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Suburban Nightmare by Jon Keeyes



DVD Review

Region 1

[NTSC]

Director:

Film Year:

Jon Keeyes

2003

Date:

Rating:

June 18th, 2004

(****½)

Extras:

Purchase:

Yes. Read on...

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Suburban Nightmare hits the streets on June 29th from [ei Independent Cinema's Shock-O-Rama](#) label and is the second in what could be called director Jon Keeyes' "Nightmare Series." Based on a story written by the multi-talented Debbie Rochon and brought to life mainly by actors [Trent Haaga](#) and Brandy Little, this 84½ minute motion picture focuses on the darker side of domestic life and deals with the subjects of loss, jealousy and possession. Mostly shot inside a small house with a lot of close-ups this deranged movie makes the viewer feel trapped inside the progressing argument and trapped as part of the ongoing dispute.

This is certainly one of the better films we've seen this year.

The movie begins with Charles Rosenblad cooking up some spaghetti for a dinner date with "The Simmons" and his wife Deborah struggles in late forgetful of the shortcoming dinner date. After a few choice words are exchanged and Lynden and Stacy Simmons (played by Robert McCollum and Farah White) are in place the madness begins. After a series of discussions on serial killers and how self-absorbed mankind is in general, the unsuspecting couple keel over poisoned by deadly sherbets. It quickly becomes apparent that in addition to having the problems every couple faces in a relationship, they also have the added burden of both being complete psychopaths. Extremely cold-hearted!



Meet The Rosenblads. We take that back - don't!

While both Charles and Deborah are twisted serial killers, it seems that Mr. Rosenblad is the most level-headed of the two and the viewer gets the illusion that his only goal in life is to please his wife by any means necessary - even if it means a few kill offerings. Deborah Rosenblad on the other hand is a completely possessive and controlling woman who only finds pleasure in the suffering of others and even her disturbed husband can't keep up with her viciousness. Yeah, yeah - but what about Becky Rosenblad?



During the course of the film the disputing couple continually make trips between their sick daughter Becky's room and the downstairs basement where Kris "The Pet" is located. It is apparent that Deborah likes to keep and torture other girls for no other reason than for thrills and Becky somehow manages to tell her mother and father what they want to hear and when they want to hear it. These



Charles explains his secret spaghetti recipe.

seemingly odd characters all come to play towards the movie's tremendous conclusion in a twist that hits you from left field...

Talk about a surprise ending, sheesh!

The acting in Suburban Nightmare is very good with Trent Haaga ([Dead & Rotting](#)) taking on an entirely different and much more serious role than any other he's ever tackled on screen. Like a true veteran of the genre he steps to the plate flawlessly and his role as Charles Rosenblad has quickly become our favorite from the actor to date. The secret must be in the sauce.

Brandy Little (Hallow's End) is incredible as well and has now convinced us of her ability as an actress. While we found her lead role in American Nightmare rather amateurish in this film she takes her role of Deborah Rosenblad head-on and the result is a perfectly rendered psychopath! A job well done that leaves us looking in anticipation of her future roles.



Deborah is having to educate Kris The Pet...

Also worthy of note is the acting of young Hayden Tweedie who plays the Rosenblad's daughter Becky and the role of the unfortunate basement "pet" Kris pulled off by Kimberly Grant. Well done on all accounts. The two dull cops are played by Randy Williams and Jim McNeil and there's a whole slew of victims too numerous to mention. Suburban Nightmare was produced by [Debbie Rochon](#), Richard T. Carey and of course Jon Keeyes.

Just as Jon experimented with dark blue shadows in [American Nightmare](#), in Suburban Nightmare he uses even better and more successful effects with lots of golden hues and extremely dark moments resulting in a fresh horror film experience. By "dark" we mean that he actually successfully managed to film a movie entirely at night in basements and shadowy crevices capturing everything in perfect detail. An amazing feat!



There goes Becky telling stories again. Or is she?

Also like in American Nightmare Jon features the band [Eden Automatic](#) from Dallas, Texas and their adept music is a welcome addition in this film as well. To our surprise one of our favorite tracks "Love You To Death" plays early on during the film accenting the moment perfectly. Also once again lending a hand to the soundtrack is [Ghoultown](#) with their twangy tracks of which The Ballad Of Drinky Cow is most memorable.

There is also new music from [The NecroTonz](#), Colleen Bradford, The Sandblasters, Something Shiny, Some Awful Bridge, Mazinga Phaser and Steve Watkins. All the music was carefully chosen and fits in with the urban "theme" that is Suburban Nightmare. Good going!

The DVD extras included on this disc are impressive. There's a Music Video for Eden Automatic doing their song [Don't Wake Becky](#) from the film. This 5 minute video shot by director Jon Keeyes shows the film (billed as Slice Of Life) in reverse order using some tricky effects with the band performing on stage. Perhaps our favorite extras on this awesome DVD are the Three Short Films. There's a 12 minute Indian gore flick called [Lost Face](#) by Rob Fitz which is extremely entertaining and well done but the other two amazing [Daniel Sergio De La Vega](#) films take the cake. Included are both [The Last Supper](#) and [Deep Dream](#) that run 15 minutes combined which to the untrained eye appear as simple art films but are in reality complex and hyper thrill movies - not to be missed! There's also Trailers for The Screaming Dead, Suburban Nightmare, Dracula, Brett Piper's Bite Me!, Skin Crawl and the upcoming Sinful Wives starring [Misty Mundae](#) that looks surprisingly good. There's an offer for a sample copy of Alternative Cinema Magazine and Weblinks. But wait! There's more...

Add to all the above behind-the-scenes of The Victims, The World Of The Killers, The Mind Of The Killers, On The Set and The Torture Room which for the most part are pretty self-explanatory. Director Jon Keeyes hosts each segment and talks about budget constrictions and the grueling nine day shoot complete with tips for beginners! Wrapping up the disc is a full-scale Commentary and a funny Easter Egg involving a strange black thing.

Not to shabby on the extras, huh?



Smoker's Soapbox:

For being shot on a much smaller budget than American Nightmare and even running full-screen we certainly recommend this title much more. Having a much more claustrophobic feel and more focused characters this is one great movie - not to mention a very abnormal one. Anybody who's ever had a psycho ex-girlfriend (like most of us) will positively enjoy this. Try imagining War Of The Roses mixed with Henry: Portrait Of A Serial Killer and you might come close to what Suburban Nightmare is.

Get This One!

[4½ puffs!] 90%

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