

DVD Review

FAMILY PROPERTY

Produced and Directed by Derek Young

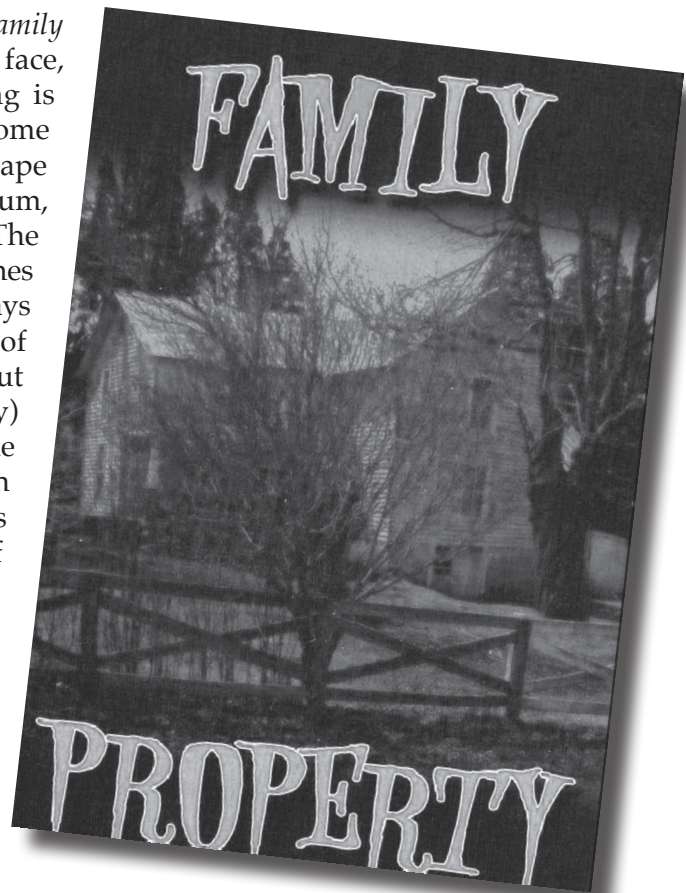
Assistant Director: Lloyd Kaufman

Make no mistake about it—*Family Property* is rough. Balls out, in yer face, punch in the gut rough. The editing is choppy. The haunting score and awesome soundtrack are punctuated with tape hiss, microphone pops, generator hum, indeterminate rattles and crashes. The camera shakes. The film is sometimes overexposed, sometimes under—always grainy. Short staccato segments of hurried action give way without warning to long, beautiful (and creepy) sequences of rural desolation—the titular family property is as much a character in the film as the killers and the victims ... Dialog is cut off abruptly, often in mid-sentence, to give way to scene changes.

And this is what gives the movie its unnerving character—and makes it work. The gore is over-the-top, the violence is pushed to “eleven,” and Lloyd Kaufman’s surprise performance is at once understated and riveting.

Director Derek Young’s vision—while neophyte, is without a doubt his own. In true grindhouse style, the plot is simple and over-the-top: a raving hillbilly lunatic murders anyone and everyone who even so much as sets foot on his family property. And that, really, is all you need to know.

More than anything else, *Family Property* captures that unsettling, incestuous cesspool



feeling of its predecessors: films like *The Hills Have Eyes*, *Last House on the Left*, and *2001 Maniacs*. Fans of hillbilly horror and DIY film—not to mention, the ever-growing Troma franchise (yes, *Family Property* is set firmly within the Troma universe)—should certainly check it out.

www.familyproperty.weebly.com.

— S. C. Carr