

SYNERGY MAGAZINE

TEAR SHEET

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Spiker

MTI 2008

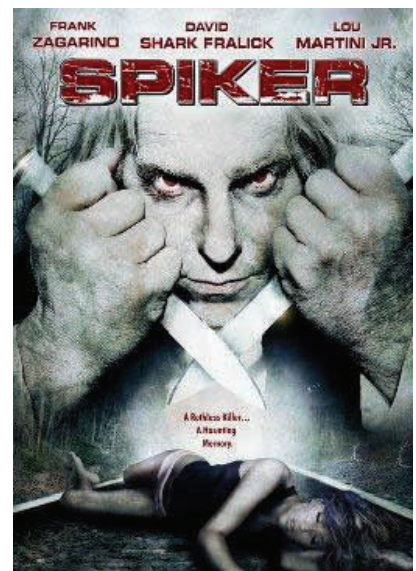
R1 DVD

Web: <http://www.mtivideo.com>

Spiker is a rather innovative slasher film which received accolades at The New York City Horror Film Festival. While it has all the elements of a traditional slasher film from dumb teenagers, semi nude girls and lots of slaughter using a wide variety of weapons from axes to spikes, it moves beyond the well worn path and includes some intriguing turns including a fascinating ghost story along the way.

The story centres on Spiker, a serial killer who has killed some twenty seven people by spiking them with railway spikes. The method of killing alone helps makes this film stand out – it is brutal and visceral. Add to this that the killer is huge, bulky, albino with pink eyes and you have a truly terrifying character. While being transported to a psychiatric institution via ferry Spiker either suffers a fit or fakes one, kills the doctor and some of the police and jumps overboard. While everyone thinks he is dead, he escapes onshore and returns to the place of his humiliation.

Along the way we are treated to some excellent cinematography, the scene where he rises up out of the water before beginning his new killing spree is truly breathtaking and when he walks along the railway line at night smashing the spikes together, you get a real lump



in your throat!

It seems Spiker was in love with Elizabeth but when she became pregnant to another man, she was forced to marry him. They decided to meet for a last tryst on the night before her marriage and her journey to Boston but she could not stand losing the man she loved so committed suicide by throwing herself in front of a train. This sent Spiker off the "rails" and he began to kill indiscriminately, burying bodies along the railway tracks.

While I have some qualms about the film in terms of its sometimes wooden acting, this is more than countered by an interesting plot, a bizarre and unusual killer and lots of suspense and terror. This is a highly successful slasher moving the genre in new directions with the added dimension of a ghost story and a fetish for railway spikes.

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