

Bath Salt Zombies

USA 2013

produced by

Clint Weiler, Ed Seaman (executive) for MVD Visual, Dustin Mills Productions

directed by Dustin Mills

starring Brandon Salkil, Josh Eal, Erin R. Ryan, Ethan Holey, Bella Demente, Dustin Mills, Dave Parker, Jackie McKown, Brian Clancy

story by Clint Weiler, screenplay by Dustin Mills, Clint Weiler, songs by World War XI, the Meatmen, the Murder Junkies, ANTiSEEN, Combat Crisis, American Speedway, BugGiRL, the GaGgErS, makeup and creature effects by Dustin Mills, Sherriah Salkil, visual effects by Dustin Mills Productions

review by

Mike Haberfelner

Ritchie (Brandon Salkil) was on a simple mission - to fix up himself and his girlfriend Angel (Erin R. Ryan) with some "bath salt" based drugs. However, like many junkies he was short on cash, and when his pusher Bubbles (Ethan Holey) offered him a free sample of some newly developed stuff, he gladly accepted. And when he tried it out at his fuckbuddy's (Bella Demente) place, he was suddenly overcome by some kind of bloodlust and tore her face off ...

Now Ritchie's not a bad guy per se, and of course after this "incident" he's overcome by guilt - but he's also so strung out that he just needs to get more of Bubbles' stuff. Once he has obtained the stuff - for a healthy amount of money this time around - he hooks up with two druggie friends (Dave Parker, Jackie McKown) and they use some together to then visit a punkrock concert ... where they literally take apart half the audience.

Meanwhile, FBI-agent Forster (Josh Eal) has picked up the trail of this new "wonderdrug", traced its origins back to some army-developed weaponized chemicals too strong even for the army, and traced down its suppliers, Bubbles and basement scientist Sal (Dustin Mills) - but once Forster has arrived there, Sal's place has already be raided by Ritchie and friends ... and now Ritchie has returned to spend some time with his girlfriend ... well, ouch! would be an understatement!

Above all else, **Bath Salt Zombies** is a reminder that horror comedies can be fun without being moronic or gross-out slaughterfests. I mean, sure, this film offers enough gore to make any gorehound smile, and the humour's not always necessarily in good taste, plus there's plenty of naked boobs to keep everyone happy - but the film does tell an actual story, including narrative build-up (something not all that common in recent horror comedies) and surprising plottwists, and the direction does its best to keep things interesting on a visual level despite the film's low budget (like a clearly anime-inspired fight/slaughter-scene) and generally puts an effort into creating an atmosphere rather than just delivering random pictures for its story.

And while I'm sure this film is not for everyone - after all, it's got crude murder scenes, a tongue-in-cheek approach not appreciated by all horror fans, and a few intentionally silly monster masks -, fans of low budget indie horror comedies will find enough to like about this one to enjoy it from start to finish.

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