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Weekend Box Office Estimates, Jun. 28-30

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2. The Heat \$40.0 M
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BATH SALT ZOMBIES (2012)

Published by [David Carter](#) on 2013/6/11 (71 reads)

Directed by Dustin Mills
Review by David Carter

BUY IT

Released by MVD Visual
Running Time: 90 minutes
Rating: Not Rated
Color format: Color
Audio/Subtitles: 2.0 Stereo English
Region Code: 1, NTSC
Aspect Ratio: Widescreen
16:9 Enhanced: Yes
Special Features: None
Trailer Online: [Yes](#)



Short Version: Drugged-out punks gone wild!

A little over a year ago, the whole of America was riveted by the tale of the "Miami cannibal attack;" the first in a line of bizarre incidents involving flesh eating that took place that summer. You couldn't read a newspaper or turn on the TV without seeing reports about this incident or one similar, and, despite people from vastly different demographics being involved, law enforcement and the media both pointed the finger at a single culprit: bath salts. Bath salt is the street name for a variety of illegal amphetamines so named for their resemblance to innocuous products like Calgon. Instead of offering relaxation, bath salts apparently make you freak the hell out and try to eat people, at least according to the media. Significantly less well reported was the fact that the perp in the so-called "Bath Salt zombie" Miami attack wasn't on bath salts, and officials aren't really sure why he did it.



Whether or not the claims about them were true, bath salts quickly became a 21st century boogeyman – exactly the kind of thing that needed to be incorporated into a horror movie. Indie horror director Dustin Mills works quickly (we've seen three from him in the past two months) and he was able to unleash BATH SALT ZOMBIES on the world before 2012 came to a close. Now available from MVD Visual, BATH SALT ZOMBIES imagines a world where the bath salts problem is truly as bad as the media made it out to be.

Richie and his girlfriend are hardcore junkies with a serious bath salts problem. Freshly out of their new obsession, Richie heads out into the world to score more salts and thankfully runs into a dealer, Bubbles, who offers to help him out. Bubbles has new version of bath salts in convenient cigarette form and he offers to let Richie have a pack free of charge. Richie doesn't want to share the new stuff with his girlfriend until he's had a chance to try it for himself, so he heads over to a friend's house to do just that when the new salts have a quite unexpected effect on him. Richie turns bright red and becomes incredibly aggressive when he smokes them, killing his two friends by smashing their heads in with his bare hands. He can barely remember what he did when he comes down, only knowing that he's covered in blood and is hooked on the new salts.



Getting junkies hooked after the first use was the plan of Bubbles and his chemist friend Sal. They found an experimental military chemical and did what any young entrepreneurs would do and turned it into illegal drugs. Unfortunately for them, they weren't aware of the homicidal side effects their new drug induced but they find out the hard way when a string out Richie kills them both to get his hands on

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new drug induced but they find out the hard way when a string out Richie kills them both to get his hands on the source. Richie is being pursued by the cops and the military. The cops are looking for the serial killer behind the rash of recent violent murders, and the military are trying to track down their missing chemicals. Unbeknownst to both, however, is the fact that Richie now has the chemical in its purest form and, once he takes it, he may just be unstoppable.

Mills has done a good job of melding the drug panic and zombie genres in BATH SALT ZOMBIES, a mixture that hasn't been seen much since the days of I DRINK YOUR BLOOD and BLOOD FREAK. The perceived realities of bath salts' horrific side effects are still current enough to make it feel fresh, but, thankfully, the film doesn't rely solely on current headlines to pique the viewers' interest. Apart from a singular scene of face-eating, BATH SALT ZOMBIES stands on its own and will be an enjoyable low-budget horror film even long after the public hysteria has faded. Mills wisely gets the face-eating out of the way early, putting the audience on notice that while his inspirations came from real life, what ended up on screen was solely his own creation.

And it's a pretty good creation at that. Mills takes the BATH SALT ZOMBIE premise into some interesting places and certainly more than your average horror director would have devised. The film becomes more of an action/horror hybrid in its final act with a pronounced video game influence. Mills utilizes animation and digital effects to create a memorable ending, but one that has the unfortunate effect of outshining much that comes before it.

MVD Visual has released a nice disc for BATH SALT ZOMBIES. You don't get much more than the film itself, but the audio and visual presentations are well done. BATH SALT ZOMBIES takes its concept to some interesting places but may not do so quickly enough for all viewers. A tighter pace would do wonders for the film. That being said, however, there is much to like here and BATH SALT ZOMBIES is a gory good time.



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