



A creepy, funny movie about bad neighbors, taxidermy, and the predator lurking within.

***Mister Angerhead** has the haunting mark of every childhood campfire story
about the menacing man looming in the dark.*

Synopses

Short Synopsis:

Francis is a slow-witted outsider in a small Southern town. He spends his time collecting roadkill. When a social worker visits him with the news his benefits are being terminated, he cracks and becomes Mister Angerhead. Emboldened, he catches a new prize – his pretty neighbor Connie. Mister Angerhead draws attention when he brings a human hand to a taxidermist for mounting. A detective and the taxidermist investigate. Mister Angerhead takes Connie to the shed, but he's left something burning on the stove! Firemen and the detective arrive – and the chase is on.

Long Synopsis:

Francis is a slow-witted, mild mannered loner living in a small Southern town. His landlady, Miss Flora, comes to visit with him on occasion, but other than that he has no friends. He spends much of his time driving around collecting things - things other people wouldn't find valuable - nuts, bolts, plant matter, string. He catalogues his treasures and stores them in jars around his apartment. He also enjoys practicing tying knots.

Francis does have contact with a few other people on a regular basis: his neighbors Connie and Cowboy. They are caught up in their own personal dramas but look up from them occasionally to chide Francis. Cowboy is actively mean to Francis, but Connie just joins in every once in a while. To Francis Connie seems nice and pretty. He hears them arguing at night, and thinks of saving Connie. One night after one of Connie and Cowboy's fights, Francis follows Connie as she drives along country roads to clear her mind. That's not all she's thinking about clearing. She tosses her wedding ring out the window. And Francis is there to collect it.

The next day a social worker comes to tell Francis his benefits are going to be cut off. An already fragile mind, Francis' brain flips. Francis transforms into Mister Angerhead. He is emboldened by his transformation and when the opportunity arises, he procures the prize of all his collections - Connie herself.

Mister Angerhead ties Connie to a chair in his apartment, but realizes he has not thought this through at all. What to do with her? Meanwhile he is getting lots of visitors - the landlady, Cowboy and now the detective! Somehow the local taxidermist gets involved and you know that can't lead to any good.

Layers of visuals and sound weave the texture of the story. Music incongruous to the drama and dryly humorous dialogue add levity, creating a creepy funny atmosphere.

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Exhibition and Credits

Exhibition Format:	DVD, 81 minutes
Production Format:	MiniDV 24p 16:9 on Panasonic DVX100
Domestic Premiere:	Charlottesville Performing Arts Center, November 2007
A Production of	Pop Jones Productions
Written and Directed by	Mark Edwards
Produced by	Mary Michaud
Edited by	Mark Edwards
Camera by	Mark Edwards
Original Music by	Adam Daniel, Rick Olivarez, Paul and Susan Rosen

Cast

Leo Arico, *Fat Francis/ Mister Angerhead*

Dan Stern, *Detective Richards*

Heather Lebowski, *Connie*

Jamie Dyer, *Cowboy*

Kate Destler, *Linda the newscaster*

Eleanor Droney, *Miss Flora*

Glenn Harris, *Nightclub patron kisser*

F. Markell Henderson, *Fireman*

Emil "Tovi" Kratovil, *Chief of Police*

David Alan Kuser, *Fireman*

Kim Langford, *Voice of Myra*

Spencer Lathrop, *Tax the taxidermist*

Mary Michaud, *Ms. Green the social worker*

Johann Neem, *Louis the newscaster*

Charles Phillips, *Fireman*

Bone Rainey, *Faithful dog*

Rufus, *Alley cat*

Kyle Schwandt, *Man on the street*

Arthur Scott, *Club patron smoking*

Director's Statement – Mark Edwards

I love the way noise creeps in to everything we do. We build a highway and there's noise. We soundproof our cars to ride on the highway. It's too quiet in here! Let's bring in a cell phone. Let's turn on the radio. We tune into a classical station – hey let's get some rock and roll on that thing. We might as well sit on the tarmac. It's not just us – out there in the fields are bugs chanting. They can't stand the silence; they want a soundtrack to dance to.

In Mister Angerhead, Francis suffers from such a buzz. Outside his house and inside his head a near constant drone orders him to perform reprehensible actions. Everyone reacts to the voices in their heads – a flinch, grimace, or squint to keep our interior monologue from betraying us – but not everyone resists. Under the pressures of his neighbors' fighting and the termination of his welfare benefits, Francis snaps and becomes something bigger, smarter, and funnier than he has ever been. For the first time in his life he has a bit of intelligence, a bit of control – so what if it's borrowed from a second personality? Fat Francis hears and obeys Mister Angerhead.

The visiting welfare agent ends up as Mister Angerhead's meals. To the modern man it's so confusing to mix food and violence, but to our ancestors, hunting was the proactive step beyond gathering. Francis makes this transition. The relative richness of hunted food draws us. Overcoming a simple morality is all it takes to get that kind of meal.

The welfare agent also becomes part of Mister Angerhead's collection. Francis has always needed order. He collects roadkill, rusty parts, flowers. He learns knots, string tricks, and logs his activities in a journal. This systematizing and note taking is much the work of an artist, a documentarian, a filmmaker – plan, capture, edit. Like Francis and Mister Angerhead, I am partial to the non-verbal and preverbal to convey what I need to say. I am easily influenced by directors like Mamet, Lynch, and Guy Maddin – a few terse lines to underscore, but I prefer to let the pictures do the heavy-lifting.

The neighbors continue to fight. Connie has had enough and tosses her wedding ring out the car window. Bye bye. Francis, hunting and gathering (and stalking Connie), finds the ring and cherishes it. Meanwhile Mister Angerhead realizes he needs Connie for his collection.

There are so many things in the world. When you start naming them or counting them, it can become insanity. Dividing and subdividing is the work of scientists, percussionists, and racists (and editors!). We work on putting it back together all the time. If we have too many things or too few filters, it becomes a hum. The hum gets louder and becomes a drone, a blur. At some level of remove it becomes a substrate, a wall color, a personality, a thing. Mister Angerhead is that thing.

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About the Filmmakers

Mark Edwards

Director, Screenwriter, Editor, Sound Design, Art Direction

Previous film work includes production, editing and sound design of [Still Life with Donuts: Natural History of a Neighborhood](#) , 2003.

A 1990 graduate of San Francisco State University's *Film Production Core*, Mark has produced commercial video for many years. He is also an artist and photographer, a Principal of Optipop Graphic Design in Charlottesville, VA, and loves walks on the beach.

Mary Michaud

Producer, Set Design, Musician

Previous film work includes production and writing of [Still Life with Donuts: Natural History of a Neighborhood](#) , 2003.

Mary Michaud is a found-object collage artist when she's not pushing pixels as a Principal of Optipop Graphic Design in Charlottesville, VA.