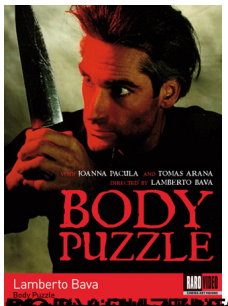
Let’s begin this review with a brief film history lesson. *Giallo* (Italian for “yellow”) is a film subgenre spawned from pulp mystery novels with yellow covers. Over time, several key traits of these movies developed, like the sacred black-gloved hand, bright red blood, sexualized victims and very theatrical lighting, colors, and style. These films quickly shifted from simply seedy mystery stories into gory whodunits and then into the full-out gorefests that most people associate with greats like Dario Argento and Lucio Fulci. The *gialli* took inspiration from U.S. directors like the legendary Alfred Hitchocock while also serving as a predominant influence on American slasher films.

OK, pencils down and back to the review. Raro Video has rereleased BODY PUZZLE, directed by Lamberto Bava, son of Mario (one of the fathers of the *giallo* subgenre). This film was originally released in 1992, so it’s questionable whether it can be associated with the trend’s original heyday from the 1960s-’80s or functions more as a retro throwback to the subgenre. Regardless, it is a perfectly framed example of *giallo* executed brilliantly, with a small dose of cheesy fun tossed in for good measure.


WITH JOANNA PACULA AND TOMAS ARANA
DIRECTED BY LAMBERTO BAVA
BODY PUZZLE
Lamberto Bava
Body Puzzle

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