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While all the big-budget animated, fantasy and sci-fi flicks continue to eat up the nation’s limited number of 3-D screens to boffo box-office business, what about the scrappy independents and others making 3-D movies outside the studio system? Will the little guys ever capture a bit of the current theatrical windfall?

With all the legitimate 3-D epics like AVATAR and HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON and the “fake 3-D” ALICE IN WONDERLAND and CLASH OF THE TITANS (the latter two were converted in post, and not shot with 3-D cameras) out there, it’s next to impossible for smaller films to not only garner a multidimensional release but even find a distributor in the first place. Two cases in point: Joe Dante’s well-reviewed theatrical comeback movie THE HOLE (pictured above) and the gruesome slasher flick SCAR (pictured below).

SCAR was lensed in 2006 and first screened for potential distributors in May 2007, well before production of 2009’s 3-D remake of MY BLOODY VALENTINE. Why couldn’t the Angela Bettis-starring SCAR jump on the 3-D gravy train? Producer Norman Twain shares his frustration that he could have been the first new R-rated horror film out in 3-D if he had opened in time. “For horror fans, SCAR is a very well-made and entertaining film,” Twain tells Fango. “The 3-D does enhance it and makes it more audience-friendly. Is it the best movie ever made? Of course not. But it is certainly competent, and audiences do like it.”

At least, audiences overseas do. “SCAR did exceptionally good business in Europe, with the best grosses from Russia, Poland and Romania,” Twain says. “It fared well in Greece, Hong Kong and in the Benelux area, but was disappointing in England and France. As the producer, I could say it wasn’t marketed well in either of those two releases. We live and learn. There is an upcoming release in Spain in May on about 400 screens. We anticipate good numbers. All in all, SCAR has been sold in 40 countries, and nobody could be disappointed in its foreign numbers. It still has openings coming up in Germany, the Czech Republic and Japan.”

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