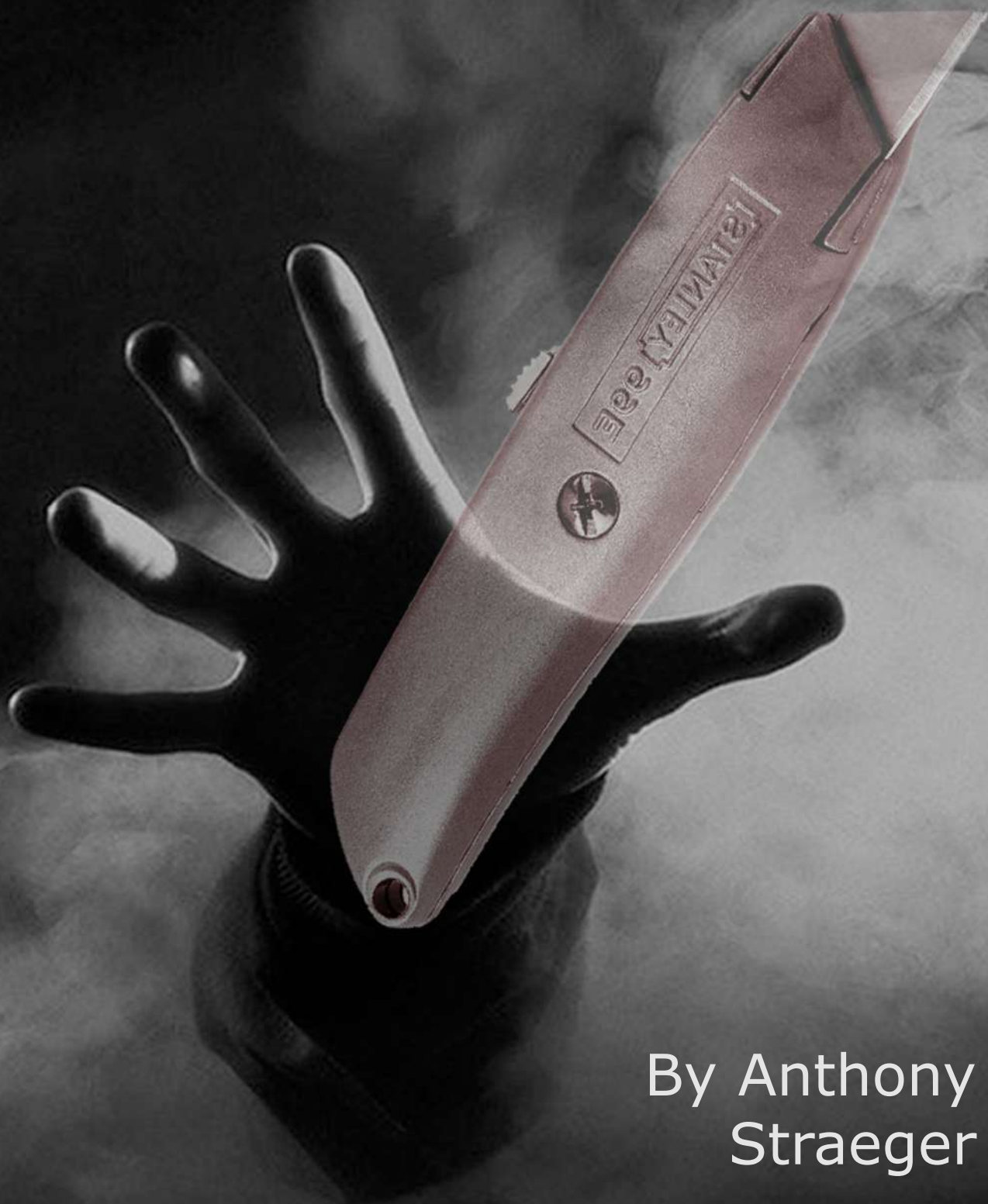


STAN

A slice of British Horror



By Anthony
Straeger

OVERVIEW

- TITLE: STAN
- WRITER: Anthony Straeger
- GENRE: Psychological Horror
- STYLE: The Machinist (2004) meets Fight Club 1999
- FORMAT: 95 Minutes
- TIME: Present
- TAGLINE: Psychologically... It's a bit of a carve-up.
- LOGLINE: Blend a down-and-out character with a touch of schizophrenia, add a sentient box-cutter knife, and the recipe unfolds for a catastrophic tale of suspense and chaos.
- SUMMARY: Battling low self-esteem, Stan navigates a stumbling journey through life as he burdens Karen, his long-term girlfriend, with his psychological issues. As external pressures mount, Stan receives an otherworldly calling. Is it from within or an external force? The voice embodied in a box-cutter echoes in his mind, leading him to a DIY store. The fateful connection seals the destinies of Stan and his unwitting victims. Trapped between conscience and psychosis, Stan hurtles down a dark path of murder and mayhem.



SYNOPSIS

In the unforgiving urban landscape, Stan Leigh is a symbol of urban psychosis, grappling with a society that values success above all. His life takes a dark turn when he becomes the target of a gang assault, a victim of road rage, and faces unsettling encounters with a dubious priest and his doctor, who abruptly discontinues Stan's schizophrenia medication. Struggling to maintain his relationship with his long-term girlfriend, and faces the pressure to keep their bond intact, while her friend Sarah actively works to dismantle it.

Stan's existence becomes a living hell, and amid his misery, a mysterious voice beckons him. Unable to resist, Stan traces the voice to its origin, a DIY shop. He discovers that the voice emanates from an extraordinary source, a sentient 'Boxcutter Knife' with a bloody mind and attitude.

The knife's sinister agenda unfolds as it draws Stan into a violent ballet, turning the tables on his tormentors, who now become his prey. Blurring the lines between reality and fantasy, Stan, unable to distinguish right from wrong, embarks on a murder spree with his newfound companion.

The brutal climax occurs on a cold, wet morning when the knife orchestrates a senseless attack on his doctor, leading to his fatal fall. The police intervene, and Stan has a final confrontation with the knife, unveiling a horrifying truth about who the puppet master is.

Stan is taken into police custody. The knife is thrown aside, only for a shocking twist to unfold. One of the officers seizes the knife, slashing his partner and himself. In a chilling revelation, reality proves to be more deceptive than it seemed.

The TV news broadcasts the mayhem as Stan is transported in a police van, leaving behind a trail of unanswered questions and a city haunted by the echoes of an enigmatic knife.



STATEMENT

In STAN's Realm, the border between reality and illusion is deliberately blurred, giving it a cold and bewildering quality that we will convey through the film's unique texture and shooting style.

Schizophrenia is a mental health condition that this movie explores. It is characterized by various challenges that include hallucinations, disorganized thinking, and social withdrawal. The film takes a closer look at the many facets of this disorder. It portrays the often strange and persecutory delusions, disjointed thinking, and emotional complexities that come with it. STAN presents observable patterns of difficulty that provide the audience with a nuanced depiction of this mental health condition.

Late adolescence and early adulthood are crucial stages in social and vocational development. These periods are when schizophrenia is most likely to occur. The movie STAN portrays this developmental disruption in detail, shedding light on the challenges faced by young adults dealing with this condition. The film underscores the significance of early detection and intervention, showcasing the prodromal phase, which can be identified months before symptoms manifest. This proactive approach aims to mitigate the impact of the condition on individuals' lives.

STAN is not just a statistic; it's a portrayal of a 'normal person' struggling with psychosis. The movie provides a genuine glimpse of British life by exploring the complexities of mental health within the fabric of urban existence. It is more than just a conventional slasher or horror genre, as STAN emerges as a compelling drama and tense thriller.

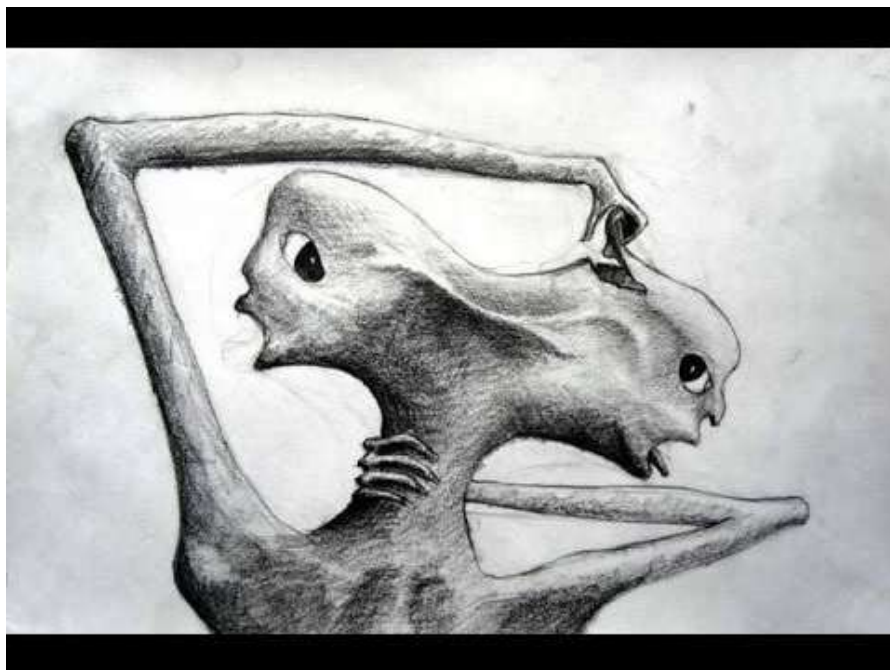


SCHIZOPHRENIA

Is a mental disorder characterized by the disintegration of thought processes and emotional responsiveness? It most commonly manifests as auditory hallucinations, paranoia or bizarre delusions, or disorganized speech and thinking and is accompanied by significant social or occupational dysfunction. The onset of symptoms typically occurs in young adulthood, with a global lifetime prevalence of about 0.3–0.7%. Diagnosis is based on observed behaviour and a patient's reported experiences.

Genetics, early environment, neurobiology, and psychological and social processes appear to be important contributory factors; some recreational and prescription drugs appear to cause or worsen symptoms. Current research is focused on the role of neurobiology, although no single isolated organic cause has been found. The many possible combinations of symptoms have triggered a debate about whether the diagnosis represents a single disorder or several discrete syndromes. Despite the etymology of the term from the Greek roots *skhizein* (σχίζειν, "to split") and *phrēn*, *phren-* (φρήν, φρεν-; "mind"), schizophrenia does not imply a "split mind" and it is not the same as dissociative identity disorder, also known as "multiple personality disorder" or "split personality" a condition with which it is often confused in public perception.

STAN takes an angle on this and shows how the system is unable to cope as much as the sufferer and his victims. The questions to be asked are, 'Are psychological problems an acceptable excuse for murder?' Can they relieve someone of responsibility for their actions? Or are there some crimes where a punishment must be enforced?



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