

# Bath Salt Zombies (2013, DVD Review)

Posted on [February 20, 2013](#) by [Dan Clausen](#)



Director: Dustin Mills

Cast: Josh Eal, Ethan Holey, Jackie McKown, Dave Parker, Brandon Salkil

[MVD Entertainment Group](#) / Region 0 / Unrated / 16: 9 Widescreen / English Dolby Digital / 70 minutes

Extras: Commentary / Trailer

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The “bath salts” epidemic swept the US fairly recently, and if you have the means to be reading this, you’ve inevitably had your Facebook feed bombarded with talks of cannibalism and synthetic drugs. So, with that being said, I won’t bore you with the specifics, because you’ve most likely heard a friend or co-worker crack a joke at the expense of the victims of alleged bath salt tweakers. Now, just imagine those stupid jokes being fleshed out to create a full length low-budget zombie movie, aptly titled *Bath Salt Zombies*. Doesn’t sound very appealing, does it? Strangely enough, as quick as I was to dismiss it, I was so torn in that I was rolling my eyes at the idea and still found myself intrigued by it. Come to find out, this is one of the rare cases where something sounds worse on paper than it actually is.

Ritchie, a character we never learn very much about, gets himself into trouble when he

somehow winds up getting his hands on a strain of bath salts that could prove to be deadly to him and to those around him. He tells his girlfriend that he got his hands on some good shit (cigarettes containing the stuff, meant to be subtle or something, I guess), lights it up and very shortly after has a violent, drug induced episode. He wakes up with covered in blood with no memory of this, a pattern that will soon become the norm. The body count rises as he and his friends grow to be hopelessly addicted.



From the very start in which we see an enjoyable take on the cautionary films of yesterday, it's apparent that this is poking fun at a subject that was once the object of panic for many American parents. Call it pandering, call it pure shock value, there's a little bit more to it than that, though a "little" is the key word here. It's certainly not an intelligent commentary by any means, nor is it groundbreaking, or even good for that matter, but I'll be damned if it wasn't consistently entertaining. I can't help but want to tell everyone about what I just watched, if only because my thoughts are so jumbled and I'm so confused as to why I enjoyed this as much as I did.

Visually, the movie isn't very appealing and some might be turned off by the frequent use of horrid computer-generated effects. Entire backdrops are computerized, which, for me, doesn't even work for a multi-million dollar blockbuster, and so it most certainly won't work for a schlocky B-movie. However, once it really gets going and we enter the universe that director/ writer Dustin Mills has crafted, in which every character we meet is either a drug lord or simply just an addict, things got considerably more interesting. Or at least interesting enough to where I could put aside some of the awful effects work and just enjoy myself.



There were a few moments of practical effects here and there that I found admirable, no matter how terrible they actually were. A brief scene in which a dog ingests some deadly chemicals showcases a pretty wretched attempt at hand-crafted effects work, but still comes across as humorous in a tongue-in-cheek sort of way. However, speaking strictly about the CGI again, the moments where it's utilized to good effect give the movie a pretty solid comic book feel. A couple of cool action sequences are the result of gratuitous CGI, and by comparison the less CGI-laden sequences look to be the result of somebody who spent a weekend watching bad Stallone movies and tried his best to imitate his favorite scenes in his basement.

But despite everything it has working against it, *Bath Salt Zombies* held my interest better than some genuinely good movies do. There is a good blend of zombie violence and psychological horror, as we see the lead character victimized by his horrible addiction and the carnage that follows as a result of it. I couldn't tell you that it's a movie I strongly recommend, and it isn't something I plan on watching again, but if you have an open mind and a high tolerance for cheese, give it a shot. At the very least, you'll have something to talk about with a couple of buddies during your lunch break.