

The SAW and HOSTEL blood sport franchises are ruining the horror genre. As Hitchcock said "There is no terror in the bang, only in the anticipation of it." We can no longer expect quality screamers like "The Shining" or "Rosemary's Baby." from the studios. Fortunately, out France, FEARS OF THE DARK will give you creeps you crave this Halloween season.

A group of animation directors and graphic authors have assembled five black and white shorts, each unique and tied together with an ongoing vignette. The result is an ultra-visual graphic novel that is perfect for Halloween weekend. The film boasts more directors (Blutch, Charles Burns, Marie Caillou, Pierre Di Sciullo, Lorenzo Matotti, Richard MCGuire, Romain Slocombe, Jerry Kramsky, Michel Pirus, Etienne Robial) than I recall on any given film and viewing each of their works in one sitting is a treat. It's as if you went to a gallery for an evening of unsettling and twisted imaginations. Every shot of this movie should be hung in a gallery somewhere.

Since we are dealing with shorts here, I don't feel like I should get too much into the various plots. It is better the experience this film without any kind of pretense. I will let you know that it does incorporate some great elements including Samurais, killer Rottweilers, nerdism, femme fatales, teen angst and aphids with a totalitarian mindset.

FEARS OF THE DARK explores common phobias (I had nightmares about those damn dogs) and places them in surreal visualizations that will bring on freakies, By using animation, worlds not available into today's live action evolve. In fact, animation may be the future of this genre. This is a horror flick that will stick on you for while.

## **Fears of the Dark**

Written by Dave Howard