



An Interview with Dave Campfield, Director, Writer, Star of *Caesar and Otto's Deadly Christmas*

by **Mike Haberfelner**
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Dave Campfield on (re)Search my Trash

Your new movie *Caesar and Otto's Deadly Christmas* - in a few words, what is it about?

It's the story about a boy, a girl, and a universe. Wait, wrong movie. Let's just say it's about Caesar & Otto discovering the true meaning of Xmas. But as it turns out, Xmas is quite different than Christmas.

Basic question: Why an evil *Santa* - and your thoughts about Christmas as such?



Evil *Santa* movies have become a subgenre of horror. It was ready to be spoofed. I have no deep personal issues with Christmas or Christianity. My only issues are with formulaic, cliché, horror movies.

Other sources when writing *Caesar and Otto's Deadly Christmas*?

When it comes to the *Caesar and Otto* movies, I like to tackle subgenres within the world of horror. With *Caesar & Otto's Summer Camp Massacre* I took on Summer Camp Slashers, whereas this time we took on evil Santas. Once the basic idea is established, I try to weave a story that's more than just a spoof. When it came to the subplots, I drew on some personal stories from the life of Paul (Otto) and my own struggles and naivety when making my first film.

How would you describe your directorial approach to your subject at hand, also taking into account your rather low budget? And I think you also have to talk about *Caesar and Otto's Deadly Christmas*' brand of humour for a bit!

Caesar and Otto's Deadly Christmas is one step removed from a *Loony Toons* cartoon. The acting is often broad, the effects often cartoony, the plot twists often absurd, but yet, I try to keep it rooted just enough in reality for it to be relatable. The low low budget is almost freeing in a way. If an effect looks ridiculous, all the better for the comedy.

You obviously also have to talk about your movie's gore scenes!

Some people criticized *Caesar & Otto's Summer Camp Massacre* for being a little soft in the gore department, so I definitely tried to take it a couple of steps further this time out. I just wanted to create comical gore scenes like you've never seen before!

Do talk about you and Paul Chomicki playing *Caesar and Otto*, and how has this act developed over the years?

We first played Caesar and Otto in a short sketch in 1999. It was shot on a camcorder I purchased when in high school. The characters clicked, but needed work. From there, it evolved into a short film, then a feature film, then *Caesar & Otto's Summer Camp Massacre*. I think every time out, the characters become more and more defined and real, despite their absurdity.



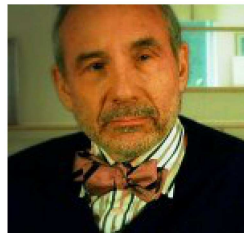
Brinke Stevens

Your movie features quite a few indie horror heavyweights. So how did you get them, and what was your collaboration like? And what can you tell us about the rest of your cast?

I care deeply about making solid films, regardless of genre and budget, and I've earned a reputation for being easy to work with. I promise actors they'll be in by a certain time, and out by a certain time, and always treat them well.

You just have to talk about Robert Z'Dar's hilarious end credit appearance for a bit!

We were shooting a short film together named the *Perfect Candidate* (which is featured on the *Caesar and Otto's Deadly Christmas* DVD), and I asked if he'd humor me by



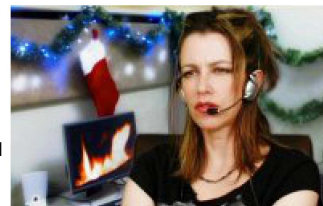
Lloyd Kaufman



Linnea Quigley



Paul Chomicki, Dave Campfield



Debbie Rochon

doing an uncredited **Caesar and Otto's Deadly Christmas** cameo... His answer? "No problem, pal." Not only did he read what I wrote, he improved some highly self deprecating comedy! Loved working with him, and can't wait until the next time we do.

Do talk about the shoot as such, and the on-set atmosphere!

I try to keep it fast moving and drama-free. I want everyone to feel at ease, but to keep the production moving at the same time. Thanks to a great crew, in particular co-star and assistant director Summer Ferguson, we were able to move at just the right speed to get so much filmed in so few days.

The *Caesar and Otto's Deadly Christmas*-DVD features a plethora of special features, first and foremost of course *Piggyzilla* - care to talk about these for a bit?

I believe in giving the audience the most bang for their buck. I'm a big fan of DVD special features to begin with, and want the audience to get a real, honest first hand look at what making a truly indie film is like. As far as **Piggyzilla** is concerned, it's my love letter to giant monster movies to the movies of yesteryear.

Any future projects you'd like to share, and will we see more of *Caesar and Otto*?

The next film slated for my production company is **Fear the Reaper**. I also host a live, interactive internet movie talk show named *Nerdgasm* on Wednesday nights on inravio.com. And as far as the future of *Caesar and Otto* is concerned, I'm currently writing **Caesar & Otto's Paranormal Halloween**. I want to ultimately have a *Caesar and Otto* film for all the four seasons. Summer, Winter, Fall.... and I already have plans for a Spring Break installment.



Piggyzilla

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

<https://www.facebook.com/deadlyxmas>
www.twitter.com/caesarotto
www.davecampfield.com

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

Don't forget to tune into *Nerdgasm* , live and interactive! Live Wednesday nights 10PM Eastern Standard Time at <http://www.inravio.com/live-stream.html>

Thanks for the interview!

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