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'Sexsquatch' on the loose in Hazleton

Aug 30

By Dale Culp, Weekender Correspondent

According to legend, there is a very hairy, very horny terror that stalks the woods. Though many say it's just a myth, its victims are all too aware of its twisted, murderous perversion. It is, of course, the dreaded sexsquatch — a beast with a sexual appetite as large as its fabled feet. It's also the title of an independent horror film that premieres Thursday, Aug. 30 at Cinema & Drafthouse in Hazleton.

"Sexsquatch" is the latest creation from the mind of Chris Seaver of Warlock Home Video. The 60-minute movie premieres as part of a double-feature with another of Seaver's films, "Geek War," which the creator describes as, "a dripping, moist love letter to everything geeky."

Hardly a newcomer to the independent horror movie scene, Seaver has a long and storied past that goes back more than 20 years.

"I've been making movies since I was 7," he said during a phone interview. "Started Low Budget Pictures when I was 14, and then closed that down last year when I started Warlock."

In total, "Sexsquatch" is just one of nearly 50 features Seaver has worked on, noting that, "Through the years, I've made well over a hundred shorts." He's even worked on productions for Troma Entertainment and Lloyd Kaufman.

Audiences should know beforehand, however, that "Sexsquatch" is definitely not for kids.

"I don't know how people are going to take these movies," Seaver said while discussing the movie's sex scenes and "extremely vulgar, salty language." "This is going to be very interesting as people sit down to eat while watching 'Sexsquatch.'"

For the uninitiated, the Cinema & Drafthouse is like dinner and a movie merged into one. Rather than the usual theater seating, there are rows of tables lined up facing the big screen. Viewers can order food and alcoholic beverages from their table as they are served throughout the movie. And though there's no nudity, between the gore and vulgarity, it might not be something audiences would care to stomach along with a burger and fries. For the right crowd, however, it's probably going to be a blast — especially for people like Varla Darling.

Darling is the person most responsible for bringing these movies to the Cinema & Drafthouse. Aside from an acting role in "Sexsquatch," she's also credited as its makeup artist.

"I love horror movies, and I also really like comedy movies," Darling shared in a sit-down interview with the Weekender. "But I don't like stuff like 'Blades of Glory,' or any of the other cookie-cutter movies that we're pumping out nowadays. I like campy, slapstick, really over-the-top stuff that can't really happen. Stuff like 'Earnest.'"

Darling became a fan of Seaver's after watching one of his movies.

"It had pretty much everything I love about horror and comedy movies."

From there, she attended horror movie conventions, like Monster-Mania Con in Cherry Hill, N.J., where she first met Seaver a few years ago.



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

"Geek War" + "Sexsquatch," Thurs., Aug. 30, 8:30 p.m., Cinema & Drafthouse (131 W. Broad St., West Hazleton). \$5 admission, all ages, 21+ to drink. Info:

facebook.com/events/268306849944312/, cinemaanddrafthouse.com

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"I didn't go all fangirl on him, but I was very excited to finally meet him," she recalled.

"Geek War" + "Sextsquat," Thurs., Aug. 30, 8:30 p.m., Cinema & Drafthouse (131 W. Broad St., West Hazleton). \$5 admission, all ages, 21+ to drink. Info: facebook.com/events/268306849944312/, cinemaanddrafthouse.com

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- ☐ I've never done it
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