



ANNOYING: Low-budget shocker

HUSH

Cert 15, 91mins ★★★

There are certain ingredients absolutely essential to a decent horror/terror flick.

The obvious ones are tension, scares and (usually) a decent helping of blood and gore.

Less obvious, but just as important, is the film's ability to make us care about the people who find themselves at the receiving end of a meat cleaver/axe/whatever.

Low-budget Brit shocker Hush has plenty of terror and a grim sense of foreboding, but never really succeeds since its victims are so unbelievably, almost criminally, annoying. Give me a meathook and I'd gladly have finished them off myself.

The unfortunates are rowing couple Beth and Zakes, whose job is to put up posters in

motorway service stations. When their car's almost hit on the M1 by a truck whose tailgate rolls open, Zakes catches a glimpse of a caged, screaming woman in the back. When his call to the police isn't taken seriously, he decides to give chase, a move that puts both his and his girlfriend's lives in peril.

It's all deftly handled by writer/director Mark Tonderai, but the impact's severely weakened by the two main characters. A deeply unhappy pair whose relationship is marked by suspicion and mistrust, they also possess voices like nails being dragged down a blackboard.

Still, as it's his first film, Tonderai is clearly a name to watch.

THE REEL LOWDOWN

IF YOU LIKED... Breakdown, Road Games... **YOU'LL LIKE THIS.**

