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Kat

(Denmark)

A Nordisk Film Biografdistribution presentation of a Balboa 2 production in association with Zentropa and Danish Film Institute. Produced by Henrik Danstrup. Executive producer, Peter Aalbaek Jensen. Directed by Martin Schmidt. Screenplay, Marie Trolle Larsen, adapted from the novel by Steen Langstrups.

With: Liv Corfixen, Charlotte Munck, Martin Brygmann, Soren Pilmark, Birgitte Federspiel, Grethe Holmer.

By DENNIS HARVEY

It's hello kitty, goodbye cruel world in the efficient Danish horror thriller "Kat." Handled with straight-faced conviction by helmer Martin Schmidt and cast, tale of a malevolent spirit wreaking havoc around an urban apartment building has been making the rounds of fantasy-themed fests. Pic reps a good bet for tube and tape sales in select territories.

Temporarily sharing friend Isabella's (Charlotte Munck) flat, Maria (Liv Corfixen) is not at her happiest: She's failing law school, has to find a new solo living space -- though she'd rather move in with longtime b.f. Henrik (Martin Brygmann) -- and has just heard he may be cheating on her. One night, Isabella's grandparents hold a secret gathering upstairs. Neither young woman thinks much of the odd noises heard overhead, but later, Maria's cat (who had sneaked unseen into the upstairs apartment) begins acting strangely, while horrifying murders strike at random in the area -- seemingly committed by some ferocious, enormous creature. Glimpses of the demon-possessed, monster-sized feline are kept minimal until the end. Neatly executed little creepshow falters only with a finale that lacks punch.

Camera (color), Dirk Bruel; editor, Miriam Norgaard; music, Gary Chang; production designer, Peter de Neergaard. Reviewed at Dark Wave Festival, San Francisco, Oct. 20, 2002. Running time: 85 MIN.

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