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Penance DVD

POSTED BY MARTIJN ON JANUARY - 19 - 2010



Penance

Penance DVD (directed by Jake Kennedy; IMD Films/MVD Visual)

This film is difficult to categorize, which is always a good thing in my eyes. It fits into the horror genre, but finds a better home in the torture subgenre that has developed over the past few years. Additionally, the premise—if not the actual storyline—is based on actual events, which gives consideration to the documentary (or, better put, docu-drama) realm. One thing is certain: Penance is bound to make its viewers feel downright sick. Personally, I hate having the entire play-by-play of a film’s storyline delivered to me before I get to see it, so I won’t go that far here. The basic premise should sufficiently make this a must-see film for most MM readers, and it is this: A pretty young woman—a single mom, no less—is struggling to get by, and lets a friend get her into stripping part-time. She hates it, but the promise of a high-paying, no

muss/no fuss gig tempts her... and she ends up as part of an evil experiment, along with a few dozen other strippers. The evil here is the truest evil of them all: organized religion (in this case, the villain seems most informed by Christian, specifically Catholic, teachings). And the villain wants to make the women pay penance (hence the title) for their lives as strippers, allowing for scenes that range from tense and gripping to horrific and gory to follow. The acting is fantastic—no B-movie, this—as is the cast, which is led by Mariah Delfino (Jeepers Creepers 2) and features Graham McTavish (Warden Ackerman from Red Dwarf), Michael Rooker (TS’ dad in Mallrats), James Duval (Donnie Darko), Alice Amter (American Zombie), and Tracy Coogan (Zombie Honeymoon). Writer/director Jake Kennedy (Days Of Darkness, Black, We All Fall Down) and producer Will Clevinger (Automaton Transfusion) have put together a great film in Penance. **The Impaler**

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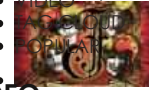
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