A few weeks back, I was searching for rare horror titles at Los Angeles’ Amoeba Music (for those of you who have never been there, I highly recommend a visit; it’s a treasure trove of rare and unusual cult films). On this particular trip, I happened upon ALUCARDA. How had I missed this title? I’m a sucker for nunsploitation and a die-hard fan of weird ’60s and ’70s psychedelia. So ALUCARDA (a.k.a. SISTERS OF SATAN) was pretty much a mental and visual gift.

Straight outta 1975, ALUCARDA was directed by Juan López Moctezuma, who cut his surreal fangs working with the god of trippy, Alejandro Jodorowsky, on EL TOPO. Part of the new wave of Mexican filmmakers, Moctezuma directed THE MANSION OF MADNESS in 1973 before resurrecting Satan and killing some nuns in ALUCARDA. Set in a Catholic convent for orphan girls, the film sees the strange teen Alucarda befriending the recently orphaned Justine. Their relationship quickly gets weird…like, “Oops, we accidentally had a blood orgy” weird. Somewhere among the oaths of devoted friendship, breast-slicing and heavy petting, the two gals end up pledging allegiance to Beelzebub. Then everything gets batshit crazy!

The girls develop mental powers and possibly become possessed. So they do the only natural thing, and start taking down nuns and orphans while chanting their love for the dark lord. The nuns fight back and host a grand exorcism, which (not unlike the previous satanic blood orgy) includes copious amounts of nudity, gore and ecstatic dry-humping amidst the festivities. Who will prevail, our satanic teens or the repressed nuns…and how many will get naked and bloody in this process?

[redacted]

[redacted]