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News



July 15: Meet a couple of very STRANGE GIRLS

The debut feature from director Rona Mark, STRANGE GIRLS recently enjoyed screenings at the Edinburgh International Film Festival, the Hoboken International Film Festival and the Seattle True Independent Film Festival, and Fango is happy to report that it is one of the year's finest indie horror flicks. Centering on a pair of deceptively silent—not to mention incestuous—twins (portrayed by real-life sisters Angela and Jordana Berliner), who are released from a sanitarium with murderous results, the movie is both darkly comic and deliciously macabre. According to Mark, fans of 1970s exploitation cinema will be in their element with STRANGE GIRLS. "A lot of my favorite films lie between that weird area of art and exploitation," she tells Fango. "Just like John Waters or Larry Cohen, both of whom are very talented

storytellers. Of course, their points of view are a little off the wall, so they don't get big budgets, but they are both great."

This love for vintage B-fare even carries over to the STRANGE GIRLS poster, which is firmly rooted in the garish visuals of the grindhouse days. "I am, personally, still sentimental for the '70s, when the genre films were all about telling really good stories," Mark explains. "So when I had my poster made, I was telling the artist that I wanted something to pay homage to exploitation films of that period, and that was what they came up with [laughs]. Then it occurred to me afterward that it was a lot like the poster for GRINDHOUSE—but, you know, how else would you do it?"

According to Mark, however, the tone of her movie itself aims toward that of more sophisticated scare fare. "I saw STRANGE GIRLS as being more in the tradition of THE HOONEYMOON KILLERS and THE BABY," she says. "And, like I mentioned, Larry Cohen's work as well, such as Q: THE WINGED SERPENT."

Mark is also happy to be one of the few female filmmakers to have made her directorial bow with a genre picture. "I call this the sick chick flick," she laughs. "I see it as commenting, a little, on my own personal angst when I was growing up as a girl. Really, this is my version of a coming-of-age story. What was interesting to me was that I could dramatize an internal conflict by having two people at the center of the story. In STRANGE GIRLS, one of the young females is attempting to keep things the same and the other is trying to assert her independence through a relationship with a boy. My women are not just fodder for a mad killer." For photos and more info, see the movie's MySpace page [here](#). —Calum Waddell

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