

HORROR MOVIES & STUFF REVIEW:

My Thoughts: Great low budget horror movie... finally a great low budget horror movie!

Review: It feels like such a burden has been lifted off of my back now that I've said that because the constant flow of low budget horror movies these days are either huge misses or just misses. There very rarely is a decent one and an out and out hit? Forget it! But "Aunt Rose" is a freaking hit...period! James Tucker is a genius as the director of this pic, which works really well because of the way it is shot and the camera angles which add to the tension in each scene. Meanwhile writer Joshua Nelson penned a great story which tells two different tales before having both tales crash into each other culminating in one thrilling horror film. The film begins with three goth types slaughtering a musician because he got their friend pregnant and dumped her soon there after. Unfortunately for them, a previous liquor store robbery they committed caught them on camera, and so after a heads up call from a friend...they go on the run. Nelson in his script makes sure to establish that these three are really twisted and evil to the core people and Joshua Nelson, Velocity Chyaldd, and Kevin T. Collins do an excellent job with their performances to make the viewer believe that they are the twisted evil characters they've been written to be. The leader of the pack is Nelson's character Johnny and ironically enough he's also the most twisted of the group...although it's hard to tell when looking at the behavior of the other two, but in one scene where Johnny puts a pillow over an exotic dancers face and punches her to death he pretty much establishes himself as the most dangerous one in the group. Meanwhile a mom/dad/daughter family are having problems of their own and once again the strength of Nelson's script shines through with this part of the story. As if it weren't bad enough that Peter's daughter won't work or go back to school and his wife Anna isn't being as stern on her about it as he is, he soon comes to find out that his daughters a lesbian...when the Toni person that she's been dating for some time comes over for dinner, in what is one of the films best and funniest scenes. The dialogue in the dinner scene is also very strong and very solid which greatly enhances drama element of the events taking place. Living with the family upstairs is their strange bed ridden aunt Rose, who is the films big mystery. Is she evil...or is she good?? Why is she bed

ridden?? Why is her room always dark and why does she always decide to hide herself in this darkness?? Aunt Rose does share a special bond of sorts with her niece Debbie and delivers to her an ominous warning..."to make peace with her father because you never know when you might lose those closest to you". It's soon after all of these events that the three killers crash dinner and take the entire family hostage. Thus begins an ill-fated meeting between two very different groups of people. A middle class American family, and a group of cold hearted killers. This is really what Nelson's script plays on so well, as the movie goes on the differences between these two groups of people are revealed more and more, as the family pleads for their lives while standing and staying strong in the face of danger, and the killers showing no mercy whatsoever kill without very much reason. The deadly trio simply want a place to hole up in for a few days until the heat dies down, but the strong willed family along with Debbie's girlfriend don't make the ordeal an easy one for the thugs. Thus bloodshed ensues as the three killers continually try to control the situation and their environment. It isn't long before Aunt Rose hears of the situation downstairs and decides to unleash her own brand of justice on the murderous trio. She pretty much uses everything in her arsenal from demonic illusions, to head games where she chats with the ringleader Johnny about painful past events in his life that only he knows about. Soon Auntie Rose has the group totally off their game and in some cases even turning against each other. Marty Gargle as Aunt Rose gives quite the spectacular performance as the films heroine with a twist if you will. While she does use dark magic to unleash vengeance upon the evil trio for their misdeeds towards her family, at the same time she doesn't harm any innocent people which puts her in that gray area where she's not quite innocent but at the same time she fights evil. Much like a human old woman version of Pumpkinhead. The film's climax isn't as exciting as one would've hoped but it does show flashes of brilliance from time to time and demon/zombies even make a brief appearance near the end of the picture, just to further rev up the horror element of the movie. "Aunt Rose" is a strong movie all around, from the performances by the entire cast, to the strong, solid, and well written dialogue and story from penner Joshua Nelson. It's one of the few indie horror pics that does alot with very little.

Positives: Great performances, good story, strong dialogue, a few cool death scenes, and some decent fx.

Negatives: Things get a bit sloppy near the end with the films overall climax.

Overall: Great movie every horror fan should see

MovieCrypt.com Review:

Three sociopaths invade a suburban home to terrorize the family that lives there; one bedridden family member isn't going to take it (or them) lying down.

Johnny (Joshua Nelson), along with his pals Robin (Velocity Chyaldd) and Stewie (Kevin T. Collins), are thugs on the run from the law. Debbie (Elizabeth Cooke) is a collage dropout living at home trying to get along with her parents. And Debbie's Aunt Rose (Marty Gargle) is a sickly woman that spends her days happily wasting away in bed content with the knowledge that Debbie is a healthy young lady with her entire life ahead of her. All that changes when Johnny and his pals force their way into Debbie's home and threaten the family, but Aunt Rose isn't too worried; she is a witch, after all.

Aunt Rose is a demented little film shot on a shoestring budget intent on furthering horror entertainment and making no apologies for showing things that will never get past the MPAA. The special effects sometimes work and sometimes don't, but all of them are generous and gratuitous. There are missed opportunities along the way, but the overall result is a fun, horrific success.

16MM Shrine Review:

Exploitation films always make me happy. Not that they're supposed to. Generally, they're meant to either nauseate or titillate, and usually both, but the forced shock value and calculatedly amoral narratives always bring a smile to my face, once I'm done masturbating into my vomit. The shameless mix of violence and sex, often within the same scene, is so unabashed in these types of

movies, one can't help but smile at the mischievousness of the filmmakers, as if Dennis The Menace grew up into a serial killer with a video camera. However, as much as I enjoy the Candy Snatchers and Switchblade Sisters of the world, they do tend to lack some of the elements that most require to take films seriously, such as a cohesive script and performers who can deliver their lines and take their shirts off at the same time, as opposed to taking lengthy breaks to visibly read off screen crib notes between actions. Aunt Rose, while gleefully stepping into most of the pitfalls inherent to exploitation cinema, does manage to impress with the actors' performances, particularly from star/writer Joshua Nelson, raising it significantly above other films in the same vein.

Cinema–Nocturna Review:

Johnny, his girlfriend Robin and Stewie are on a collision course with another type of evil, one that will have them payback for the wraith of evil they have unleashed themselves. Their rampage begins with the slaughter of a rock band member who walks into a set-up and ends up with his eyes being pierced and bludgeoned. In reward for their actions, Johnny treats them to a night at the strip joint, where Stewie picks up a stripper. While in the hotel room, upon waking up from a short slumber, the stripper becomes a bit of a motor mouth waking up Johnny who is quite pissed. The ultimatum is that Stewie shout her up or he'll do it for him. Of course that is short lived as Johnny's short and quite unpredictable temper forces him to beat the stripper's head in while covering it with a pillow. That certainly isn't the end of that show as Robin who craves for destruction coax Johnny into giving the dead stripper a reverse boob-job in order to see who the winner of their "fake tits" contest.

While the band of bad doers are fulfilling their bloody quest, another story is being set up. One that will ultimately cross paths with that of the vagrant's. Debbie who feels her Dad is too hard on her as their quaint little family is falling by the waste side. Her father, Peter who is seemingly quite strict on her, something that is just being a caring father in her mother Anna's eyes. Things hit a boiling point when Debbie has invited her what was to be her boyfriend Tony to dinner. Of course this doesn't sit well and as they are having dinner things totally explode. Once again, there is yet

another sub-story line dealing with Peter's sister or Debbie's Aunt Rose who is confined to her bed sick with some mysterious illness. She holds secrets that will ultimately come into major factor.

The connection between the two paralleling story lines is that they briefly cross when Robin phones Debbie and tell her that she is going to stop by and payback a running debt in full. Then the storylines come to a complete cross when the Johnny and the gang perform a party crashing during the dinner at Debbie's house. A house invasion goes into full swing as Johnny declares that they are going to perform a lock down, nobody gets in and nobody gets out. Only one thing they overlooked, Debbie's Aunt Rose.

Echoing such films as Craven's LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT, Deodato's HOUSE AT THE EDGE OF THE PARK and Prosperi's THE LAST HOUSE ON THE BEACH, director James Tucker force feeds us a new and updated journey into some familiar doors. Adding a slice of the occult and the supernatural into a brutal, very bloody at times storyline line. Yet, though very doom and gloom for the most part, Tucker keeps everything under an artistic wrap. Really giving the viewers a sense of true horror by creating several areas or moments with a genuine creepy atmosphere. Something I'm sure has a lot to do with actor and writer Joshua Nelson's original vision. Nothing is left unearthed, everything from blood, guts, stark terror to AUNT ROSES highly original score performed by Beyond The Shattered Mirror. All combining aspects click and create a highly entertaining horror film.

The one thing that I tend to look for as I'm sure many others do as well, to make a great film is the acting involved. The casting is quite interesting and certainly is wide in range. Joshua Nelson who plays the lead of Johnny, a dark and highly temperamental individual who doesn't let that get in his way of using his brains. Highly organized when it comes to getting down to get the job down. The casting of Joshua in this role couldn't of been filled better. His presence and brutal force insures that the character of Johnny is an evil force to reckon with. Of course both his sidekicks only compliment his stature. Velocity Chyaldd is quite a unique presence as the character of Johnny's girlfriend Robin. Her taste for not only Johnny's brute force, but her own fetish for some bloody action gives perfect accent to Johnny.

Of course then there's Kevin T. Collin's who slightly resembles Steve Buscemi. His character of Stewi is two way really. He's seemingly in for the drive, but when push comes to shove, he tends to get wet feet. Still in the end he does Johnny's bidding. There are also highlights from the various other cast members including Marty Gargle who plays the witch Aunt Rose. Her presence though is limited to bits throughout the film are very important factors to the overall storyline. She is quite creepy as well, very surreal and unpredictable much in the vein as a perfect opposite to Johnny.

AUNT ROSE displays some slick budget film making at it's best. Sure, it's not the ultimate example, but it surely does bring the goods. Combined with steady camera angles, though shaky almost guerilla styled in areas, smooth wide ranged transitions and coupled with a solid storyline. Many film makers would crumble with so little to work with, yet Tucker and Nelson seem to thrive and get the most of what they have. It's certainly scary to know what terrors would come out of these two when given a Hollywood budget or a larger budget at that. Though one would give this film a horror title, it in fact crosses many boundaries such as the thriller and exploitation. Spilling blood, grinding the guts and creeping out the atmosphere, AUNT ROSE is the truest of statements in this case. For the seat you choose to sit in will be the last choice you make as AUNT ROSE will test your ability to withstand an assault of the senses to their fullest.

TerrorHook.com Review:

In AUNT ROSE, a group of 3 small time crooks whom have robbed liquor stores and murdered a few people, have just killed one of them's Uncle who owns a local pet store, after he refuses to loan them money. In efforts to find a place to hide out, the female accomplice to the 2 males calls up a young lady of whom she once borrowed money from. The crook, whose name is Robin tells Debbie that she has the money she owes and will be on her way over to pay it back. But what Debbie does not know is, Robin, Stewy and the leader of the treacherous trio, Johnny plan to hold whomever is in the house hostage. Once they arrive they apprehend, Debbie, her Mother, Father and Debbie's female partner/girlfriend Toni, all of whom they think are the only ones in the home. But what these "bad guys" don't know is that, up on the

3rd floor of the home, behind a locked door lies in her bed Aunt Rose. Now, Aunt Rose at first glance seems old, feeble and disabled.... She has been someone that has needed special care ever since she mysteriously saved Debbie's life through some sort of supernatural magic that was never explained to the family. The crooks seeing the old lady's physical state do not have much worry about Aunt Rose, but we soon watch, Rose rise up by some miracle. to take revenge once violence and killing begins in her home.

From the first day I had heard about AUNT ROSE, I had always held and interest in seeing it, and after seeing such high marks given to it, I was even more excited about it. Let me first start out by saying that the premise here is fantastic and has great, great potential to be a classic but in my opinion.... I liked it, but I didn't really care too much of how it was presented. I'm not disagreeing with the other viewers opinions at all, quite frankly it's great to see a B-movie being received like this one has been, but to me, the approach is a little too amateurish in nature. AUNT ROSE is a film that tends to borrow from other well known films and tries to conceal it but is a little too obvious. For instance the plot and character's are a lot like Krug and company in Craven's LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT, except the story is sort of done in reverse order. And in my plot insight up at the top I didn't mention this, but Aunt Rose has a son that no one knows about that lives in the attic. Throughout the movie there are numerous hints dropped about something lurking in the attic but one never really knows what until the end – well shots of a shaking camera follow this being in the attic.....now after seeing the film and knowing what these movements meant, I see that they are reminiscent of a gem of a Horror film called BLACK CHRISTMAS.

The pace in the film moves quite nicely making the film a lot of fun to sit through but one of the major let downs i'd say in the uninspired acting. I was not a big fan of the acting here(most of the actors here are first-timers), to me at times for most of the actors, the dialogue seemed generic in delivery and coached. But the main exceptions would have to be the film's writer Joshua Nelson, as the gang's leader Johnny, and the beautiful and seemingly talented Raine Brown, as the lesbian girlfriend of the main character Debbie.....Nelson does what I felt was a great job delivering a tough guy image and taking charge, while Brown, makes her presence felt as the one hostage who has any fight in them.

Some of the good things about AUNT ROSE are, that I loved the way the filmmakers, for the first quarter of the film, silhouette Aunt Rose, so that really, we only see her outline. This made the character of Aunt Rose more mysterious and was truly working for awhile....but I feel that they reveal her appearance too quickly in the film...thus losing the power of fright they had. Another thing I like is that the filmmakers here decide to go the "old-fashion" route in the vein of the original HALLOWEEN and films of the like and not rely on gratuitous gore(albeit there is quit a bit of female nudity here). The lack of gore meant abundance of story and more times than not, that's what makes a great film.

OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE FILM

I did like this film and while some of it is quite original, a lot of it seems to be elements borrowed from other films and then modified a bit. Had I not seen many films that AUNT ROSE, closely resembles there is no doubt that this film would have had a far greater effect on me. The look and feel of this film, as well as the acting are both campy and over the top and this is bound to get a mixed reaction from old school Horror fans – some will like it, while others won't, or at least remain unsure about it.

HouseofHorror.com Review:

You shouldn't have fucked with Aunt Rose. Things were fine before that. You were on a killing spree, you had street clout, you were notorious. Its understandable – with your face plastered all over the news, you needed a house to hide in until the heat cooled down. Its not your fault you picked old Aunt Rose's house. But guess what. Now that you've invaded her house, and slaughtered some of her family... its doesn't matter that you're the captors, cause now, no one gets out alive.

Several months back director James Tucker was cool enough to send me a couple of screeners, and its taken a long time for me to bring them to the forefront. All the while I guiltily hoarded them away in my personal collection, often taking out Aunt Rose in particular, and never writing up a review. Something inside told me to wait and the right time would come. Well this past Tuesday, September 12th, Aunt Rose came out on DVD. Further proof that some low budget films are starting to seriously kick ass.

Director James Tucker ingrains a certain amount of concrete, urban flavor into his films. In both *Addiction*, and certainly in the beginning of *Aunt Rose*, lower grade digital cameras and a sometimes hollow tin can sounding audio, along with the yellow/blue lit city streets and hazy darkness tattoo these films with that on the street, home video feel. Many straight to video, low budget efforts have this as part of their shortcomings. James Tucker seems to use it to his advantage, putting you there in a less doctored, more realistic sense that grips you when the story is working.

In this, tough thug John (Joshua Nelson – *Last Rites of the Dead*) and his two partners in crime, punk girlfriend Robyn (Velocity Chyaldd) and kick around Stewie (Kevin T. Collins – *Last Rites of the Dead*) go on a killing spree. They take out some cheesy, poser rocker with some knives to the eyes, and then beat the living crap out of a stripper in a motel room. Unluckily for them, John's face is all over the news, and now they have to find a place to lie low. Unfortunately for young Debbie, her girlfriend, and her family – its their home that they've chosen.

Up in one of the bedrooms is bed-ridden Aunt Rose. Debbie, while sitting at a table with her mom, is told a story of how Aunt Rose saved her life when she was young. Debbie had an asthma attack at the age of 4, and stopped breathing. The family panicked and scattered for help, leaving the suffocating child with Rose. Mom and dad returned to find young Debbie breathing again – laughing even. Aunt Rose was weak, keeled over with a hand full of blood. She had saved Debbie's life, but never ever explained how. Needless to say, Aunt Rose now lives upstairs. She gives people the creeps, but she's sweet to her own. Its John and his posse that need to worry.

Where I knocked Joshua Nelson for his slightly miscast, mild lead in *Last Rites of the Dead* – I have to get up and commend Josh for this exceptional screenplay he has written, which lifts Aunt Rose to above average, low budget heights. The part he played was perfect for his demeanor and appearance – and he was entirely believable and threatening. His story takes a full 45 minutes to introduce all the characters, and although the screenplay wont win any attention, it should. You go along as John and his friends get themselves into a heap of murderous trouble, and you spend ample time sitting at

the dinner table and in the living room with Debbie's family, to the point where you're wrapped up in their menial domestic affairs. By the time these Last House on the Left type killers make their way into the home and start cutting on the family, you're entirely engrossed with how it's all going to play out.

So this film would have stood pretty well on its own the way it was thus far – but now you throw in one wickedly weird Aunt Rose – who plays with people's minds, and lays there in the shadows of her bed, the lines on her face playing tricks with your eyes, as she weaves their demise. I won't go into just what happens, but once the family is hurt, she unleashes her wickedness, from psychological ghost games to vengeance from the grave. And there's quite a surprise up in that rot stinking attic unveiled at the end. Add extreme violence and knifings that will make any horror buff wince and you're in business. It's like a modern, respectful homage to 1970's shockers like Last House on the Left or Funny Games without trying to be either.

Final analysis: Your honor? I'd like to point to exhibit M – James Tucker's Aunt Rose. Further proof, sir, that our horror libraries are being made dense with quality and original efforts better than a lot of crap being dished to us all through the theaters. And to the members of the jury I say this. Think for yourselves – don't be sold by what you're force fed on television because some producer had deep pockets. Do you want Stay Alive, The Covenant, and House of Wax – or would you rather partake in Severed, Last Rites of the Dead, and Aunt Rose? Should you have any taste whatsoever – any true darkness in your soul, then I trust your verdict will back that of this court – that low budget straight to DVD films are starting to produce quality horror I'd watch any day, over that which they've been putting aimlessly into theaters. Check out Aunt Rose. I rest my case.