



Exclusive Interview  
*Photo: Shawn C. Phillips*

## Exclusive Interview with rising horror star Shawn C. Phillips

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By **Scott Ruth**, Horror Examiner

If you've seen the 2009 horror comedy "Assault of the Sasquatch" or the internet web series "The Don and Murph Show", you undoubtedly know who Shawn C. Phillips is.

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Shawn is a star on the rise and I consider myself to be extremely lucky that he agreed to take some time off from his movie making schedule to answer a few questions for me.

HI SHAWN. THANKS SO MUCH FOR TAKING TIME TO DO THIS INTERVIEW. LET'S GET STARTED.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN ACTOR? HOW DID YOU GET YOUR START?

- "I've always loved to perform and play characters. I didn't really start any type of acting in until around the 7th grade. My good friend M.J Kelley had gotten a video camera for christmas and every friday we would make crazy little shorts. We would pretty much work on little films from then on up until the summer of the 12th grade when everything changed. MJ was away on a long trip out of the country and I was very bored and started to put some of our videos online. When he got back we started doing videos for our website then a few years later when youtube started to become the new big thing we started to do videos for their. The biggest success I did online was the My DVD Collection series. In that series I would review new dvds I had gotten over the past couple of weeks. That series really took off. A producer from Synthetic cinema had come across my videos and had asked us to come up for their film "Banshee!!!" for a reshoot ending that they were doing. I remember how excited we both were because we had always wanted to be in films but never really know how to do it. After working on that film I never stopped and in the last 6 months I have made acting my full time job putting all my time into that. I love it!"

YOU HAVE A WEB SERIES CALLED "THE DON AND MURPH SHOW". CAN YOU TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT IT?

- "Well the Don and Murph show was something we did for the first time in around 2002. We did it for a class project in our tv and radio class. At the time we never thought we would do anything with the concept but after M.J came back from the trip in the summer of the 12th grade we brought back the characters and started doing them again. First it started as a show talking about movies coming out to theatres each month, Then it became a show with Don and Murph getting into crazy adventures , Then it became the most successful version where we review and spoof movies. In the videos we would shoot a parody with Don and Murph interacting with characters from the films we were reviewing. We had done the show from 2004 up until the fall of 2010. Right now since M.J is on the east coast the show is on a standstill but sometime we will make it into a feature."

DON AND MURPH CAN BE SEEN IN "ASSAULT OF THE SASQUATCH", ONE OF THE FUNNIEST HORROR COMEDIES I'VE EVER SEEN. WAS THAT FILM AS MUCH FUN TO WORK ON AS IT WAS TO WATCH? IT SEEMED LIKE YOU ALL HAD A BLAST WITH IT.

- "That was such a awesome film to work out. It was the second film we did and we had an amazing time. Synthetic cinema is a great group of people

to work for and they really have fun with their films. One thing about the film alot of people dont know was about 40 percent of our stuff in the film was shot 2 months later by me and M.J. When the film was being cut the director loved our stuff so much he wanted to put us in more of the project. So what we did was take our HD camera and shoot scenes of us on the streets in towson asking people if they saw the Sasquatch. It was fun to be able to shoot stuff for the film. The only downfall that I dont think anyone could ever tell was it was around 20 degrees in our extra scenes and was raining ice during half of it and it was shoot on December 23rd."

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE HORROR FILMS, CLASSIC AND MODERN?

- "I'm really into 70's and 80's horror the most. I love "The Return of the Living Dead", "Hills Haves Eyes", "Bad Ronald", "Day of the Dead", "Night of the Comet", "Creepshow" to name a few. Most recently I acually like that film "Devil". I thought it was pretty well done."

CAN YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST HORROR MOVIE YOU EVER SAW? IF SO, WHAT FILM WAS IT AND HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU SAW IT?

- "I remember as a little kid I always wanted to see horror films so I was only allowed to see the ones that were rated up to PG-13. I know some of the first I had watced were the Universal monster films, Then I watched films like "Troll 2" and "The Willies". I remember I always wanted to see the "Return of the Living Dead" which my dad owned but I could see it so I remember trying to get my friends parents to rent it for me when I was in the 5th grade. One time it worked but the dad walked in the naked tombstone scene and turned it of. Shortly after my dad allowed me to watch it and from then on when I was in the 5th grade I watched more an more horror movies. I know the first r rated film I ever saw in theatres was "Alien 4"."

I KNOW YOU'VE WORKED WITH LLOYD KAUFMAN. AS A HORROR FAN AND ACTOR ALIKE, THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THE THRILL OF A LIFETIME. CAN YOU TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO WORK WITH SUCH A HORROR ICON?

- "It was awsome to get to work with him and know him on a more personally leavel. The cool thing with working with him was I started working his films back in the 6th grade and would pretty much get all the troma titles. So getting to work with him years later was awsome. Same goes for working with people like Linnea Quigley and Ron Jeremy."

I READ THAT YOU'VE BEEN MAKING SHORT FILMS SINCE THE 7TH GRADE.WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR GETTING INTO FILMMAKING?

- "Yep, I started doing the films in the 7th grade with M.J. At first it started as something fun to do on fridays and then year after year it became more of something i loved doing. I remember taking a weekend film class during the spring of the 7th grade which I loved. Before I really got into acting I wanted to direct and didn't like being on camera that might. Now things have totally changed and I love acting on being on camera."

DO YOU HAVE A DREAM ROLE? A ROLE YOU COULD REALLY SEE YOURSELF IN?

- "Well, I would love to get to do a drama. Ya, I know thats unexpected but I really love to shake things up and do really serious acting but I love doing comedy as well. So I'd say I'd love to do a dramatic role as well as some more comedy films."

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC DIRECTORS/ACTORS/ACTRESSES WITH WHOM YOU'D REALLY LIKE TO WORK?

- "I'd love to work with John Waters I've always loved his work and would be awsome to get to work with him. I also would love to get to work with some of the horror icons I love like Bill Mosley and Sid Haig and Ken Foree as well as a number of other people in the horror biz. It would also be amazing to work with someone like Bill Murray, who I've been a fan of since I was a kid."

ONE FINAL QUESTION. ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON ANY PROJECTS THAT YOU CAN TALK ABOUT? ANYTHING TO PROMOTE?

- "Well this past summer was amazing film wise. I was working on projects all of July till then end of August. I only had about 6 days during that time I wasnt working. But I just got back from a shoot in florida on a new slasher film "Girls Gone Dead" which I had an amazing time on. The film is from director Micheal Hoffman the director of "Spring Break Massacre". But right now you can see me in the "Assault of the Sasquatch" film on Netflix streaming and next month the episode of the Showtime series "Look" which I'm in will be airing. I also have some very excting projects in the works

and am always looking for new people to work with."

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME, SHAWN. IT'S TRULY BEEN AN HONOR. I KNOW WE'LL BE SEEING MORE AND MORE OF YOU IN THE FUTURE.

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Be sure to check out "The Don and Murph Show" at <http://www.donandmurph.com/>

For more information about Shawn and his work, visit the following links:

- [Shawn C. Phillips on Internet Movie Data Base \(IMDB\)](#)
- [Shawn C. Phillips Fan Page on Facebook](#)

And to check out videos of some of Shawn's work, click the links below:

- ["Assault of the Sasquatch"](#)
- ["President's Day"](#)
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