

Purging of The Hive

Warren F. Disbrow Short Film

"PURGING OF THE HIVE" was my first pretentious, arty college short. It was inspired by Patrick McGoohan's brilliant TV show of 1968 THE PRISONER. It was fun to make and has some interesting stuff in it but it is also embarrassing for me now in some ways. I guess everyone's first films are too pretentious.

It was shot in Super 8 and sound was added in post. I used the music from, NIGHT ON BALD MOUNTAIN I think. John Shea helped with some of the camera work shot around Brookdale Community College but a lot I did solo too.

I played the lead part myself and appeared normal in appearance. Society was represented by people wearing white, blank masks and white gloves to erase their individuality. I was the only individual in a world of faceless people and those faceless people were after me because I was different from them! The title "Purging of the Hive" came out of that.

As my character fled I encountered faceless police. Asbury Park police actually helped by supplying a police car and two uniformed cops that agreed to dressed in the white masks and gloves too! I played a faceless Priest emerging from a church to confront myself because we didn't have another actor available.

The film was I guess only 10 minutes. As I said, it had energy and on some levels worked. It ended with me dying, I forget how now.

In a NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD inspired scene, there was this artwork hanging on a wall at Brookdale which consisted of a lot of black squares with white hands in them. I photographed that, put the picture on a record turn table and re-photographed it with the Super 8 camera to create the moving image of a sea of swirling white hands and I slowly shifted the hands out of focus so it became this moving pattern.

I haven't seen the movie in many years. I don't think any pictures were taken while we shot it either.

John Shea was a very good friend of mine for a period. He was going to Jersey City State College as a film student studying 16mm film production while at the same time working at Brookdale in the Media Department. I would ask him a ton of questions about what they were teaching him at Jersey City.

Later when I transferred from Brookdale to Jersey City State and lived at 440 Kennedy Blvd, John was still there and he appeared as the star in my 16mm black-and-white sci-fi comedy PIT STOP.

Campus life was fun, lonely, exciting and depressing but I was still learning more and more about making movies and I kept pretty focused on just making movies and sincerely trying to do better. I'm still trying.