

Chomping The Chicken

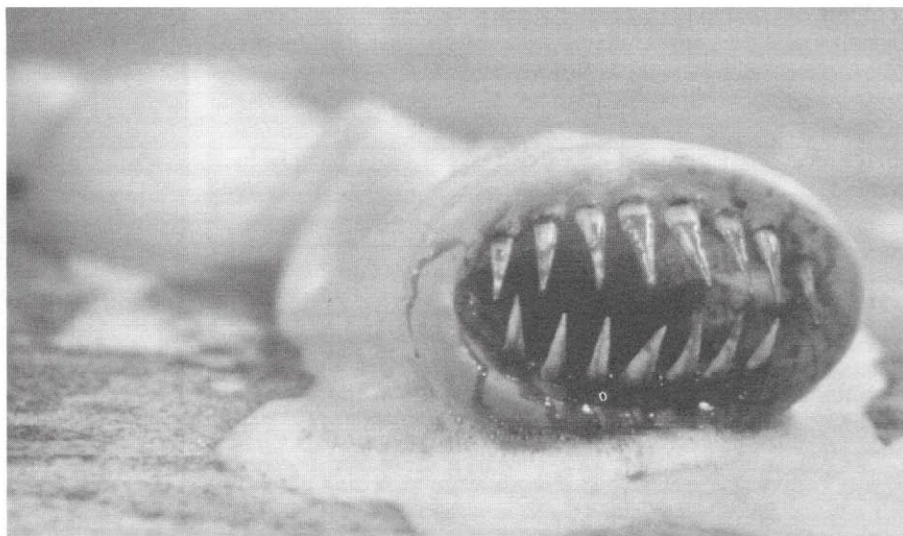
The Troma Team delivers a downside of practicing safe sex, in Killer Condom

I'm going to go out on a limb and admit that I was a huge fan of the best-selling graphic novel by Ralph Konig. The Killer Condom was bizarre, twisted, nasty and deviantly hilarious. It was also very gay, but that was beside the point. The story about a carnivorous contraceptive which comes to life and stalks the cocks of the Hotel Quickie in New York City was unlike anything I had read before and I gobbled it up like so much... well... you get the point.

That's why when I heard that Troma Team Video was bringing the German-language adaptation of the comic book to American shores, I was ecstatic. And when I learned that Academy Award-winner H.R. Giger, the genius who gave the beasties in the Alien movies their look, had served as creative consultant for the film, I realized that this wouldn't be your average Troma B-release. How right that realization was.

The resulting film is as fresh and funny as the original comic, despite the liberal use of gore--a Troma tradition-- and some major fleshing out of the motivations behind the parasitic prophylactic's mysterious appearance. What may make it hard for most American audiences to get comfortable with is that this is a German film (with English subtitles), shot in New York City, with German actors serving as their American counterparts. In a way, that makes it even funnier, as the black police chief bawls out his subordinates in Hitleresque fashion and later a Falwell-esque politico gives a rousing speech about morality which sounds like it could have come directly from Mein Kampf. One has to wonder what the citizens of the big Apple thought about a group of German actors running around their fair city pretending to be "typical" New Yorkers.

The story itself is derived from the book, in that the hero of the film is Detective Luigi Macaroni (played by Udo Samel of Far Away, So Close and Kasper Hauser fame), a stoic, sunglasses-wearing, seen-it-all, bully cop who also has a thing for ugly drag queens and young male hustlers. Early on, Macaroni becomes the victim of the meat munching monster when it attacks him--ululating in a voice like a scrubbing bubble--and



bites off his right testicle. What follows are several over-the-top comic scenes in which the latex menace wreaks havoc in the Hotel Quickie and Macaroni tries desperately to convince his fellow cops that this is not your average crime.

Using his own monstrous member as bait, Macaroni is finally able to bag the sinister sheath and it is at this point that the movie spins off from the novel into wholly unexpected territory. What follows is an outrageous and highly entertaining plot which is at once a monster invasion film and a Sam Spade-meets-James Bond parody involving a kidnapped professor, a mysterious Asian, genetic engineering, secret passageways, a religious conspiracy and, of course, armies of mutated joy bags with rows of razor sharp teeth. Yeah, baby! Now that's entertainment.



Peppered liberally with homages to the purely American experience--from the overwrought Godfather and Jaws themes and a Psycho shower scene to Beavis & Buttthead posters, Miss Piggy dolls and music by Roberta Flack and the Supremes--Killer Condom is unlike any foreign film you have ever seen. And probably ever will. That in and of itself is more than enough reason to rent what is sure to become cult classic. As for myself, I can't wait to own a copy.

Killer Condom has a running time of 107 minutes and is available from Troma Team Video, 733 Ninth Avenue, New York, NY 10019. Call (212) 957-5678 or visit their website at www.troma.com to order.