

## FINAL HOUR

(SIDSTE TIME)

(DANISH)

A Regner Grasten Filmproduktion production, in association with the Danish Film Institute and TV2 Denmark. (International sales: Nordisk, Stockholm and Copenhagen.) Produced by Regner Grasten.

Directed by Martin Schmidt. Screenplay, Dennis Jurgensen, based on his novel. Camera (color), Peter Roos; editor, Thomas Kragh; music, Frans Bak; production design, Viggo Bentzon; costume design, Merete Engback; sound (Dolby SR), Stig Sparre-Ulrich. Reviewed at Cannes Film Festival (market), May 26, 1995. (Also in Fantasy Film Festival, Berlin; Edinburgh Film Festival.) Running time: 80 MIN.

Micky Holm ..... Peter Jerde  
Nicoline ..... Lene Laub Oksen  
Gerluf Lovholm ..... Stig Hoffmeyer  
Taus ..... Tomas Villum Jensen  
Inga ..... Rikke Louise Andersson  
Kenneth ..... Karl Bille  
Iris ..... Laura Drasbaek Olesen  
Rasmus ..... Ken Vedsegaard  
Augusta ..... Mette Bratlam  
TV Journalist .... Mari-Anne Jespersen

**D**enmark's first teen slasher movie, "Final Hour" is a slickly packaged, overcooked slice of ham that would have been even better if it didn't try to be so clever. Feature bow by Martin Schmidt should, however, please dedicated aficionados of the genre and merit unspoolings in latenightfest sidebars.

The killing field this time round is Elf Hill High School, whither seven teens are summoned for detention late one Friday in the biology lab. Locked in, they're informed via a TV monitor that "a murder has been committed."

The psychological games begin when one lad climbs out a window to investigate and the others learn he killed his brother. Subsequently, two girls get separated from the group when a door opens briefly, and one is later found dead. Thereon, the body count mounts with a regularity that would make Jason proud.

So far, so straight. Where the pic (adapted by local cult writer Dennis Jurgensen from his own novel) starts to get cute is in framing the whole thing as some kind of time-warp exercise.

Outside the school with the cops and his cameras is Micky Holm, host of a popular TV reality show, "Final Hour," that covers atrocities as they occur. Holm seems to know in advance what's going to happen; an even greater mystery is why, from the students' p.o.v., there's no crowd of people outside the school.

This clever spin on a familiar genre gets increasingly annoying when it becomes clear nothing is going to be explained. (Presumably we're witnessing a replay of past murders.) Double-headed ending—in the first of which a girl sees her own corpse prior to her murder—comes over as clever for clever's sake, leaving auds as much in the dark as when pic began.

Performances by the mostly young cast are all distinctly etched within their limits, and tech credits are smooth all round. Gore quotient is average for the genre.

—Derek Elley

## Final Hour (Sidste Time), Cannes Reviews, Summer 1995

### Denmark ● *Sidste time* ● Dir: Martin Schmidt Reviewed by Ebbe Iverson

**Eng title:** Final Hour **Prod co:** Regner Grasten Film **Prod:** Regner Grasten **Ass prod:** Karen Bentzon **Dir:** Martin Schmidt **Scr:** Dennis Jurgensen **DoP:** Peter Roos **Ed:** Thomas Kragh **Prod des:** Viggo Bentzon **Cost:** Merete Engbæk **Mus:** Frans Bak **Sound:** Stig Sparre-Ulrich **Cast:** Peter Jorde (Mickey), Lene Laub Øksen (Nicoline), Rikke Louise Andersson (Inga), Tomas Vilhelm Jensen (Taus) **Genre:** Horror **Censorship rating:** Over 16 **Int sales:** Nordisk Film & TV-Distribution **Running time:** 84 mins

Seven teenagers find themselves locked up inside an empty school with a dangerously

deranged serial killer, lurking in the corridors.

*Sidste time* is not exactly an exercise in logic and plausibility, but it is a tight and tough little horror movie in the style of early John Carpenter.

This first film by the obviously talented Martin Schmidt attempts to satirise television's cynical hunt for sensations (reminiscent of Almodóvar's *Kika*), but basically it is a traditional horror film with a touch of the supernatural, as events inside and outside the school



seem to take place simultaneously and yet at different times. This is only a gimmick, but it works efficiently, as does the entire film with its gifted young cast and its non-stop suspense.

Shot on a minimal budget in only 18 days, *Sidste time* is technically an impressive achievement, aimed mainly at a young audience sure to appreciate the film's intense and scary atmosphere of fear, terror and desperation. *Sidste time* is definitely a success.