

INSTANT DEATH - FILM REVIEW



So I was lucky enough to be contacted by Martial Artist and Film director Ara Paiaya recently and he sent me a copy of his new film *'Instant Death'*.

I was pretty excited to see this film as I knew it was rage driven revenge flick starring the incredible Hulk himself Lou Ferrigno, who I've been a big fan of ever since seeing him across from Arnold Schwarzenegger in the 70's film [Pumping Iron](#).

This film basically revolves around a former high level military bad ass named John (not Rambo). After his career he is experiencing some difficulties adjusting and heads over to England to be with his estranged daughter and grand daughter.

On the way to his daughter's unit, John witnesses a murder by a vicious gangster named Razor. Razor then goes out of his way to kill any witnesses – which results in John's granddaughter being murdered and his daughter raped and blinded. SO John goes on an all out revenge spree, taking apart any criminal in his path.

SO, I'M A BIT ON THE FENCE WITH THIS MOVIE...

I enjoyed watching this film, but I'm a little easy to please as I love watching movies of all kinds, pickier audiences may not appreciate this film.

What I don't like about this film is it seems a bit cheap and nasty at times. Some of the acting is a bit poor and other areas the acting isn't bad but is presented poorly. When John is talking to his deceased Wife's tombstone at the cemetery it seemed a little lame at the time, but I believe could have been edited and presented differently to make his speech more heart felt.

I get the impression they wanted a sense of realism. The set pieces are very plain and normal just as they would be in real life, and I can appreciate it but it just isn't pulled off well, and the homely appearance and feel of the film is a little distracting.

Even the ruthless display of violence leading up to John's revenge spree is a bit funny to watch. We see his daughter being raped and there's a very harsh, gritty real sense to it but it is mis-matched with the overall tone of the film – considering an otherworldly guy like Lou Ferrigno becomes a one man army and kills a bunch of people and very non gritty, unreal sense afterward.

I honestly think that if Lou Ferrigno wasn't in this film I would've not enjoyed watching it, as his presence is a big factor in the entertainment value. But he does seem a little watered down. Considering Lou is basically deaf, his performance did impress me though.

WHAT I DID ENJOY WAS THE ACTION.

The action is ok.

After watching the build up which was kind of boring and uneventful, the action steps up and makes the film much more entertaining. Although Lou is a little slow on his feet, understandably for a guy in his 60's, he does have a slight terminator vibe to him as he tears people apart.

Most of the action takes place later in the film so it's a constant flow of Lou running around the shooting the crap out of people. There isn't a hell of a lot

variety in action though and a very little martial arts considering Ara's expertise.

Overall I think the quality of the entire film and the action should have been a little higher considering the director and inclusion of Ferrigno in this film.

OVERALL?

The problem is that you need to adjust your expectation to that of a cheap B grade film before you start watching – and good B-Grade films don't make you do that.

If you're a fan of Ferrigno you may love to see him onscreen again and can appreciate his performance, but other than that you may be better off skipping this one.

SKIN TRAFFIK FILM REVIEW

I got my hands on this fun and action packed film the other day courtesy of writer and director Ara Paiaya – called Skin Traffik.

The film follows a guy named Bradley, played by popular martial arts actor Gary Daniels. He's a retired assassin who decides it's time to step up and take down a local brothel.

After leaving with one of the girls, he decides to help her find her sister, who is lost in the world of prostitution under some dangerous criminals and kills anyone who happens to come into his path.

Naturally our guy Bradley is a highly skilled fighter and martial artist so we get a nice blend of action featuring some excellent martial arts choreography and performances, backed by a star studded cast.

THERE'S SOME TALENT IN THIS FILM!

It's funny, as a martial arts film enthusiast I was most excited about one of the lesser known names in this film, Gary Daniels, as his ability to perform superbly in fight sequences and still have the presence and acting ability to pull off the lead. But there's some really popular Hollywood names starring alongside him too.

You've Mickey Rourke at the very beginning of the film playing a powerful crime boss, with other stars like Daryl Hannah and Michael Madsen popping up throughout the film in supporting roles.

Our main villain though is played by Eric Roberts who does a pretty good job at playing an intelligent bad guy with a fitting charisma to sell the character. Having these strong names around Gary Daniels' lead made for a smooth overall performance by the entire cast.

One thing I appreciated too was seeing director and writer Ara Paiaya showing up for a fight sequence toward the end of the film showing off his impressive abilities also, as they guy has some very acrobatic and impressive martial arts to showcase.

THE FILM KEEPS A REASONABLE PACE

Some movies have a way standing still at times as you wait for the next fun and exciting thing to happen, Skin Traffik does a decent job of avoiding this, as we follow Bradley move from place to place meeting different characters and slowly unravelling the mystery of this young girls whereabouts.

It helps keep a smooth pace, although the movie does bound a little at times, with some scenes involving Daryl Hannah and Michael Madsen appearing a little more frequently that is necessary and it give you the impression more will happen with them then actually does. But this small blip on the radar is easily absorbed amongst the higher qualities of the film and is easily overlooked.

All in the film moves nicely, has some good entertainment value and sets up the action nicely.

SPEAKING OF THE ACTION...

...there's some really exciting stuff in this film!

Gary Daniels delivers some well choreographed action in this film which is spread really nicely and keeps the action junkies watching. The fights are frequent, well performed and entertaining.

Considering all things, I do feel the potential of the fights wasn't quite reached and this movie falls short of being something really outstanding. The action is good but has some really impressive movements that seem over and done with a little too quickly. In particular, the multiple attacker scenarios are my personal favorite.

When Daniels' character Bradley is surrounded by multiple attackers, the pace, movement and energy are quite high and are without a doubt the most exciting movements of any of the fights. The performance, the way they're shot and the speed in which they're presented are excellent and would make a good addition to any showreel.

I do feel like the same standard dips slightly in the other areas of the choreography, although it's still entertaining and of high quality.

OVERALL?

This film isn't one of the greats and it's not bad – *but it does sit on an above average scale and is a solid 7 out of 10.*

The overall entertainment value combined with high quality martial arts make this one of the better martial arts films out there and I do recommend checking it out if you get the chance.