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KILLER FILM DETAILS

Bong of the Dead - (2009)



Director: Thomas Newman
Writing Credits: Thomas Newman
Rating: NR
Run Time: 98 Minutes
Studio: Mind in Motion Productions

Theatrical Release Date: Coming Soon
DVD Release Date: Coming Soon

Cast: Simone Bailly, Jy Harris, Allan Kipling,

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Reviewer Film Ratings:

Plot: 3.5 | Fun Factor: 4 | Gore: 2.5 | Nudity: 2 | Scare Factor: 2 | Overall: 4/5

Indie film with the look of a Hollywood blockbuster

Reviewed by GregMO Roberts

Thomas Newman knows that it takes time to produce a good film. The independent filmmaker was equipped with only a single camera and \$5000 when he set out to make the zombie movie of his dreams. Newman had on-the-job training as he learned how to board, shoot and edit Bong of the Dead – a zombie film for the stoner in all of us!

When the final camera shot was completed, Newman escaped to his basement where he would spend the next two years piecing together his zombie opus. The final showcases



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- More Brains! A Return To The Living Dead
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- Poughkeepsie Tapes, The
- Friday the 13th Part 7: The New Blood
- Bereavement
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- A Serbian Film
- Nude Nuns with Big Guns
- Dead Matter, The
- Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (2010)
- Bloody Birthday
- Fright Night (2011)
- Masters of Horror: Family
- The Clinic
- Target Practice
- Scare Zone
- Burial Ground: The Nights Of Terror
- Deep Blue Sea
- Open Water
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes
- Jaws: The Revenge
- Jaws 3-D
- House of Fears

the fruits of his labor with a polished piece of work that has the look and gloss of a big budget Hollywood production.

Bong of the Dead opens with a meteor crash that carries with it a space age infection creating a zombie outbreak on earth. As the infection spreads leaving the world with only scattered survivors, Tommy and Edwin (Jy Harris and Mark Wynn) have endured and occupied themselves by cultivating and smoking pot. Lots and lots of pot.

But their drug intake and experience will take a turn when they stumble across the discovery of using zombie brains as fertilizer for their operation. The mix results in a super-potent marijuana plant that would impress even Snoop Dogg. And now, to keep a constant buzz and supply, they must cultivate more zombie brains or risk coming down from an apocalyptic high.

After a high gloss opening scene that includes the first infection and the bloody consequences of exposure, we are treated to an opening credit sequence that isn't just impressive on an independent film bell-curve scale, but is of such high quality that it could easily be transposed seamlessly into a Hollywood blockbuster.

When we return and are introduced to Tommy and Edwin's adventure, we will watch as the two potheads smoke up, are captured by a gay zombie leader named Alex (Barry Nerling) who has a plan to amass an army to take over the world, and meet Leah (Simone Bailly), a kick-ass survivor whom the stoner's will team-up in the film's most memorable and bloodletting sequence.

Bong of the Dead has moments that will remind you of everything from Creepshow to Pineapple Express to Shaun of the Dead. Director Thomas Newman keeps things moving fairly efficiently and effectively mixes equal elements of gore and humor in an entertaining romp that runs just short of an hour.

The make-up effects were of a high quality as created by Mike Fields who worked on both Chronicles of Narnia films and on the TV series, Masters of Horror and even though there is CGI blood used in some of the film's final scenes, the idea of a badass vehicle equipped with buzzing lawnmower blades on the bumper was too ingenious and crowd pleasing to notice.

The two leads were ambitiously given a showcase script by Newman who was obviously looking to create a Silent Bob and Jay duo with a Harold and Kumar knack for getting themselves stoned and in unpredictable situations.

Bong of the Dead isn't without fault. Some of the non-zombie scenes with the two leads could have been truncated to better results, but there is no denying that Newman has confidently crafted a unique mix of zombie and cannabis that hits on most cylinders. And it is no surprise that Newman's passion project has now found an internet following in over 80 countries.

Put that in you undead pipe and smoke it!

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