



YOUR COMMENTS

- Just... :-)
- Yeah, I hate the animation style of this. Will w ai...
- Not all that impressed by what has been shown so f...
- Guy Pearce would be the best gay porn name ever! :....
- Well it has looked amazing from what we've all see...

# DVD Review: Bong of the Dead

WRITTEN BY JOEL HARLEY TUESDAY, 24 APRIL 2012 15:26

REVIEWS - DVD / BLU-RAY



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DVD Review: Bong of the Dead / Cert: 18 / Director: Thomas Newman / Screenplay: Thomas Newman / Starring: Simone Bailly, Mark Wynn, Jy Harris / Release Date: Out Now

Given that I have never smoked a joint nor indulged in anything more potent than Lemsip in my time, I didn't have high (no pun intended) hopes for *Bong of the Dead*. Few sentences are more terrifying and indicative of lack of quality than the phrase "stoner horror comedy". Indeed, Thomas Newman's debut feature is a piece that will play a lot better to the pot-smoking crowd – but is it of use to anyone else?

The plot is like *Harold & Kumar Get the Munchies* crossed with *Zombieland*. When a meteor collides with the Earth, an apocalypse descends and the planet becomes overrun with zombies. Amongst the few remaining breathers are Edwin and Tommy, a pair of slackers who find that the most inconvenient thing about post-apocalyptic Earth is the lack of ganja dealers thereupon. Whilst growing their own cannabis plants, they discover that zombie brains make for the best fertiliser. The pair embark upon a quest to score themselves some fresh zombie brains.

It starts off promisingly, with the start of the outbreak depicted in a vivid, amusing and very splatery manner reminiscent of Peter Jackson's *Braindead*. It's a great opening, allaying any fears for *Bong of the Dead's* quality. Alas, things take a turn for the worse almost as soon as the film's reefer obsessed protagonists are introduced. It doesn't even make it past the opening credits without a blast of 'comedy' flatulence.

Whilst it is possible to make an enjoyable movie that happens to star a pair of stoners (*Pineapple Express* being the best example of this), *Bong of the Dead* has little use for anything that's not weed related. The viewer is supposed to find Edwin and Tommy adorable, but mostly they're a pair of irritating stereotypes who say "dude" a lot. There are some laughs to be had, but most of them come in spite of the characters rather than *because* of them. A perfunctory hot female is introduced later on, but she quickly becomes as tiresome as the dudes.

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Which is a shame, because the special effects are fantastic given the film's low budget. Most cheap zombie films are nigh unwatchable, but the \$5,000 budget and 15 day shooting schedule are not obvious in the action or gore scenes. The acting too, is much better than one might expect from such a cheap creation. Chief amongst the impressively directed zombie massacre scenes is the final fight, in which the trio have at their undead enemies with a garden strimmer. A *Terminator* style flashback sequence further shows what the film could have been. It really puts the 'waste' into wasters. A little more get up and go might have made this a low-budget classic. There's even a promising villain in the form of an unusually loquacious zombie leader. Instead, *Bong of the Dead* is mostly two Cheech and Chong wannabes sitting around telling one another to shut up and remarking how "smoking hot" their female companion is.

Like its characters, *Bong of the Dead* is tiresome, annoying and half-baked.



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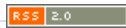
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