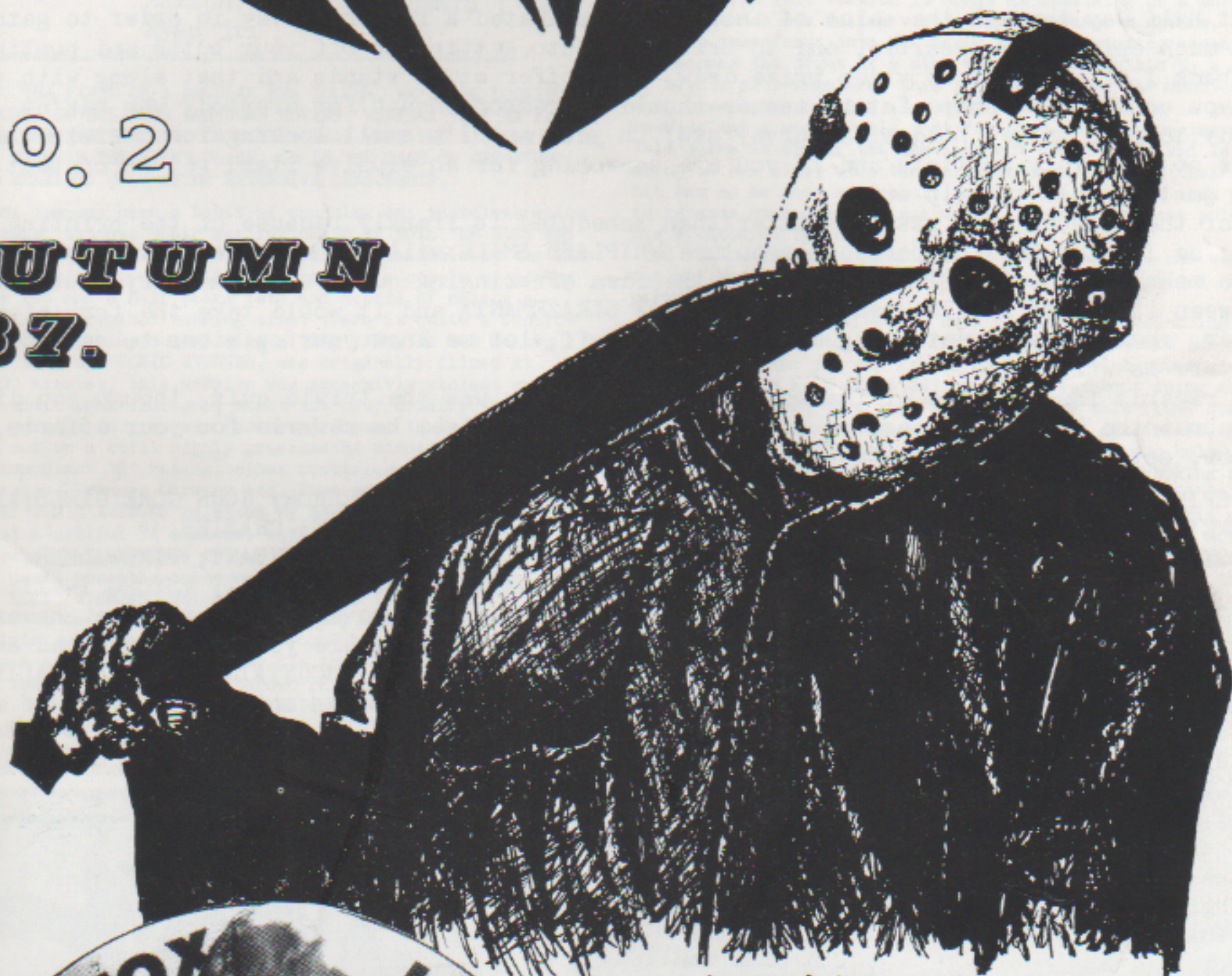




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No. 2

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A **BLOODY** GOOD READ!

INCLUDES:

ROBOCOP.....PREDATOR.....HELLRAISER.....
NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET 3: DREAM WARRIORS....
EVIL DEAD 2.....A RETURN TO SALEM'S LOT....
DEADLY FRIEND.....KINDRED.....BIOHAZARD.....
SLAUGHTER HIGH.....FRIDAY THE 13TH.....
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FILM REVIEWS.

TIME NOW TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE NEW RELEASES THAT HAVE BEEN SHOWING ON BOTH SMALL AND LARGE SCREENS SINCE LAST ISSUE. QUITE A MIXED BUNCH FOR OUR SECOND BATCH OF REVIEWS, EVERYTHING FROM CRAZED NAZIS TO CHEAP ZOMBIES, RUBBER ALIENS TO MASKED PSYCHOPATHS, SO LET'S DIG IN:
(RATINGS ARE OUT OF 10 INCIDENTALLY.)

EVIL DEAD 2 (PALACE)

10

So what if you've all seen this film by now? How could we possibly let it pass by without a mention? I should state though that if you've waited to see EVIL DEAD 2 on video, you have made a dreadful mistake, ED2 with its superb photography and frantic pace is the sort of film you just have to see on a big screen with a receptive audience to maximise enjoyment.

What little criticism that could be levelled at Sam Raimi's wild sequel stem from the fact the film is little more than a bigger budgetted reworking of the original, but this fades into insignificance when there is such imagination and flare on display.

Starting with a reworking of the original EVIL DEAD which manages to capture the goings-on of the first film while being totally different, ED2 soon shifts into its breakneck pace which never lets up as Ash (Bruce Campbell in a performance that deserves more credit than he could ever possibly receive) is back in that dreaded wooden hut. The first segment of the film really is the best, as a lone and rapidly more hysterical Ash tries to keep his sanity and life as everything the book of the dead can summon up is thrown at him. Mirrors throw nasty tricks; corpses rise; stuffed moose heads snigger; furniture dances and worst of all Ash's right hand gains a will of its own and becomes obsessed (or should that be possessed) with destroying its owner!

Wildly over the top slapstick more reminiscent of an ultra-violent Tom and Jerry cartoon combines with ingenious visuals in scenes that must rank as some of the best put on screen. As the film progresses Ash gets more help from some visitors to the cabin, but the gore gets more extreme, eyeballs fly; (a scene that lifted the roof when I saw the film) monsters appear from every crevice and at one point a tree literally stands up and walks away!!!

The humour is midway between Tiswas and RE-ANIMATOR in its subtlety, while Raimi's direction is practically faultless, the effects (especially considering this is still a low budget movie) are beyond praise and when I say that out of 1200 shots over 250 required effects work, you know what to expect. And on the whole, EVIL DEAD 2 is about as much fun as you could ever ask for.

As Ash might say "Groovy!"

JOHN HILL.

RAIDERS OF THE LIVING DEAD (IVS)

2

Nice title, shame about the film!

To be fair though, when you consider director Sam Sherman put RAIDERS together on 250 000 dollars, a sum which is less than most adverts cost, then it is a minor miracle to produce a full 90 minute film at all. What's more the movie has a good central idea behind it, namely a mad doctor bringing the dead back to life on his island prison fortress.

Investigating the murderous deeds are a square-jawed reporter and his gal and a kid who invents a ray gun by mistakenly frying his hamster whilst mending his grandfather's video machine. Ah, this is the stuff!

The budgetary withstrictions are 'nt hidden, the zombies are very amateurish and are hardly on screen for a total of five minutes. In fact the whole movie comes across rather like a student/fan production, a sentiment echoed by having Tim Ferrante's name on the credits, he of US fanzine participation i.e. HI-TECH TERROR and WESTERNS ALL'ITALIANA among others.

One for completists.

STEVE CHAMBERS.

SLAUGHTER HIGH (VESTRON)

8

Starting off in life as APRIL FOOL'S DAY, SLAUGHTER HIGH comes from the same team behind DON'T OPEN TIL CHRISTMAS and despite a less than original plot it manages to shine through as a very creditable performance indeed.

Slasher movies may be thin on the ground these days but the plots never change, here a high school wimp has a hideous prank played on him causing a chemistry lab to explode and for Marty the wimp to be scarred for life. Years later a re-

union is held and the handful who are invited just happen to be the same pranksters from all those years ago. Could revenge be afoot? Well of course it could!

All the plotheoles are evident, but the shocks are very well worked in this example and Caroline Munro back in the role of screen screamer adds a touch of class to the already lively proceedings. However, the real stars of the show are the gore effects by Britain's Peter Litten, some of which could well make Tom Savini stand up and take notice! The censor has been surprisingly lenient here, letting such atrocities as crucifixions, numerous ghastly acid attacks, a lawnmower slice-up and a real shocker for a couple in bed, go by intact.

A most impressive entry in a tired sub-genre. JOHN HILL.



HELLRAISER

ACUPUNCTURE THE HARD WAY: ONE OF CLIVE BARKER'S CENOBITES FROM HIS DIRECTORIAL DEBUT-HELLRAISER.

9

Those of you who had given up on seeing a good British horror film had better brace themselves, and do yourselves a big favour by nipping out and catching Clive Barker's HELLRAISER. His directorial debut comes as a pleasant surprise at a time when the homegrown horror front was looking very bleak indeed.

Based on Barker's earlier work 'The Hell Bound Heart', the story tells us of Larry (Andrew Robinson) and his new wife Julia (Clare Higgins) moving into their new London home where Larry's brother had earlier disappeared. Sniffing out something amiss, Julia's led to an upstairs room where the forces of evil abound in the form of Larry's dead brother Frank (Sean Chapman) who now requires blood to survive. Several plot revelations are unearthed, Frank it seems was something of a rogue to say the least, and not only did he formerly indulge in heavy petting sessions with his sister-in-law but he had gotten involved in a rather risky game of evil with a mysterious chinese puzzle which when cracked led to Frank being claimed by a group of bald monstrosities from Hell, known as Cenobites. Despite the fact Frank now looks like a very bad motorway accident, Julia still has a crush on him, and agrees to act as his waitress, delivering choice human meat, which she kills with a handy hammer to the head!

Larry's daughter Kirsty (Ashley Laurence) begins to cotton on to the hellish goings on and in a compulsive final segment she manages to solve the chinese puzzle herself, which sends the situation into truly nightmarish proportions, as the hell-bound heavy boys, the cenobites rise to claim Frank, who now wears his dead brother's discarded skin!

Maybe the plot does sound a trifle contrived, but did you really expect anything less from Barker? The proceedings do allow for plenty of marvellous special effects (courtesy