

Gory saga has silly plot but cast does a good job

12H
My Bloody Valentine. Starring Paul Kelman, Lori Hallier and Niel Affleck. Written by John Beaird. Directed by George Mihalka. Produced by John Dunning, Andre Link and Stephen Miller. Restricted. Jackson Square 2.

By IRA VINE

MAKERS OF horror movies have a bonanza this year. Last year they had only one Friday the 13th on which to offer a tale of murder most foul (which was appropriately named Friday the 13th). This year they have three.

My Bloody Valentine, the first movie to take advantage of this fact, also incorporates the day of hearts and flowers which follows February 13th into its plot. But there's no question which date is closer to the heart of this film's makers. The viewers of this film will see more blood and guts in its hour- and-a-half than the average hospital sees in a month.

Among the numerous theories of horror films is one which says that these movies, designed with teenagers in mind, represent what used to be called the generation gap.

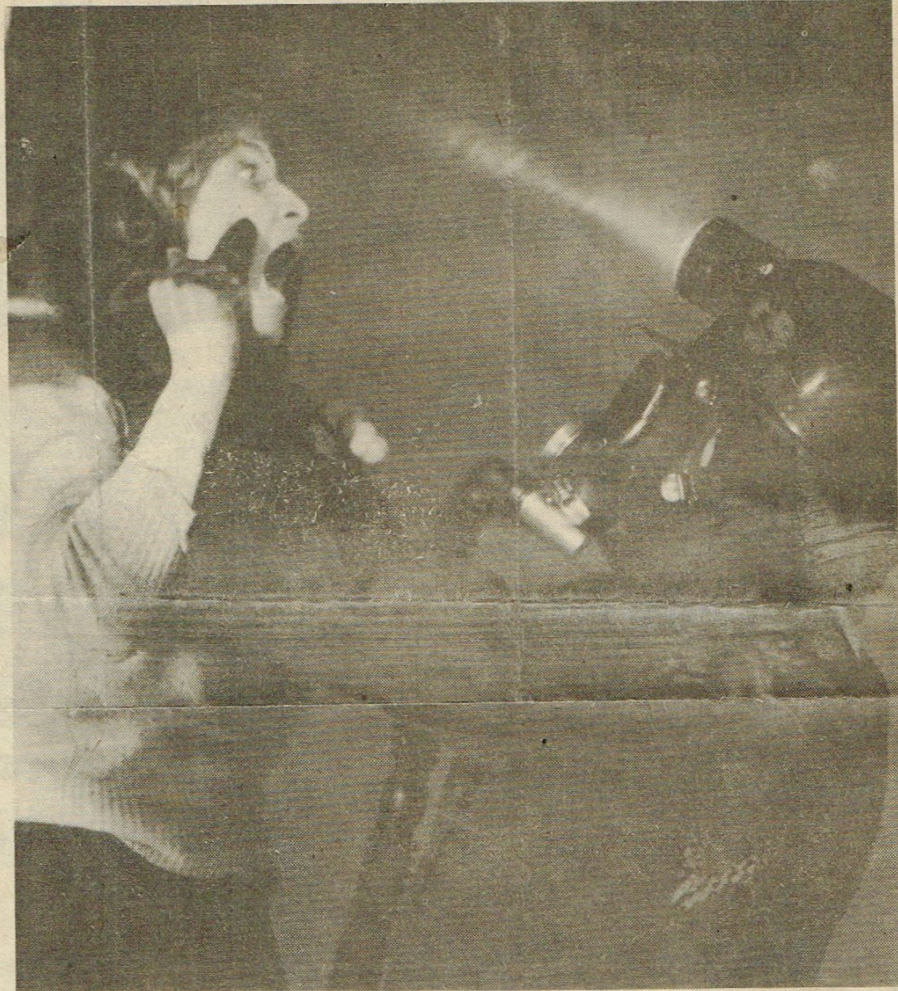
Madman returns

This one certainly does. The young folks of a small mining town want to party on Valentine's Day. The typical authority figure, the police chief, wants them to tone it down because he fears the return of a murderous madman who's never been too fond of that holiday.

Even when townspeople die mysteriously, the hot-headed youths won't give up their fun. Referring to a recently deceased community organizer, a young girl says, "Mabel worked hard for this party. She'd have wanted it to go on."

Needless to say, the young people, who choose to have their party in the local mine shaft, live to regret, or rather don't live to regret, their decision. A menacing miner, complete with ghastly gas-mask, puts an end to their festivities with a deadly accurate pick-ax. Interestingly enough, he has a tendency to strike whenever a couple slip off to do whatever it is that couples do in mine shafts. Make of that what you will.

If the plot sounds a little silly, that's because it is. But



Helene Udy becomes victim of a crazed killer in My Bloody Valentine.

despite that, My Bloody Valentine is a fairly well-made movie with polished direction and a solid cast of young actors, far fresher than the washed-up or soon-to-be washed-up who usually inhabit these movies. Much of the cast consists of young Canadians, probably due to the financial participation of the Canadian Development Corporation.

The stars Paul Kelman and Lori Hallier do fine jobs in filling out the thin parts which the script gives them. Canadian veteran Don Francks does the same with his smaller role as the police chief.

Movies like this, which tend to be seen by a lot of people, may be just the thing

to get people to notice good Canadian actors.

As to the movie's horror rating, that will depend on each person's taste. The movie needs more suspense. We can almost always guess when the killer is going to attack. It's never a surprise when his ax starts swinging.

On the other hand, a large part of the audience screamed when the ax found its target. It did that so many times that it looked like there would be no one left in the town by the movie's end.

This is a very bloody movie. To some, who enjoy that, it makes it a bloody good one. To those who don't, it may seem bloody awful.