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Interview with Director Andrew Gernhard of Sasquatch Assault (aka Attack of the Sasquatch)

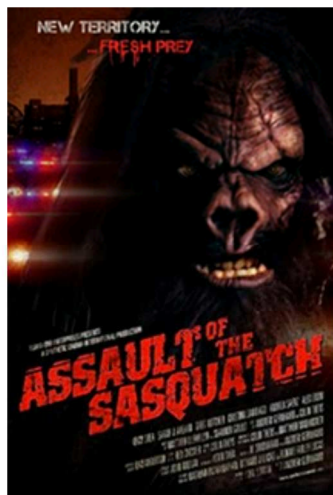


Kevin Shea, Shawn C. Phillips, Greg Nutter, Sarah Ahearn, Cristina Santiago, Jason Criscuolo, Andrea Saenz, Alex Exum and Cuyle Carvin star in Sasquatch Assault aka Assault of the Sasquatch. Directed by Andrew Gernhard, the film deals with a merciless bear poacher being caught and arrested deep in the woods of a state park, he and his truck are taken to a neglected precinct in the heart of a dying city. Unbeknownst to the authorities, the impounded truck holds a deadly cargo in the form of the legendary

Sasquatch. Now, stuck in an unfamiliar world, the creature will let nothing and no one stop it from coming face-to-face with the unscrupulous man who ruthlessly ripped it from its environment. Here is what Andrew Gernhard had to say about this film.

So who is Andrew Gernhard and what are you all about?

I'm a producer at Synthetic Cinema International (SCI) and I was the director for "Assault of the Sasquatch". I have no real interest in pursuing directing I am definitely a producer at heart. Getting projects going and selling them is my specialty. I won the directing role on this one by default.



So how did Assault of the Sasquatch come about? What attracted you to the project?

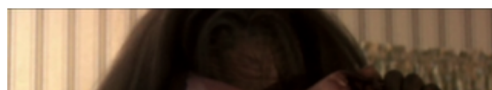
Like all the projects we do from SCI we look at what the market both domestic and overseas is looking for and we say "Okay now how do we make this different" then go from there. It's a round table discussion. All ideas for stories and characters and scenes go in and we mold them out. Thanks to John Doolan (screenwriter) we get some pretty awesome stuff!

What was the film's budget and how was it secured?

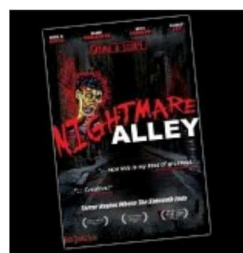
I can't give out those secrets! Then I would cease to be valuable!

There was fight sequences, horror sequences and chase sequences in your film. What was it like having to direct a movie that required a lot of physicality? What was the most difficult aspect of it all?

Nothing was particularly terrible to do. The only thing tough was the schedule. The entire film was shot in 15 days. So everything including the dialogue and action scenes had to be shot fast. One thing that was crazy was the temp at night was very cold and the Sasquatch was of course warm, but the young lady with the switchblades was out there in a tiny top and a mini-skirt-SOOOO cold! We muscled through it!



In addition to being a killer, the Sasquatch is also very lustful!



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There is a sequence in which the Sasquatch has to check out a woman taking a shower. What was it like filming this scene compared to the others? What are your thoughts on this sequence? Why the inclusion of it?

We wanted a sequence that did have a bit of nudity, but was also a bit of a throwback to 80's kinda "Porky's" films. That sequence was fun. The Sasquatch being a male typically, checking out the young lady then when this huge creature confronts the little dog I thought that would be funny too. Our Bigfoot is kinda like King Kong. He's not the bad guy, but in the wrong place at the wrong time.

During this sequences the Sasquatch stomps on a little chawai. Ever worried you might offend people with this scene?

I don't think we've ever been concerned if we offend folks (HAHAHA). We always kill dogs for some reason. Not that we don't like dogs. We love animals, but it just always works out that way. Our newest intern just pointed out that we have hillbilly's in almost all our features. Didn't ever think of that? Weird??



Can you tell us about the costuming and special effects in regards to the Sasquatch monster?

The costume was awesome. Created by Ben Chester and probably one of the best yeti outfits since "Harry and the Hendersons". The facial movements are actually CG enhanced by resident

FX Artist/Director Colin Theys. We had the ability to adjust brow, nose, mouth and cheek movements to give Sassy realistic expressions that are not mechanical.



Indie horror actor Shawn C. Phillips said this is the film he is most proud of currently. What was it like working with him? What do you think he brought to your film?

Shawn and MJ first and foremost brought comedy to the film, which was much

needed. We found their show online and thought these guys gotta find the Sasquatch and be obsessed. Now that would be awesome! It worked! They are both great to work with.



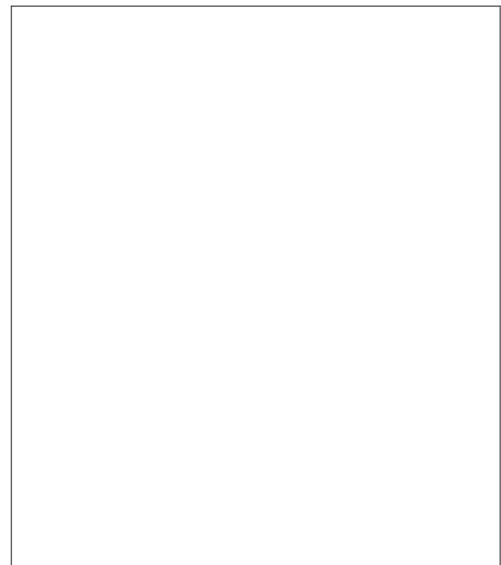
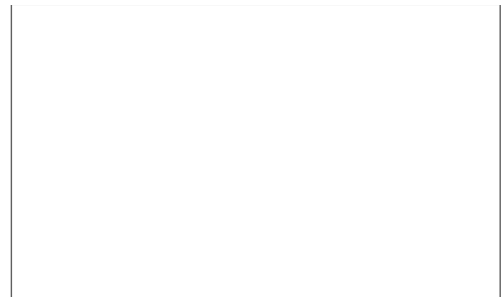
How did the film manage to nab a spot on the Chiller channel?

All our films have been performing well with audiences on the Chiller Network (Banshee!!!/ Werewolf: The Devil's Hound). I believe after years of searching for our audience, we found it

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on Chiller. We are blown away by audience response and thank Chiller/NBC for all their support.

What was one of your favorite on set memories from filming?

Finishing!

So looking back over the film, what do you think of it?

I have the same thought for "AOTS" as for all our films. There are many things that are great. Some things that are bad. They are stepping stones to the next project that will be bigger and better. Though I really would like to do a sequel to "Sasquatch" at some point. I don't think our furry friends story is over yet.



So what's next for you?

Working on that now!

Any final comments?

Buy the DVD or watch it on Chiller, BETTER YET...DO BOTH!

Andrew Gernhard

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