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A Fresh Look at Zombies | Review of "The Walking Dead Girls"

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Zombies. Nowadays they're everywhere. Alright, so not literally. But media wise, zombies have invaded every aspect of entertainment we enjoy today. From video games like *Resident Evil* and *Dead Rising*, to TV shows like AMC's *The Walking Dead*, to comic books and graphic novels like *The Walking Dead*, zombies can be found everywhere you look. How did this fascination with zombies come about? That's exactly what Tyler Benjamin's documentary *The Walking Dead Girls!* aims to find out. By interviewing people like famous director George A. Romero, famous B-lister Bruce Campbell, and scream-queen Linnea Quigley, Benjamin opens our eyes to a whole new aspect of modern zombie culture.

Obviously, the most captivating aspect of this movie is the fact that it examines

"sexy female zombies" or "zimbies" as they have been dubbed (a derivative of "zombie bimbos"). It's a great marketing idea and it's a legitimate study of modern culture. Yet, this movie goes far beyond the mere examination of naked decaying boobs. It attempts to grant its viewers a perspective on the zombie movie genre not otherwise noted by the average movie watcher. Let's invite George A. Romero himself to explain exactly what I mean.

"My films aren't really about the zombies. ... They're more about people and the stupid behaviors of humans and how they fail to handle the situation."

You may remember from my [other article on Romero](#) that I am a bit of a Romero fan. That being said, let me explain what I let Romero explain for me. His films reach far beyond mere gore and shock factors. Romero's art is not about cheap thrills and scare tactics. No, his work is instead a social commentary on the downfalls of society due to the unreliable fallacies of human nature. Every interview in Benjamin's documentary expresses this idea to the fullest.

Take for instance the handful of interviews conducted with Zombie pin-up models (yes, such a thing does exist). One question asked of all participants was "Why do you think zombies are so popular right now?" The most common answer was something having to do with humans' attraction to being scared and fascination with the unreal. So, people love zombie movies because they stretch the fabric of reality. Zombies allow people to escape their boring lives and get lost in the fear of something they know not to exist because it's much more rewarding than staying in touch with and fearing reality.

Another strong point of this documentary is the explanation of how exactly the zombie genre came about. Both Romero and actor John Amplas agree that at its core, the zombie revolution is a representation of all of the values the hippy movement tried to embrace. Romero's early films were all commentaries on society in their own way because they were born in the 60's; an era of free love and fighting the man. So, the zombies became representative of the sheep society was being turned into and the few human victims represented the fighters fighting the good fight against the man. Thus, zombies were born.

Benjamin's documentary is jam packed with excellent information and compelling stories like these. It constantly offers fresh views on a 40-year-old genre and compels its viewers to examine the zombie revolution in a whole new light. Not only is this documentary stimulation and informative, it is also incredibly well done. I urge you to watch this film if you even remotely consider yourself a horror fan. You won't be disappointed.

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Dan Stein

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