

cont'd from p. 13

in a severely truncated version. It contains extremely graphic scenes of mutilation, self-flagellation, defenestration, partial decapitation, and any other -ation one can think of

concerning death and suffering (although Barker's sexual politics are avoided in this film).

Some scenes are definitely Barker's handiwork, while others (a scene of a psychotic, convinced that his body is covered with maggots and worms, slicing away at himself with a straight-razor until his blood has saturated the mattress he lies upon) may be integral to the plot, but are far too brutal even for

decided to go Barker one better.

In films like The Evil Dead and Re-animator (personal favorites), and even the original Hellraiser (remember the hooks?), the cruelty

was part of the film's internal logic, important to the characters and the plot. In Hellbound it repulses rather than fascinates; window dressing for a weak plot and flimsy, underdefined leads. It's a shame, too, that Hellbound: Hellraiser II with all it had going for it turns into "A Nightmare On Hell Street" so quickly. Instead

of breaking new ground, it gives us the same basic plot, touched up slightly and with a cheap, "sequelpossible ending". It's hard to be scared at that thought by the end of the film.

But then, how can you feel fear at the sight of someone called Pinhead, anyway?

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EXCALIBUR September 22, 1988