

HEAD TRAUMA - PULL QUOTES

"Any number of big-deal filmmakers - M. Night Shyamalan, for one - would be well-served by a viewing of the low-budget Head Trauma. ...this simple and effective psycho-thriller creates a mood of dread and dissociation, and sustains it, without resorting to elaborate special effects, or a colorful crowd of actors, or otherworldly mystical hooey." 3 out of 4 stars

- PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

"This effective, atmospheric chiller seeps into your fear center like damp rot. Writer/director Lance Weiler makes Grandma's crumbling house a vivid symbol for George's fractured consciousness, and Vince Mola, a Paul Giamatti type with talent to burn, makes the protagonist both disturbing and sympathetic. The result is a smart, goosefleshy psychological jigsaw puzzle." 3 out of 4 stars

- MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

"I'm giving this film my first ever 10 and have to say the hopes and dreams of the great American horror are now on Weiler's shoulders."

- CINEPHILIA.COM

"With his second outing, Weiler proves himself a seriously skilled director. His tone has much in common with the recent spate of Japanese horror films. There's the emphasis on atmosphere, the sad, restless ghosts of the past, the jittery camerawork. It's a wonder Hollywood hasn't snapped him up to helm one of the countless J-horror remakes taking place stateside (The Ring, The Grudge, Pulse). It's almost depressing to think what Weiler could have done with the recent revision of Kiyoshi Kurosawa's 2001 chiller Pulse."

- THE ALIBI

"HEAD TRAUMA will leave you scratching yours in the midst of a fantastic, scary ride that leaves no unanswered questions and does its job with the utmost competence and sheer unalloyed glee." 4 stars

- FILM THREAT

"In this game melding of the conventions of the modern Japanese ghost story with those of the standard American amnesia melodrama, writer-director Lance Weiler delivers a fair number of chills, a modicum of thrills and some downright nifty pyrotechnics. Tracing the doomed efforts of its whiny protagonist (Francis Coppola look-alike Vince Mola) to salvage the run-down and apparently haunted house he..s inherited from his grandmother, Head Trauma unassumingly works its way under the skin, raising neck hairs while teasing us to pry open its psychological puzzle box of unpaid pipers and arrested development."

-LA WEEKLY

"The growling, hooded figure which dogs George through the story is an absolutely terrifying apparition, perhaps the simplest and most haunting monster to grace a movie screen since the debut of Freddy Krueger in the original "A Nightmare On Elm Street."

- BLOODY DISGUSTING

"One of this year's touchstones... Demonstrating once again that ingenuity and invention are more important than millions of dollars in budget, Weiler most effectively works within the confines of the dark house. As more and more unsettling things start to happen, it's almost as though the house were growing into a full-fledged, recently awakened character that is not sure what it wants to do when it sees that it's under attack... Head Trauma creeped me out."

- TWITCHFILM.NET

" A Waking Nightmare – Head Trauma, one of this year's most ambitious independent feature films, draws upon both real-life tragedy and familiar horror archetypes to fashion a unique psychological thriller."

-RUE MORGUE MAGAZINE

"A slick, original, attention-grabbing feature... pushes the medium to the edge of its artistic bounds."

- ALBUQUERQUE WEEKLY

"Horror outing that revives the under appreciated monster of the id to great effect."

- MOVIE CITY NEWS

"This independent production is the best horror movie I've seen in years. Horror fans will catch hints of Polanski's Repulsion and the better new Asian horrors, but the film isn't at all derivative. Compared to filmmaker Lance Weiler's first feature, the underrated Last Broadcast, Head Trauma is more focused and tighter. And, most important, where so many horror films these days arrive at murky endings that seem to have been created by a committee, this one is completely logical and satisfying."

- MIKE MAYO (Video Hound Dog, Washington Post)

"You know the ones: Jacob's Ladder, 12 Monkeys, even Lost Highway. Head Trauma is a solid induction into these halls of creepy mindfucks."

- THE PORTLAND MERCURY

"Elicits effective creeps. A well executed haunted house exercise that treads the psychological vs. supernatural line."

- AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

"This moody indie shocker from writer-director Lance Weiler (The Last Broadcast) walks a careful line between austerity and excess. Some of its hauntingly understated images—an old army tent erected in the gutted-out living room, a submerged cardboard box bubbling in a flooded basement—clash with nightmare visions dominated by a faceless ghost that pushes Walker to the edge of insanity. Like Neil Marshall (The Descent), Weiler is both an impeccable craftsman and a reverent genre fan, his low-lit digital-video interiors, excellent sound design, and rigorous lack of irony breathing life into the somewhat tired concept. Though Head Trauma has at its core a dark and shocking secret, the real mystery is why a director as promising and talented as Weiler would be limited, at least for now, to the DVD market."

- CITY PAGES

"Incredibly creepy... good re-creation of 70's horror."

-TUCSON WEEKLY

"Fright classic... surprisingly effective chiller."

- THE OREGONIAN

"HEAD TRAUMA is completely pro. From packaging to film quality to the movie's website, it seems like there was big money behind this film."

- LOCAL IQ

"As a filmmaker turned critic, I can't help but watch films from the artistic point of view sometimes. Head Trauma may be more of a suspenseful thriller than a horror film. I'm a big fan of Alfred Hitchcock's work, and Head Trauma's director Lance Weiler directed this film like Hitchcock would direct his own movies. Very well written and directed. Head Trauma is my top film of 2006. "

- HORROR VIEW

"A scary-as-hell narrative that seems almost epic, if only because he is playing with our own skewered perception. The fine cast fires on all cylinders, making the tale all the scarier because they look so terrifyingly, well, normal."

- ELECTRIC CITY

"Like Neil Marshall (*The Descent*), Weiler is both an impeccable craftsman and a reverent genre fan, his low-lit digital-video interiors, excellent sound design, and rigorous lack of irony breathing life into the somewhat tired concept. Though *Head Trauma* has at its core a dark and shocking secret, the real mystery is why a director as promising and talented as Weiler would be limited, at least for now, to the DVD market."

- CITY PAGES

"Weiler's *Head Trauma* is without a doubt one of the best indie films to come out in 2006... With its Hitchcock feel that is constantly there mixed with Asian influences such as *Ringu* and *Dark Water*, *Head Trauma* is a film that will probably make you jump high when watching it, not to mention that it may creep you out as well. Grow some nails before you watch this one so you don't start grinding your fingers down by mistake."

- EVIL DREAD

"Still, good as the performances are, the real star here is Lance Weiler. With *The Last Broadcast* he created an excellent pseudo-documentary that not only preceded the similarly themed *Blair Witch Project* but surpassed it in every way. This time he shows he can handle a regular narrative structure, hooking the viewer from the get-go and immersing them in Walker's hallucinatory world."

- BLOG CRITICS

"Drenched in complete darkness, the atmosphere generated by HEAD TRAUMA and all its aspects are just the beginning of a traumatic torrent ride through a masterful vision directed by Lance Weiler (THE LAST BROADCAST). Vince Mola walking in George Walker's shoes is one of the most extremely acted out roles I have witnessed in quite awhile. You feel the drained, washed out feeling that is painted not only in George's face, but his total being. His beard a symbol of his travels in an almost lost like purgatory. His energy being sucked until there is nothing left but the bones. This is the performance staged by both the brilliant direction on Lance Weiler's half and the acting ability of Mola."

- CINEMA NOCTURNA

"There's nothing quite like the MindF*ck movie. Its a movie that takes you through the demented psyche of a character and if done right it can leave you shaken and provoke some good discussion following the viewing. I'm happy to say the Head Trauma is such a movie... No doubt I'll be making a point to see what Weiler and his team create next. I only hope he gets a larger budget to film something on a scale deserving of his talents."
- HAUNTED HOUSE.com

"Director Lance Weiler's "Head Trauma" may not have a big budget, but it has a potent story, a talented director, and cinematography that belies its finances, all of which results in an underpublicized gem that deserves a wider audience."
- CINESCARE

"Hats off to Lance Weiler (The Last Broadcast). Once again he proves to be a genius behind the camera. A true pioneer filmmaker, he has created a psychological thriller that will have you guessing around every turn. Never have I seen a film such as this. It's as if you are in the mind of our nightmare plagued, George Walker, trying to claw your way out."
- CINEMA EULOGIES

"Weiler has crafted a creepy, disturbing thriller that goes against nearly all the norms set forth by our genre today... Solid performances by every single lead boosts the film's value in terms of longevity and re-watchability and mark a decided departure from most indie fare."
- DREAD CENTRAL

"Head Trauma's atmosphere is very reminiscent of Jacobs Ladder, a slew of creepy Asian films, and one of my personal favorites Don't Look Now. It has a real slow burning dread and weight. You feel its overbearing oppressiveness as George does. It is the aspect of the film where Weiler really flexes his muscles. Give the man a flashlight and a dark hallway and he will creep you out. Even though a large majority of the films praise goes to Weiler, he certainly isn't the only one deserving of it. The whole cast does an excellent job."
- HORROR, MADNESS & MAYHEM MAGAZINE

"Weiler is in complete control of his craft, creates an otherworldly ambience; George's visions are terrifying images that will disturb the most jaded viewers. Head Trauma is everything a good horror film should be: scary, deeply emotional, and with a good script that ties up all the loose ends."
- VIDEOSCOPE MAGAZINE