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[Asian Cinema](#)
[Disney](#)
[Movies](#)
[Television](#)
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[Playstation Vita](#)
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Bong of the Dead

2011

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Take one look at *Bong of the Dead* and you can safely assume low-budget film. The real question to ask before watching this crazy idea of a zombie flick is just what kind of low-budget film is this? With a lone camera and budget of around \$5,000 writer/director Thomas Newman is intent on stringing together a film that pulverizes everything we expect in a zombie film and rebuilds it presumably high as a kite.

Even though there has already been a film called *Evil Bong*, this movie is in no relation to it as the idea behind *Bong of the Dead* is very different with the fact it begins with Meteorites from outer space hitting earth and causing a strange infection that leads to a zombie uprising. You would think with the world being infested with zombies it would leave in a state of utter distress just knowing zombies exist and even though they are now contained in quarantine zones, you just never know what can happen.

In most films you get accustomed to being dealt with some sad story that revolves heavily around sorrow, loss and the strong urge to survive and carry on, with *Bong of the Dead* you may as well forget about that as the two main characters Tommy (Jy Harris) and Edwin (Mark Wynn) have more important things on their mind, like maintaining a good weed supply.

The fact this movie even has anything to do with things from outer space and the undead almost makes you think of the eighties classic *Night of the Creeps*, but don't expect to be thrilled here as our inebriated duo come up with the most insane idea on accident, liquefying the undead and using them as massive weed plant fertilizer to grow some kind of magically potent weed. While weed is supposedly not an addictive drug, these guys go insane and smoke this entire magical weed to the point of where they will not run from the undead but instead run to the undead.

Tommy and Edwin pack up their crap mobile of a ride and head down to the quarantine zone in hopes to score a few zombie corpses to further increase their undead reefer. Along the way they run into a lone survivor Leah (Simone Bailey) that plays out very similar to a scene in *Zombieland* but very half assed. The trio does a little partying before heading into the quarantine zone and we see a little

bong action with the very small supply these guys have left.

Upon entering the zone they make sure to beef up their ride in a way that also seems to borrow from the *Dawn of the Dead* re-make and I feel also borrows a little bit from *Dead Alive* in regards to the infamous lawnmower scene. The film builds up to a zombie killing climax that I am sure uses an obscene amount of fake blood and I mean gallons of blood. This part of the film redeems itself in the horror category as it feeds any gore hounds hunger for the splattering red stuff.

Upon completion of the film it does take a happy ending approach that I think almost does a nod to the way *Shaun of the Dead* ended in terms of friendship if that makes sense to those who have seen that film. Seeing as how this film looks absurd I have to say it was decently done considering how low the budget was and in my opinion I felt like Thomas Newman took ideas from a plethora of zombie films and kind of blended it all together while smoking copious amounts of weed to come up with the insanity behind this film.

Another thing I want to mention is the well done make-up that I am sure comes from Thomas's experience doing make-up on shows like *The X-Files* and *Millennium*, so I am glad it was a person who knew what he was doing rather than some idiot piecing together a half assed zombie movie in their parents basement. If the horror flicks in your life lately have been a little too serious and need a change of pace with some humor I would say *Bong of the Dead* is a respectable use of your time instead of the usual waste of precious time most film can be these days.

-Derek-

Directed by:
Thomas Newman

Written by:
Thomas Newman

Cast:
Simone Bailly
Mark Wynn
Jy Harris
Barry Nerling
Vince Laxton

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1
Audio: English Dolby Digital 5.1
Trailer

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