

Reel Biog. Bk.

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MN

HINDS, CINDY

But Cindy is dandy

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A \$1.4-million snore

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By AL BELL

Mississauga child model Cindy Hinds may be the best thing about *The Brood*. The nine-year-old star of the Canadian-made horror film manages well in her role as the abducted daughter of actor Art Hindle.

Hinds is not given many lines by writer-director David Cronenberg, however she manages to more than adequately capture the tearful expressions called for by the role.

The Grade 3 student at Oakridge Public School has been a professional model since the age of four and was selected for the role for her poise and wide-eyed look of innocence.

Selected along with her were eight members of the Mississauga Gymnastic Club who play the young horror children of *The Brood*. Tammy Cranstoun, Trina Lenyk, Tammy Frizzle, Audrey Gastmeier, Holly Matson, Lee Anne Evans, Krista McRorie and Leslie Smyth, along with Hinds, will not be able to view the "Restricted" film.

The nine youngsters are not missing much.

The Brood by the King of Gore would be better off called *The Crude* by the King of Bore.

This \$1.4 million Canadian-made waste of time at the Dixie Five Cinema incorporates the worst of half a dozen horror films into a crude, 90-minute yawn.

It is trashy techniques and cheap sensationalism taken to the limit. No

better example of this exists than in the climactic scene when a mother devours a new-born fetus. Such gory developments are no strangers to horror films, but in *The Brood*, the scene is so completely divorced from any logical progression of the plot, so totally out of context with the characters' motivation, it serves only one purpose: crass exploitation.

The blame for this insult to the intelligence rests solely with writer-director David Cronenberg (*Rapid Shivers*), this country's self-proclaimed King of Gore who deserves everything he gets for having the audacity to place his name over the title of the film.

Cronenberg misses the mark so badly that his "terrifying" production actually becomes funny. During a recent screening, there was not one gasp or scream from one audience member. Even oohs and aahs were replaced with giggles and light chatter while everyone waited for something to happen.

The film is not nearly frightening enough to deserve its "Restricted" status — a ranking it likely received more for its needless vulgarity.

Cronenberg's plot concerns a brood of eight deformed children (actually members of the Mississauga Gymnastic Club) who run around in snowsuits beating the brains out of assorted individuals.

The particular object of their attention is builder Frank Carveth (Art Hindle) and his eight-year-old daughter Candy

(Mississauga's Cindy Hinds). In succession, the brood annihilates in bloody fashion the family grandfather, grandmother and a local school teacher.

Carveth's wife Nona (Samantha Eggar) is interred in a mental institution run by "brilliant psychoplastic" doctor Hal Raglan (Oliver Reed)

If one thing can be labelled as the fundamental problem with the film, it has to be Cronenberg's script; it moves at a paralytic pace leaving his actors with the most absurd lines.

The grandmother shows her wisdom with the line: "Three seconds after you're born you have a past, and 60 seconds after that you start to lie about it."

Carveth, whose daughter has just witnessed three brutal murders comments: "Y'know, sometimes it just kills me that my kid might be screwed up by the age of six."

Or again, when his daughter has been abducted by the brood, he turns to the riotous front page headline on the *Globe* and *Mail* which reads: "Police seek dwarf killers".

As a Canadian production, *The Brood* is being shown as part of the "Halfback" program. Moviegoers can trade old Wintario tickets as the box office and receive a refund of half their admission price.

It's not nearly enough.
THE BROOD, Restricted, Dixie Five Cinema, 1185 Dundas St. E., (270-6856).



Candy is dandy . . . Cindy Hinds, a nine-year-old Mississauga child model-actress (above) is about the best thing in the newly-released film "The Brood". Playing the role of Candy, Cindy gave a sterling

performance. Unfortunately for the horror film, it didn't quite cut it in other areas, says writer Al Bell. "The Brood" opened at Dixie Five Cinema.