



now on DVD

Arbor Daze

It's got all the gore and suspense you might look for in a horror film, but this holiday-themed scary movie is about one you might not expect. Tapped "the first horror movie to combine comedy and politically incorrect nutritional information," *Arbor Daze* takes a humorous, yet deadly, look at environmental polluters, health food and mercury.

Arbor Daze is the first feature-length film by three metro Detroiters. No strangers to the entertainment industry, John Kerr, Dan Corrigan and Jeff Priskorn used their locally produced, cable-access sketch comedy show, *Loose Change TV*, as the groundwork for the project.

"I wrote the movie about Arbor Day because it's the only holiday that doesn't have a horror movie attached to it," says John Kerr, who first decided to delve into the filmmaking arena.

Playing off Corrigan's environmental issue interest, the trio decided to give the film a unique spin. "We like to call it an environmental horror spoof; a spoof of horror movies and sort of a spoof of health activists," says Kerr. "It's up to the viewer to decide if we are embracing or mocking the environmental message."

In the movie, a wealthy but deluded environmentalist opens a camping retreat for city slickers. The campers quickly find that something is amiss when some begin to disappear and die off. The plot evolves as the others try to determine who or what is behind the strange occurrences. It's then revealed the environmentalist only invited people



who were harming the environment so he could kill them.

Keeping with the satirical theme of the movie, the trio invented parody products. "We had fun coming up with products like Cramel Cigarettes, Mom's Chips with Molestra, Colt Cola and Studd Lite," said Kerr. We had t-shirts and other items with the logos made for the characters to wear and for people to order from our website. A contributing musical artist even recorded a song/ad for Studd Lite."

Arbor Daze was filmed in the fall of 2001 over three consecutive weekends. To achieve the "campsite" effect, 95 percent of the movie was shot in Croswell, MI on Corrigan's father-in-law's land. Additional footage was taken locally in Plymouth, Huntington Woods and Berkley. "We just went out and shot a movie, learning as we did it," said Kerr. "The three of us all did everything, and the cast pitched in to lend a hand too. It was our film school."

In addition to their own acting roles in the film, the crew solicited family, friends and *Loose Change TV* peers as the cast. "I ended up in a starring role because an actor bailed out," said Kerr. "Luckily, I pretty much knew the lines and if I didn't get them exactly, I knew the gist of it."

Following the success of *Arbor Daze*, the trio formed the multimedia company Loose Change Entertainment. *Arbor Daze* is now available on VHS and DVD. For more information, visit www.arbordaze.com.

— **Beth Perry**