# An Interview with Dustin Mills, Director of Bath Salt Zombies

by *Mike Haberfelner* May 2013

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#### Your movie Bath Salt Zombies - in a few words, what is it about?

It's about a bunch of jackasses in New York who get their hands on a wicked version of Bath Salts that turns them into flesh-eating maniacs.

## As far as I know, Bath Salt Zombies is based on a story by Clint Weiler [<u>Clint Weiler interview - click here</u>] - so how did that project get off the ground, what can you tell us about your collaboration with Clint, and how did the two of you hook up in the first place?

Clint does marketing at *MVD*, who distributed most of my movies, so he and I have talked to each other quite a bit in the past. I was already working on a *Bath Salt*-related project when Clint contacted me with his idea. He sent a treatment, I wrote and shot it, and now he is promoting it all over the place. He also got all of the bands involved that are on the soundtrack.

#### How would you describe your directorial approach to your story at hand?

I just tried to make something as batshit crazy and fun as I possibly could. It was some serious guerrilla punk rock filmmaking.

## At times, Bath Salt Zombies gets bloody violent - so what can you tell us about the gore effects in your film, and was there ever a line you refused to cross in that respect?

I wanted the gore to be very stylized and stringy and weird looking. I was going more for a comic book look than actual realism. I don't think there is a line I wouldn't have crossed. If anything, we didn't go far enough. There were probably some other horrible things we could have done to that penis.

#### You just have to talk about that far-out zombie make-up of your film's anti-hero for a bit!

Again, it was all about going way over the top and stylized. I wanted him to look like a *Looney Tunes*-character from hell. The prosthetics were made of silicone, which allowed Brandon quite a bit of movement. It was my first time working with that stuff so I learned a lot.

#### What can you tell us about your film's cast, and why exactly these people?

We had to shoot the movie very quickly, so I tried to cast locally. They were mostly people I had worked with before and knew they were dependable. This was also the first movie where we worked with Erin R. Ryan, and now she is in basically everything I am making.

#### A few words about the actual shoot, and the on-set atmosphere?

It was fun. There was no drama, but there rarely is on our sets. We just had fun, solved problems, and played guns.

#### What can you tell us about audience and critical reception of Bath Salt Zombies so far?

It's just like any of my films. The people who get what we were doing love and the folks that don't get it... well... they just don't get it. Lots of folks seem to be grooving to it, though. I am pretty happy with how people are reacting.

#### Any chance there'll ever be a Bath Salt Zombies II?

I know Clint wants to and I am game, but it depends on sales I think. We have some good ideas though.

#### (Other) future projects you'd like to share?

You can get my newest film Easter Casket here:www.eastercasket.com and this summer we are working on Kill That Bitch, The Ballad of Skinless Pete, and Country Dark. I'll be very busy.

#### Your/your movie's website, Facebook, whatever else?

You can basically find everything at www.dmpstudios.com.

#### Anything else you are dying to mention and I have merely forgotten to ask?

Oh... I am making The Puppet Monster Massacre II. If that interests you then you should go here http://www.dmpstudios.com/store.html and preorder The Puppet Monster Massacre on Blu-ray. All of the profits will go toward making the sequel happen.

### Thanks for the interview!

Thank you, sir.

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