likable semi comic hero and Gabrielle is fun and sexy. A battle scene with hundreds of soldiers has to be from another movie. The music is a repeated synth theme. During the end outtakes, the star is seen laughing during a sex scene. It was filmed in Argentina.

**DEF CON 4** (New World, 83) P/D/S Paul Donovan, P B. A. Gillian, Maura O'Connell (**DARK EYES**, **GROUND ZERO**) After a nuclear war breaks out, an American spaceship crash lands on Earth. Howe (Tim Choate), a survivor, and a woman in a school girl outfit (Lenore Zann) are captured and put on trial by her killer ex (Kevin King), a young slave driver warlord. Instead of being a cliché hero, Howe is nervous, distraught and even becomes hysterical. With "terminals" in the woods,

a Grand Funk LP title for a computer password and H bomb blasts. Familiar Canadian character actor Maury Chaykin is a loner in a kilt and Kate Lynch (MEATBALLS) is the ship's doctor. It was filmed in Nova Scotia but Tony Randel added some footage for the U.S. release.

DEMONIA (Video Vortex, 88) D/S/act Lucio Fulci, S Piero Regnoli  
(LIZA) Lisa (blonde Carla Cassola) and a professor (Brett Halsey) leave Toronto to study some ancient ruins in Sicily. The local villagers are superstitious and angry. We know (from flashbacks, a seance vision and nightmares) that in the 15th century, five satanist nuns had been crucified in the crypt of a monastery there. One shows up briefly as a transparent (naked) ghost with a harpoon gun (!?) and several characters die. It's all pretty tame for Fulci horror until after the director himself shows up as a police inspector. All of a sudden, DEMONIA becomes a gore movie. There's a very convincing decapitated head, cats pull a woman's eyes out, a spike is driven through a tongue and a man is ripped in half. The tape is in English with Japanese subtitles.

DEMONS (Anchor Bay, 85) D/S Lamberto Bava, P/S Dario Argento, S Dardano Saccetti, Franco Ferrini

(DEMONI) This is an 88 min. version of the bloody post EVIL DEAD in a movie theater hit. A teen cast curse of Nostradamus movie seems to infect viewers in the locked up Berlin Metropole Theater. Star Urbano Barberini (GOR) gets to kill zombies with a sword while on a motorcycle trying to protect Natasha Hovey. Coke snorting punks also show up. With Paola Cozza, Fiore Argento, Bobby Rhodes as the black pimp, red haired Nicoletta Elmi (BARON BLOOD, DEEP RED), and a masked Michelle Soavi giving out free tickets in the subway. Songs are by Billy Idol ("White Wedding"), Motley Crew, Accept, Saxon and others. Note the posters for NOSFERATU and METROPLIS. New World released it to theaters in America. The Dolby wide screen DVD includes: trailer, talent bio's, audio commentary by Bava and FX artist Sergio Stivaletti, and a behind-the-scenes segment doc.

DEMONS 2 (Anchor Bay, 86) D/S Lamberto Bava, P/S Dario Argento, S Dardano Saccetti, Franco Ferrini

(DEMONI II L'INCUBO RETURNO) This time teens at a birthday party and people at a gym in a high rise become monsters and kill each other as acid drips through floors. FX include a green demon, a demon kid and a pretty bad GREMLIN imitation. The cast includes David Knight as a heroic husband, young Asia Argento, Nancy Brilli, Coralina Cataldi, and Bobby Rhodes (returning as a gym instructor). The soundtrack (better than the heavy metal of DEMONS) includes tracks by The Cult, The Smiths, Peter Murphy, Dead Can Dance and Art Of Noise. Originally released (cut by 6 mins.) direct to video in America, this is uncut and unrated. Like DEMONS, the tape is letterboxed and includes the trailer. The DVD has all the same features except for the doc.

DEMONS 3 (Bloodgore, 87) D/S Lamberto Bava, S Dardano Saccetti, P Dario Argento

(THE OGRE) Cheryl, a famous blonde horror writer from Portland, her husband and their cute little boy vacation in a huge atmospheric old castle in Sardinia. She has many nightmares, flashbacks and visions, swims in a pool of skeletons and explores the hidden rooms and passages. Two local sisters are killed. After seeing insects, cocoons and green slime, Cheryl finally encounters a hard to see monster that looks like THE GIANT FROM THE UNKNOWN. With Paolo Malco and Virginia Bryant. The score is by Simon Boswell. The mild unrelated "sequel" (with a topless scene) was apparently made for Italian TV. DEMONS IV became THE CHURCH (PV #5) and DEMONS 5 was aka MASCHEROLA MASCHERA DEL DEMONIO (PV #20). This tape is from a Japanese laser disc (with subtitles).

DETOUR (Englewood, 90) P/D/S Wade Williams, S Martin Goldsmith, Roger Hull  
This remake follows Ulmer's 45 original (which you should see), but since it's nearly 1/2 hour longer, more characters and subplots were added along with too much dialog. Parts just don't work, but it is interesting to see the look-a-like son

(Tom Neal Jr.) of the original star (who died back in 72) as the snarling, bitter Al. He and his manipulating former singer girlfriend (Erin McGrane) both relate flashbacks and flashbacks inside of flashbacks and he has a nightmare. She has a relationship with a Monogram cowboy star. Red headed Lee Lavish is the young blackmailing Vera. 40s star Susanne Foster has a major role and delivers a bitter anti- Hollywood talk. The singing was dubbed by others. Outdated Cinecolor was used (the opening is in b/w), plus the same model 41 Lincoln. Herbert Strock did a good job as editor. DETOUR was filmed in a studio in Kansas City with some vintage Hollywood footage added.

**DISTORTIONS** (Academy, 86) D Armand Mastroianni, S John Goff, P Jackelyn Giroux

Amy (Olivia Hussey) is alone since her husband (Edward Albert) left her to pick up a guy in a parking lot and was burned to death. She goes to stay at the estate of her estranged aunt (Piper Laurie), receives threatening phone calls and is stalked during a storm. Turns out she's being drugged and there's a multiple scam surprise ending. Steve Railsback co-stars as a man who shows up to help Amy. With June Chadwick (Brit friend), Rita Gam (aunt's friend) and Terence Knox. With flashbacks, nightmares and false scares. The score is typical synth music. Gary Graver was the technical supervisor and it's all dedicated to (the late) John Alderman. The director was known for HE KNOWS YOU'RE ALONE (80), but soon was turning out direct to video nonsense like this.

**DUDES (IVE, 87)** D Penelope Spheeris, S J. Randall Jahnson, P Herb Jaffe, Miquel Tejada-Flores

Milo (Michael "Flea" Balzary) invites two other aimless NYC punks to drive to California in a Volkswagen. Grant (John Cryer) says "Everything's fucked" and the cartoonish Mohawk hair Biscuit (Daniel Roebuck - PV #27) says "Maybe we'll meet the Go-Gos!" In this misfire slapstick comedy, the stars are beaten in a diner, meet an Elvis impersonator at a rodeo and a phantom cowboy at a ghost town. When Milo is killed by bikers his character is missed (the young Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist is the only believable punk). Grant falls for a divorced sharp shooter mechanic (Catherine Mary Stewart) in Utah. Biscuit has nightmares of an Indian massacre and they eventually get high with Indians. The Vandals play a cowboy song (the soundtrack was on MCA). Also with Lee Ving, Pamela Gidley, and John Densmore of The Doors. The director's next was DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION 2 (88). Her biggest hit was WAYNE'S WORLD.

**EDUCATION ANGLAISE** (Threat, 82) P/D/S/edit Jean-Claude Roy

In the 1930's, a rich religion hating pervert sends his naive ward Sylvie (Obaya Roberts) to a prison like boarding school, which uses the strict "British method." Students have cat fights, take baths together, and are forced into S+M games. The lady principal has a secret affair with Miss Georgina (very obviously a man - Jean-Claude Dreyfus, in drag) who punishes the girls and who turns out to be an escaped killer. Sylvie (who narrates) falls for another girl and is thoroughly corrupted. All the French characters are shown to be anti-Semitic and the lone Jewish girl is singled out for abuse. News of the war is heard on the radio and one character says "morality has been destroyed by the surrealists." Brigitte Lahaie (who had been in hard X movies by the director) has a small (non sex) role as a maid. This is a dupe quality copy of the Venezuelan version, dubbed in English with Spanish subtitles.

**ENFORCER FROM DEATH ROW** (Lightning, 78) D Efron C. Pinion, Marshall Borden, S/star Leo Fong

Members of WOP (The World Organization Of Peace) in S. F. save mercenary T. L. Yung (Fong), "the most lethal individual alive today," from the gas chamber (he was framed). They send him to Manilla to shut down a germ warfare lab. T. L. teams up with an East Indian demolition expert and his sister Ricky. You get lots of black guys (and SHAFT wacka wacka guitar music), killer ninjas, car chases, explosions, slo mo kung fu and lots of women in and out of bikinis. The most memorable scenes are when the main bad guy has half his face blown off and when a cage of rats is put over a guys dick. Cameron Mitchell shows up in one scene, sucking on a lollipop. Available from Incredibly Strange Movies (see ad).

EVILSPEAK (20'th, 81) P/D/S Armand/Eric Weston, S Joseph Garofalo, P Sylvio Tabet

Coopersmith (Clint Howard - PV # 23), is the sad faced military academy orphan that everybody picks on and humiliates (students even kill his cute little dog). He eventually conjures up the spirit of a demon (an unbilled Richard Moll) in a hidden crypt under a former Spanish mission. Nearly 20 years ago, EVILSPEAK was one of the first movies to use personal computers in the plot and computer graphics. It takes a while for the payoff but in the classic final sequence (in a church), a nail from a Christ statue jams into the head of a priest (Joseph Cortese), Coopersmith rises and floats decapitating his tormentors while wild boars attack, and the zombie of a drunken old Sgt. (R. G. Armstrong - PV #28) pulls a heart out! With nightmares, flashbacks, rollerskating, pot smoking, nudity and a shower scene (Lynn Hancock), and an all male shower scene (with visible jockstraps). The cast includes Charles Tyner from HAROLD AND MAUDE (Col), Claude Earl Jones (coach), Lenny Montana (friendly cook) and Hamilton Camp. The ending promises a sequel.

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