

07.10.04
 Ryan Rotten
 1:20am, est



**MEDIA REPORT:
 FANGORIA**

Timpone and co. work themselves into a "satanic panic."

ROMERO CLOSER TO LAND OF THE DEAD

Are our prayers being answered?

ALIEN IN 30 SECONDS...

...you guessed it, with bunnies.

HODDER DROPS MACHETE FOR HATCHET

Cabin Fever 2 scribe has plans for ex-Jason.

SEELEY DIVULGES MORE HACK DETAILS

Blood under the sun.

FESTIVAL OF FEAR NABS JODOROWSKY

The latest guest of *Rue Morgue's* con. **CHUCKY AND HIS BRIDE**

New pic from *Seed* surfaces.

INTERVIEW: SHERI MOON

Baby is back, and she's meaner than ever.

FROM HERE TO OBSCURITY: ATTACK OF THE BEAST CREATURES

Foy returns with another look at a seemingly lost film.

SHAUN GETS A DATE

Get your calendars ready.

AB AND UNI SPEW FORTH INFO

DVD: SUBURBAN NIGHTMARE

6.22.04
 By Johnny Butane

Starring Brandy Little, Trent Haaga, Hayden Tweedie

Directed by Jon Keeyes

Released by **EI Cinema**

MOVIE:

It's strange, with a cover like this, one might expect a full-on gore film full of blood, guts and mayhem.

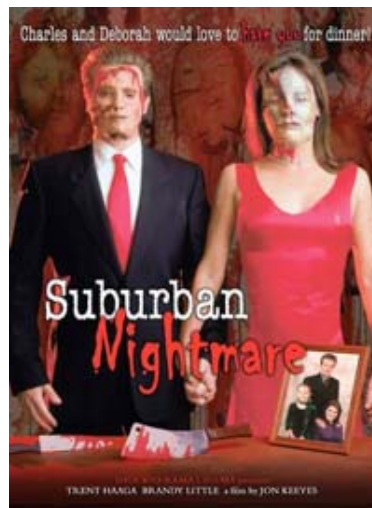
Instead, *Suburban Nightmare* is a character study about a married couple going through the final pangs of realizing they should not be with one another...who also happen to be serial killers.

The credits are over some scenes of our couple, Christopher (Haaga) and Deborah (Little) to drive home the point to us, the viewers, that these two were very much in love at one point. The Sepia tone of the scene, however, indicates that this is not the feel of the entire film, rather a flashback of what used to be. In the now, Deborah and Charles aren't doing too well, mainly due to Deborah's severe lack of self-control and self esteem. Together, the two of them have been murdering people for years, keeping some locked in their basement torture room for months on end, but eventually killing and eating all of them.

Tonight, they're having some guests over for dinner, and after Deborah comes back from checking on their daughter (kid's gonna have some issues...), she finds Chris has already gone ahead and murdered the two on his own. This starts up (or renews) their seemingly constant power struggle over who is really in control of the relationship, and eventually things just don't end very nicely. Not that you'd expect them to...

I think this movie's going to surprise a lot of people that will pick it up because of the cover, or because of the studio that released it. EI Cinema is known for it's low-budget T&A horror flicks, not character pieces that just so happen to be about two serial killers. To that, I have to give director Jon Keeyes a lot of credit. When I first contacted him about this movie, he had said he was pretty sure those that are used to EI's titles were going to be surprised by this, and that's right on the money. Whether or not that will be good for the film is hard to say.

Considering they basically carry the movie on their own, it's good that Keeyes help out for some very talented actors to take



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DOUG BRADLEY
KANE HODDER
BILL MOSELEY
 AND MANY, MANY MORE!



AND OTHER HORROR APPAREL AT

New titles and dates.

ENTER THE WICKED WEST

Just make sure you cover your neck.

A NEW HOPE FOR PHANTASM?

No, not a new one, but good stuff for the first four.

DVD REVIEW: EVILSPEAK

Is Clint Howard really that scary?

INTERVIEW: BILL MOSELEY

Our set visit to *The Devil's Rejects* gets a bit crazier.

SEE SAW POSTER

Stark and grim, just like the film.

MORE RELEASE DATE

SHIFT-O-RAMA

Damn things won't sit still...

LIEBESMAN GOES BACK TO ZERO

The director returns from the *Falls*.

MEDIA REPORT: RUE MORGUE

Another great job from our Canadian horror freaks.



AVP: PRE-FIGHT HYPE!

Getting ready to rumble Part 1.

UZAMAKI DVD GIVEAWAY!

Five copies are up for grabs!

GOULISH GUIDANCE UPDATED!

More advice from a former dead girl.

HOT AND COLD: THE SLOSS FURNACES

A new cold spot column sneaks in!

A LOOK BACK AT CLASSIC TALES OF TERROR

Books you should've read by now.

the leads. Haaga was most surprising to me, as I've only seen him in some Troma films (most notably *Terror Firmer* and *Citizen Toxie*), and he's never played this kind of character before. The two of them work great together from the get-go to create a believable couple, and I for one rarely got bored watching them go through the motions of an up and down relationship that I'm very familiar with. Every now and then there's a flair of violence, but sometimes it's just too few and far between for me.

Suburban Nightmare is really a horror movie for adults. Whereas Keeyes' first film, *American Nightmare* (*Suburban* was originally called *Blood & Roses*, but EI asked Keeyes to change it) was a smart take on the over-done slasher genre that showed a director with some potential, *Suburban* really gets Keeyes to a level that most directors only strive to hit. To be able to direct two people for an hour and half and actually make it interesting and believable cannot be an easy task, but it's pulled off nicely here.

PICTURE:

Shot on 24bit high definition, so you know it's going to look pretty, even if you can tell it's digital. A great use of lighting throughout really sets the mood of certain scenes, and the DVD transfer is understandably pristine.

SOUND:

Only a 2-channel presentation, but there's really not much about the film that would benefit from 5.1, in my opinion. Since most of it's dialogue with the occasional screaming here and there (and yes, some good squishy stuff), a mono track is perfectly acceptable.

EXTRAS:

As with most EI discs, the crammed a lot onto this release. We have a commentary track with Keeyes and editor Robert McCollum that really feels like two guys who love what they're doing talking about a film they're both obviously very proud of. The fact they pulled this off in 9 days with a very minimal budget is something that's touched on, but never pounded into the head of the viewer like some indie directors like to do, which is a relief. Instead, the focus on how they set up shots, what was cut at the last minute due to time or lack of consistency with the rest of the film, and how much they respected the people they worked with. It's light and informative, always a great mixture.

There are some other sections like "The Victims", about the photo shoot they did for the pictures on the wall of the torture chamber; "World of the Killers", discussing how the house they shot in was modified to fit the film and giving a good look at some of the subtle stuff you will miss during the movie; "Minds of the Killers", which is about the actors and how they came to be on the movie in the first place; "On The Set", in which Jon Keeyes discusses all the people that worked on the movie for nothing (good bunch, that); and finally "The Torture Chamber", which gives an even better look a the titular room and some of



**ANOTHER DAY
DAWNS?**

More zombies = good.

**GHOULISH
GUIDANCE**

How can a former zombie help you?

**SECRET WINDOW
DVD REVIEW**

Is it worth the purchase?

**DOPPELGANGER:
HOT NEW ASIAN
HORROR**

From the director of *Cure* comes new evil.

**THE ZOMBIES
COME MARCHING
HOME**

When patriotism goes awry.

**ROBERT
ENGLUND TALKS
ABOUT
"NIGHTMARES"**

A Horror Channel exclusive interview!

**DARKNESS: A
BEDTIME STORY
FOR THE HORROR
HEARTED**

What is going on in the land of Hollywood?

**NOSFERATU &
THE LAND OF
PHANTOMS**

A look back at the classic vampire movie.

**DEADLY DATES &
HORRIFIC
HISTORY**

Check out the HC's newest feature!

**UNCLE CREEPY
GETS AN ARROW
IN HEAD!**

New interview with the HC web guy.

MAX J.**ROSENBERG:
1914-2004**

Another legend passes on.

**SOUTHERN
CHILLS**

A trip to haunted Key West, Florida.

**SHADOWS AND
SUBSTANCE: THE
SON OF**

FRANKENSTEIN
Sean Kotz revisits a classic.

**THE STOKER
AWARD CHILL**

the hideousness that lies within.

Other than that there's a bunch of stuff from EI Cinema like short films and trailers. It's most definitely a stacked disc, worth the purchase price.

PACKAGING:

This cover is very misleading, and kind of bothers me because A) you can't even tell those are the two stars of the film and B) they're just too damn stiff in the picture. They almost look like statues or something. Still, I'm sure it'll help get some copies off the shelves.

OVERALL:

Keeyes shows that he's matured both as a director and a storyteller with this film, and I'm excited about what he's going to get onto next. I think he's earned a bigger budget by this point, and I really hope the right people will see, and be impressed with, *Suburban Nightmare* to make sure that happens. A little more violence and a little less talking (it does drone on sometimes) would've been nice, however.

MOVIE:

(3 1/2 out of a possible 5 Dracs)

DISC:

4 out of a possible 5 Dracs

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MANHATTAN

Don Kaye is present for the ceremonies.

OLDER NEWS

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