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# SHORT BUT PERFECTLY FORMED! THEM RAIMI SHORTS.



How many of you out there went to SPLATTERFEST 90? If you did you'll have seen the RAIMI/SPIEGEL/CAMPBELL shorts - CLEVELAND SMITH and WITHIN THE WOODS, what did ya think? Well recently I was lucky enough to be able to check out some more of the guys early efforts and pretty damn good they are too...considering when they were made and the budget. What I'll do here is give you the run down and probably make you all pig sick with jealousy, but here goes anyway!

## TORRO, TORRO, TORRO!

Starring: BRUCE CAMPBELL, SCOTT SPIEGEL, BRUCE JONES, JOHN CAMERON, TED RAIMI....

Written + Directed: JOSH BECKER + SCOTT SPIEGEL.

Produced: BRUCE CAMPBELL.

Approx running time: 8 MINS.

No it's nothing to do with Pearl Harbour, the Japanese connection is a Japanese lawn mower that goes mad. The owner of this maniacal machine is a very young looking Scott Spiegel who is out doing the gardening one day when the fruit-cake flymo decides it wants a life of its own and starts its rampage through the town, causing havoc where ever cream cakes are to be found.

Scott is the first victim, having the beast run up his back. Then follows a posh garden party where the mower gets on the table and throws off custard pies in every direction catching the guests in all sorts of places. Here Bruce Campbell plays a General type boasting of his war exploits, "they came from that side" SPLATT!!!, "they came from that side" SPLATT!!!. Yep them pies just keep coming.

This is real slapstick mayhem and a great laugh too, with Scott getting pulled along the spikes of a fence balls first and some great shoe chopping gags. Ending in a corny pun as the mower is laid in its grave with the epitaph "RUST IN PIECES", and the scene set for TORRO II. There's also a jaws rip off bit too, Jerry Zucker eat your heart out!



## ATTACK OF THE HELPING HAND.

Starring: LINDA QUIROZ + SAM RAIMI.

Photographed: BRUCE CAMPBELL + SAM RAIMI.

Produced, Written + Directed: SCOTT SPIEGEL.

Approx running time: 7 MINS

What we have here is a prerunner to EVIL DEAD II. With alot of the gags that had us in stitches making an appearance, God knows how long before EVIL DEAD II was made?

Linda Quiroz is a house wife (?) who is about to do some cooking. She goes to the cupboard and pulls out a box marked "HAMBURGER HELPER HAND". It turns out to be a white glove with two eyes on it and a mouth that talks and helps in the kitchen, that is until it becomes a naughty little hand and starts attacking Linda. Sam Raimi enters as the milkman and is stabbed in the back by the hand. You'll recognise the bits when I say she puts the hand under a bucket, the hand gives her the finger and lots of other references to E.D. II. He meets his end though at the flick of a blender switch and we have hand-mulch!

Great fun, even if you don't like the film you can entertain yourself looking for the bits used in E.D. II.

## CLOCKWORK.

Starring: CHERYL GUTTRIDGE, SCOTT SPIEGEL.

NO CREDITS but it's a SAM RAIMI film.

Approx running time: 8 MINS.

Tracing the roots, this is the gangs first attempt at the horror genre and owes quite alot to films of the time: HALLOWEEN etc.... but with a twist! A woman (Cheryl) returns home to find she's not alone in the house, and the visitor is no boy-scout. We have lots of moody shots used to build the tension up and HALLOWEEN type through the eye hole shots.

Eventually the killer strikes, he grabs her through the door (a la EVIL DEAD) and we see the first Sam Raimi real (not strawberry jam) blood as Cheryl is stabbed in the stomach. Here's the twist though, as he kills her, she kills him and that's the end, with both the attacked and the attacker dead.

There's not alot of humour but is pretty effective as a thriller.

## SIX MONTHS TO LIVE

Starring: SAM RAIMI, SCOTT SPIEGEL, BRUCE CAMPBELL, IVAN RAIMI, TED RAIMI.

Written, Produced + Directed: SAM RAIMI + SCOTT SPIEGEL.

Approx running time: 17 MINS.

A real epic compared to the last, which just means there's more corny gags to cram in.

The star is Sam Raimi and he is told the bad news by his doctor, played by Bruce Campbell that he has only six months before he dies of a fatal illness. Also advised by his doctor he is told to live it up in the time he has left and basically - SPEND, SPEND, SPEND!! Cos dead men can't pay debts. Distracted by the news Sam decides to take his doctors advice and goes on a spending spree. There follows lots of comic book humour including one awful pun when Bruce (playing another character) runs over Sam's arm in his car and shouts out the window "Hi, glad I ran across you!" GROAN!!! Get the general idea? You can tell they were brought up on the "THREE STOOGES" and the "MARX BROTHERS" all the way through all the films, with Stooges slapstick and Marxist word-play everywhere.

Anyway Sam continues to live up to his doctors advice. His wife leaves him, but not after some real wife abuse, more slap-stick and a scene you may have caught on the INCREDIBLY STRANGE FILM SHOW about Raimi, where he's being hit by his wife and her lover; "that wasn't hard, this is hard etc..." Infact Sam is abused and beaten up by pretty much everybody. He does take it out on a Fillesbury Dough though and we see the first blood....well strawberry jam, letting in a Raimi flick. He smashes it to bits with a rolling pin and the jam comes squelching out. By this time Sam is battered and skint, when his doctor comes up with some new news - He's not going to die at all, he got the papers mixed up! It's too late now though, Sam's so skint he decides to end it all and so digs a grave and shoots himself aiming to fall in the hole, even dying he fails though and falls the other way.

Sam, Bruce and the rest of the cast ham it up like good-uns and are OTT but what do you expect? Brilliant!







# IT'S MURDER.

**Starring:** SCOTT SPIEGEL, SAM RAIMI, CHERYL GUTTRIDGE, RICHARD SMITH, TED RAIMI, BRUCE CAMPBELL.

**Written + Produced:** SAM RAIMI + SCOTT SPIEGEL.

**Directed:** SAM RAIMI.

**Approx running time:** 1 HR 20 MINS.

Now this is a real epic, the gangs very first full length film and it's great! It mixes the humour of the slapstick stuff with an old Agatha Christie "I've brought you hear to name the killer" type thriller.

There's been a murder in a big old house inhabited by Sam Raimi and his family of wierdo's, the victim is the father and a detective is called in to find the killer, a bumbling detective played by Scott Spiegel who doesn't seem to have a clue about anything. Sam's character is the best though, he's got a green face and trundles around in a wheel chair, over acting and being devious. We also see Ted Raimi (remember him from INTRUDER, the

one with gorky glasses who gets his head-phones sliced?) in IT'S MURDER he looks about 12 and tries to play the cello, but fails! Anyway as I say all the family are there and the will will be read in the morning....if the relatives survive that is, or can put up with Sams OTT acting that long?

There's some great scenes too and some really corny gags like Sam showing Scott the photo's of his ex-wives; Scott asked what happened to them all? "The first died of eating poisoned mushrooms, the second also died of mushroom poisoning and the third". "What about the fourth?" "She died of a fall....she wouldn't eat the poisoned mushrooms!" Later Sam offers Scott some mushrooms in a hilarious scene involving a cup of coffee filled with all sorts of poison so much that a spoon melts when put in it. By the way the victim is Sams brother but Sam insists he has an identical twin too.

Anyway there's some great gags and an OTT car chase complete with footage from DUEL thrown in for good luck. They also rip off the music from PSYCHO and PINK PANTHER. In the true style of Agatha Christie I'm not going to tell you the end but it wasn't the butler. A lost classic!

As said by Scott Spiegel in the last issue there's a problem with getting all this stuff released, a problem with copy-rites on the music etc... This is a crying shame too as this really is great and of immense interest to any fans of Mr Raimi and his cohorts, ohh well we live in hope, it'd be a great compilation!



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(SEE THE REVIEW ON PAGE 40!)

