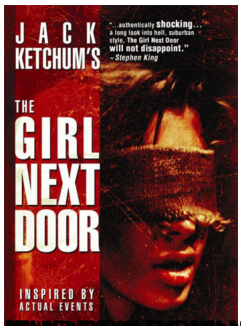
Holy shit.

Those were the two words I uttered upon reaching the end credits of A SERBIAN FILM. Actually, that's a lie. I looked at the screen stone-faced for several moments, barely able to comprehend what I just watched, like I just got cracked upside the head with a sledgehammer and my brains were still rolling around my head. Effective? Yes. Disturbing? Without a doubt. It's climbed into the infinitesimally small category of movies that truly were hard for me to sit through, with one scene in particular nearly causing me to turn the movie off.

I won't describe the scene in question—that's what a Google search is for—but anyone who has seen the film will probably stand behind saying it's the most depraved sexual act imaginable. It's absolutely repulsive and sickening, and I honestly couldn't believe it went as far as it did. In fact, this scene in particular is what got the gears turning with two questions: What are the movies that've truly left an impact on me due to their violence, and how far is too far in the depiction of atrocious acts in cinema?

To date, there are only two films that've shocked and disturbed me the same way: LUCKY and THE GIRL NEXT DOOR. For the first half of LUCKY I was having a ball, laughing at the jokes and intrigued at the philosophical rambling of Millard Mudd…and then comes a near 7 minute scene of him tying a girl to a post, strangling her until she passes out, reviving her, and then strangling her again. As for THE GIRL NEXT DOOR, I caught it on a whim at the NYC Horror Film Festival and was completely blindsided by how hard of a film it was to sit through (then again, the sadistic torture of a teenage girl by small children isn't exactly light material). And now comes A SERBIAN FILM, the latest movie to make me struggle to finish it.



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