

YOUR GUIDE TO CULT MOVIES, ARTHOUSE ODDITIES, DRIVE-IN SWILL, AND UNDERGROUND OBSCURITIES!

# SHOCK CINEMA

Number 32

Serving the Film Fanatic since 1990

Canada: \$7.00 / \$5.00

Page 42

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It's taken five long years, but writer-director Alvin Ecarma's adrenalized DIY'er **LETHAL FORCE** (Unearthed Films) has finally gotten a legit release. A demented satire/tribute to old-fashioned action cinema, this 70-minute underground feature is crammed with more kick-ass violence, bloodshed and laughs than most '70s grindhouse triple-bills. Gangster Jack Carter's son is snatched by a wheelchaired villain named Mal Lock and hauled to a fortress guarded by armed, white-masked minions. To get his kid back, Carter has to set up Savitch (Cash Flagg Jr.), a steely super-

assassin (and old buddy) who's soon besieged by bizarre foes and spends most of the film kicking, bashing, bleeding, and decimating anyone in his way. This dude is a lean, mean, cut-rate killing machine, and after being tortured within an inch of his life (including a power drill to the skull), it leads to a seriously-

damaged, revenge-fueled finale. **LETHAL FORCE** bursts with twisted humor, insanely sadistic violence, over-ripe dialogue, impressive fight choreography, and non-stop excitement — all accomplished with a budget less than the loose change Jerry Bruckheimer drops down the cushions of his couch. The DVD comes with a commentary by Ecarma and action-director/cinematographer Eric Thornett, who joke about its "super-gay" subtext, dangerous firecracker stunts, and the insane number of movie homages crammed into the flick. There are also production photos, a hilarious "Action Figure Gallery" and three of Ecarma's short films: the appropriately-titled quickie **MY DOG HAS A CYST; ME!** (2K3 Re-Mix), his tribute to the trailer for 1970's **GHETTO FREAKS**; plus **A CONVERSATION**, in which a superhero (Cash Flagg Jr.) and hippie pacifist discuss the philosophy of revenge, with hilarious results.

