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## Review of Shriekfest 2011

Neil Weakley Columns & Rants



**NEIL T. WEAKLEY** AVERAGE MOVIE GOER

Now that we are wrapped in the bony clutches of October, it's time for an update of the always wonderful Shriekfest 2011! I find myself always looking forward to this festival every year. I love the first weekend of October as much as Halloween itself. I get the chance to see lots of amazing short films and features. And it puts me in the Halloween spirit. This year was indeed a great year, too. Something interesting this year: the shorts were all varying levels of good. Last year there was a more clear distinction between some being really good, some being not so good, and then a bunch of decent ones. This year everything was better, with a few real standouts. And as far as the features, frankly I liked five of them. I think that's a record. I'd have to say the quality was all around better this year. That's a promising sign for the future of film making. Let's hope, right?

The next film is one that really stood out. Not a horror film, but more in the sci-fi genre, is Pig. The best way to describe this film, if I were pressed to, would be a cross between Memento and The Machinist, with a sci-fi twist. It's very well shot, acted and produced. Seriously, it looks great. And it keeps you guessing all the way through. With subject like personal identity and memory, and our own nature to seek answers, this is an intelligent, intriguing film. A man awakes tied up in the desert with no idea where - or who - he is. I can't really tell you much else about it for fear of spoilers, but I most definitely recommend this film.

~ Neil T. Weakley, your average movie-goer, already looking forward to Shriekfest 2012! MANY thanks to Denise Gossett and her husband Todd for always bringing their best efforts to Shriekfest!

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