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# Stripperland

USA 2011

produced by

**Shawn Justice, Sewan Skelding, James Ferguson sr (executive), Andrew Hardwick (executive), Ch Dryden (executive) for Cheezy Flicks**

directed by Sean Skelding

starring Ben Sheppard, Jamison Challeen, Maren McGuire, Ileana Herrin, Hank Cartwright, Daniel Baldwin, Lloyd Kaufman, Linnea Quigley, Shel Bailey, Boyd Banks, Brad McCray, Jennifer Loomis, Jessica Jacks, Fabian Gordon

story by Sean Skelding, Brad McCray, Tyler Benjamin, screenplay by Brad McCray, visual effects by Raver Studios

review by

**Mike Haberfelner**

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- Bloodlust Zombies 2011
- Exit 33 2011
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A virus has been unleashed that has turned (almost) all of American women into strippers. Which might sound great, but the problem is that these strippers are also carnivorous zombies.

Young Idaho (Ben Sheppard) has been obsessed with strippers for all of his life, and he knows pretty much everything about strippers - which has saved his life a number of times. But eventually, he needs some rescuing when he runs into a tight spot, and he is rescued by Frisco (Jamison Challeen), a wannabe cowboy of the silent kind who just hates strippers (and who will be revealed to be gay later on). The odd couple embarks on a roadtrip to God-knows-where, and on their way they pick up two uninfected girls, Virginia (Maren McGuire) and West (Ileana Herrin) - who in an ironic twist later on will be revealed to be real life (as opposed to zombie) strippers. Virginia and West persuade Idaho to take them to Portland, Oregon, which sounds like a bad idea, because Portland has the highest stripper-per-capita ratio in the whole country, but Virginia and West's grandma (Linnea Quigley) is a top pas chef - and Frisco just loves pies.

On their way to Portland, our heroes have to fend off many zombie attacks and meet many weird characters: like a rapper (William Baldwin) who uses his skills to keep the zombies at bay (after all, strippers love hip hop music), an action movie star (Hank Cartwright) who dresses like a stripper to move among the zombies undetected, and a mad scientist (Boyd Banks) who wants to use (and transform) the stripper virus to turn all women into perfect wives.

Ultimately, already in Oregon, our heroic quartet finds itself surrounded by strippers and without any weapons except a briefcase Idaho has been carrying with him all the time, a briefcase containing a fortune in Dollar bills. And strippers love Dollar bills ...

It all ends happily with grandma saving our heroes, Idaho getting the girl (Virginia), and Frisco getting all the he can eat ...

The concept of this film is a winning formula: A zombie comedy in which all zombies are also strippers. And some of the jokes are absolutely on target (e.g. the zombies in this film are so slow because all strippers wear heels).

But unfortunately, **Stripperland** as such is a small-scale disaster: Basically, the film doesn't feature much of a plot, just a bunch of loosely connected episodes of varying (but mostly minor) quality. On top of that, the characters are all terribly clichéd and especially Ben Sheppard as Idaho is quite annoying. Add to this a clumsily tagged-on feminist message (please note, I'm not complaining about the message here, but the delivery), very puerile humour and a total lack of understanding concerning strippers, and you are left with not all that much.

And how come a film titled **Stripperland** contains quite so little nudity? Note to the makers of this film, the main attraction of a stripper is not her wearing a slutty outfit but her getting naked. Sure, there are always those who claim the focus of a good striptease is on the tease, but that's a load of baloney: All the tease is worth shit if there isn't a payoff (nudity) in the end.

Of course, all I write here about the film will not make the least bit of difference to you, if you have set your sights on buying **Stripperland** based on its concept (zombies that are also strippers) you will do so no matter what I say and even if you trust me in everything else. And I can't blame you, because I know I would ...

review © by **Mike Haberfelner**

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