



REVIEW of *13 Knives* by William Stancik

This is my first review of a William Stancik film and I knew that it was going to be a challenge. But seriously, what the heck!?

13 Knives is the story of two documentarians investigating a cult mass suicide. Thirteen people killed themselves with 13 knives, in the basement of a house. Or did they? Perhaps they all ascended to the mother ship with the space dolphins and are now doing battle with the lobster people.

The situation is explained by Langford, played very straight faced by Joe Zumba. The investigators were well done by J Gabriel Wagner as Ekroy and Alex Wood as Kibler. I especially liked Wood's performance as the innocent questioner who might believe... if it wasn't so crazy. In a film full of one liners, his were the absolute best. Both Wagner and Wood played their roles perfectly, even while horribly dressed in matching plaid jackets that were two sizes too small.

And speaking of wardrobe, we had Steven Swanson (basement dweller, Norwood) who was alternately dressed as a large fish or in a space suit. He played the true believer with just as much conviction as a religious zealot. He said, "Sometimes I feel a tickle in my throat and I think it's a blowhole coming." And, "It only takes one person to believe it for it to be true." He also introduces the threat of government mind control robots. He seems to be in heaven playing with a dolphin having sex with a toy robot and making dolphin sounds.

Then there is Zelzar the cult leader (Wolfgang Rain) and his queen, the lovely Alisa (Kimberly Dries). Zelzar explains all in his pamphlet for only \$12.99 plus shipping and handling. They are clearly devoted to each other. It's very cute.

I kept trying to grab some nugget of pithy truth in their lines. And it might be there... but then again, it might not. "You can eat a man's heart and you



can eat a man's head but you can't eat his soul." Is it meaningful? Or, "Knowledge is what separates those with knowledge from them that lacks knowledge." Then Alisa says, "Those who lack knowledge do not possess the knowledge to know the knowledge they lack." It could be deep, especially if you had taken as much LSD as these guys did.

Stancik's films are pure entertainment. Don't look for production value here. Particularly when Langford is talking but his lips are not moving. But for the right sense of humor, I think this film would be hilarious. And I'm sure that the cast had a riot making it.

I will admit I laughed out loud several times, like when the lobster appeared on the chair.

Stancik is a great writer of dry humor and his cast delivers the lines flawlessly. If you enjoy satire and are willing to go along for the ride, he's your man.

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