

Movie reviews/responses of "A BIT TWISTED" from Nicole Knodt, Tank Girl, Bruce Edward Walker, Jeff Purdy and John Fitzgerald Szczubelek

Nicole Knodt

A Bit Twisted addresses a dark story in a way that makes us assess the dark side in all of us. The lead female was such a great character. It's hard to talk about my favorite parts without spoilers, but I definitely recommend giving this episodic a shot.

Tankgirl

"I love the concept of the story. A powerful metaphor for women in this world, where she takes action rather than absorbing mistreatment by men. I see a bit of myself in it if that doesn't sound too weird."

Bruce Edward Walker

"I liked the movie despite the fact I'm not the demographic for whom it's intended. I enjoyed some of the quirky touches -- washing out blood being a pain in the wazoo, for example; and the actors all seem to be quite accomplished."

As its title suggests, our independently produced film, A BIT TWISTED, shot digitally in San Diego with several accomplished local actors, is an intentionally quirky film that sends up both the girl-meets-boy and serial-killer genres. One might call it a sociopathic romantic comedy. But the lead female character is no romantic comedy cream puff – she's a strong character able to think on her feet, handle herself against males twice her size, and plot heinous crimes while eluding law enforcement.

The film's main character, Nestra, fills the relationship void in her life by demurely impersonating a door-to-door evangelist in order to gain entry into the homes of her eventual victims. As her body count increases, she learns other murders are occurring that she didn't commit. The small-town in which she operates can't supply enough victims for two serial killers – or can it?

Inevitably, Nestra meets her male counterpart, Ares, at the scene of a murder. What begins as an antagonistic relationship transforms quickly into a not-so-tender love story. The newly established couple combines their murderous talents into a comically chilling mating ritual that includes a hilarious send-up of the male presenting his beloved with a series of gifts – in the case of Nestra and Ares, however, these deranged tokens of affection are all murderous implements.

Despite its subject matter, this film avoids the graphically violent depictions of most slasher flicks. Although nary a drop of blood is shown, the audience does see numerous portrayals of the drudgery of cleaning up murders. Choosing the proper stabbing instrument is important for Nestra and Ares, but equally important are mops and sponges that no self-respecting psychopath would leave home without.

Serial killers – singularly or as a couple – don't operate in a vacuum, and soon a trio of federal agents descends upon the small town to investigate the murders, inadvertently interacting with the killers at the local coffee house. In a movie freely blending macabre humor and slasher-flick conventions, the audience is kept guessing whether the agents will get their killers or if the killers will get them first.

Jeff Purdy

A Bit Twisted is a little gem of a movie. Well written, directed, and edited. All this on a shoestring of a budget, I'm sure. The movie uses the internal dialogue for much of the recorded dialogue. This allows the audience to delve into the internal struggles of the characters. The protagonist's higher self is personified as a character as well. The dark plot adds intrigue to the movie, and a curiosity of what may happen next. Although the viewer can tell this isn't a big Hollywood production, it is a fresh take of an independent filmmaker. I would recommend this movie. Just hope your next door neighbor isn't "Nestra."

John Fitzgerald Szczubelek

I watched A Bit Twisted as the webisode parts on youtube. I found it quite entertaining. I especially thought the portrayal of the Deputy Director (or whatever the title was) was hilarious. Douglas McCarron's sense of humor came through. I had a hard time keeping from laughing every time he spoke in the film, reminded me of some similar characters in David Lynch's films. I am a huge David Lynch fan. I have seen almost all of his movies and I like them immensely.

With all due respect to the actors, without knowing their degree of experience in film acting, I felt that some of the performances came across as less than convincing. Sometimes the delivery seemed less than natural and not sufficiently casual, as one would want. But it is easy for me to say that, as my dramatic experience is very limited. A few gigs in high school. What do I know?

I was not sure if the general concept of the movie was meant to be humorous or a commentary on modern life. The characters who portrayed media personalities commenting on the serial killings, along with the comments made by the female lead at the beginning, set a tone suggesting that women are so objectified by men that one should not be surprised if women become killers.

In any case, the ambiguity of the concept of the movie did not bother me at all. I enjoy having to puzzle through a film. Independent movies tend to challenge the viewer more. These grandiose studio projects that come out now are soooooo predictable. And the violence is explicit and gratuitous. That was not the case with A Bit Twisted, thankfully. We never even saw the blood stains. As a first effort, I think Doug should be very pleased.

The music was good. I liked the guitar work a lot! As always.

I really was hoping that the scene where the woman made some sort of overture toward the female lead would develop into a full scale lesbian love scene. Damn.

Any other suggestions I would have are in the realm of creative discussions that are not appropriate. I do not see the point in arguing with an artist about a script or the concept of a movie. One either enjoys the artists' conception, or does not.

I am still surprised that such a theme emanated from Douglas McCarron. If he said, "I am making a movie...what do you think it will be about?" my guess would not be "a woman who stabs innocent people as she pretends to offer religious insights." I have to admit I am a bit surprised. But perhaps that is why he did it.