



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

GWLEDD/THE FEAST (18)
Director: Lee Haven Jones
UK, 2021, 1 hour 31 minutes

"There are endless horror movies out there in which a slow burn seems like it's just killing time before it's actually time to kill. But "The Feast" does well with that dread – it's the main course" (**ROGEREBERT**)

One of 3 Horrors being screened as part of Borderlines Film Festival's *Chills in the Hills* strand, presenting rural settings as central to a sense of ever-present threat in cinema, *Gwledd/The Feast* is the latest offering from Welsh director, Lee Haven Jones. As a trope, secluded country settings are well documented, particularly in their overlap with the Folk Horror form, popularised by films such as *The Wicker Man* (1973) starring Christopher Lee, and more recently *Midsommar* (2019). *Gwledd/The Feast*, is the latest in a strong, British tradition of presenting some of our land's finest natural delights with a sinister and foreboding edge. Whilst the rural countryside has become synonymous with tranquility and calm, their locales have often too been used as immense petri dishes, spawning up an array of on-screen terrors and delights. Whether it's their extreme isolation, their shifting weather fronts, or the particular way that dense forests engulf all available light, rural settings are well deserved of their elevated status in Horror folklore.

Haven Jones' Welsh-language, class allegory, uses a remote hillside backdrop (and the associations it stirs) to pass judgement on one Welsh family succumbing to moral rot, as they sense an opportunity to use a business dinner to sell off their sacred lands, for short term profits. The film is littered with extreme violence, with 'Cadi', the hired serving assistant, the sole divulger of divine justice and reckoner of torment upon the unsuspecting diners. The film is ruthlessly bloody and relentlessly gruesome, yet despite this, David Ehrlich notes that it is "a film that would rather have its audience licking their lips than hiding their eyes" (**INDIEWIRE**) Underscored throughout by classical music, *Gwledd/The Feast* remains "hungry for a pyrrhic victory against those who would cannibalize their own land and history for a few dollars more" (**INDIEWIRE**)

Are these guests destined to experience their last supper? As noted in our 2022 brochure, 'If you have a strong stomach, this feast, suffused with social satire with a strong eco twist, is certainly for you', though you may require a short lie down afterwards.

Preview courtesy of Picturehouse Entertainment

Notes compiled by Sam Briggs