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Bong of the Dead with Simone Bailly

Low Budget Indie Zombie/Comedy Is Directed By Thomas Newman

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We just got word of **Bong of the Dead**, a zombie/comedy from Canadian writer/director/producer Thomas Newman that stars Simone Bailly, Jy Harris, Barry Nerling, and Mark Wynn. Simone Bailly has appeared in a few sci-fi TV series like [Battlestar Galactica](#), [Stargate SG-1](#), and [Smallville](#). She has also starred on [The L Word](#). Thomas Newman has previously worked as a makeup artist on projects like [Lake Placid](#) (1999) as well as multiple episodes of [The X-Files](#) and [Millenium](#). He was also a model maker on [Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer](#) (2007). Newman's 2009 project **Bong of the Dead** is an ambitious low-budget film (\$5,000 to make!)



Simone Bailly, Jy Harris, and Mark Wynn star in *Bong of the Dead*

The synopsis goes something like this:

Meteorites from outer space cause a world-wide zombie outbreak. Two potheads – Tommy (Jy Harris) and Edwin (Mark Wynn) – use the end of the world as a golden opportunity to pursue their favorite pastime. One day they discover that by using zombie brains as fertilizer, they are able to grow a strain of super potent weed. Of course, now they have to go find more zombies, so they embark on a road trip where they team up with Leah (Simone Bailly), a lone survivor who builds a zombie killing machine for them. Armed with special weapons she created, the three taken on a zombie army run by a flamboyantly gay zombie named Alex (Barry Nerling) who wants to take over the world. *Bong of the Dead* gives new meaning to the word “munchies.” Yes, there will be blood (and bud).

Here’s what Thomas Newman had to say about his film, which has been described as a cross between *Cheech and Chong*, *Harold and Kumar*, and [Shaun of the Dead](#).

I expect people to see what I was able to do with \$5K in 15 days and only one camera which I constantly had to move and reposition in order to make it appear that I had multiple cameras. I mainly hope to get studio attention in hopes of launching my career to the next level. I really hope to get picked up by Troublemaker Studios which of course is Robert Rodriguez’s company. It was very tough to try and do an entire film for \$5K and make it look like a couple million instead. I believe I definitely achieved that. I made sure that I story boarded every scene, shot for shot so that my film would have more of my style to it, rather than a bunch of hand held footage thrown together because it would be easier.

Bong of the Dead was co-produced by Mike Fields, who also served as make-up effects artist. The final battle sequence uses over 800 gallons of blood and features over 50 people in makeup. (Impressive for a film on this budget).

Simone Bailly on **Bong of the Dead**:

Thomas Newman throws around a lot of f-bombs, which is actually endearing. As a director, he knows his stuff and captures it in a gorgeous way. This film will surely get him noticed, but I think he views himself as an underdog. He listened to Eminem's "Lose Yourself" a lot for inspiration.

Before ever going to camera, Mark, Jy & I took a weekend and acted out the entire movie in my parent's backyard. We used a bat for a shotgun, a broom for a weed whacker, and spatula's for blades. We called ourselves the Trinity.


Bong of the Dead was selected as part of the Cannes Independent Film Festival official selection. After a successful premiere at the Rio Theater in Vancouver, the film will be brought back on August 19th and August 20th, 2011. The movie also has tentative invites from the *Festival de Cine de Terror de Molins de Rei* and the [Traverse City Film Festival](#) (founded by Michael Moore).

Check out some stills below (click for larger):



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