

# An Interview with Walter Ruether, Creator, Co-Writer, Co-Director of *Death by VHS* (formerly *Scream Machine*)

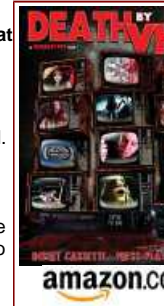
by *Mike Haberfelner*  
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Your upcoming movie *Scream Machine* a.k.a. *Death by VHS* - in a few words, what is it about?

*Scream Machine* is very similar to the film *V/H/S*. I came up with the idea before that movie even existed. The film *Scream Machine* is about a group of friends who rent an old VCR that comes with 5 VHS movies. The person they rent the machine from is someone they find in a local paper only because they don't have a flat screen TV, so they need to find a VCR to rent so they can watch movies on a Friday night. They rent it from a very evil voodoo priest who has cursed the



machine.

Since we last talked about *Scream Machine* [\[click here\]](#), you have changed the wraparound story quite a bit. To ask quite bluntly: Why?

The original wrap around we figured was going to cost way too much to produce & we had a lot of location issues. We re-wrote it because VHS-oriented movies & VHS in general have made a huge comeback - I think VHS-lovers will love this movie ... It is also going to be a lot easier to shoot.



What were your inspirations for both *Scream Machine's* wraparound story and the individual segments?

The fact that VHS has made such a big comeback. The short films are a lot darker than in my previous films *Nightmare Alley* & *Scarlet Fry's Junkfood Horrorfest*, which fans were kinda disappointed with. This film is going to be much better in every aspect, I've learned a lot from the critics & fellow filmmakers out there. *Scream Machine* will not disappoint.

With an evil Santa, a vampire seductress, zombies, rabbit serial killers and the like, you seem to be pretty much all over the map regarding outrageousness - so were there actually any ideas that you deemed too wild for your movie?



Never! I consider myself the Herschell Gordon Lewis of the new era [\[Herschell Gordon Lewis bio - click here\]](#), & there is never anything that is too wild for a B-movie filmmaker like me. Most important thing is to really try not to offend people & stay within certain boundaries like political correctness.

You were never one to shy away from a bit of blood and guts - so how far are you going in *Scream Machine* concerning gore and violence? And how important would you rate gore in your movies in general?

The film will definitely have a lot of gore & death, but we concentrated more on story & less on gore to make a better movie, yet there will still be those old *Scarlet Fry*-moments.

How did you approach your individual stories from a directorial point of view, and what can you tell us about the film's overall style?



The film is shot by our new Director of Photography David Sabal, he is very creative with the camera, there will be lots of hand held stuff & very weird



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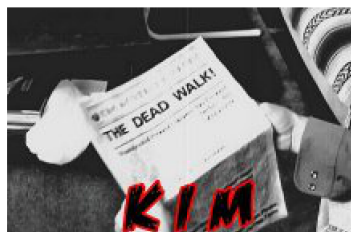
camera angles to give it a surreal kind of look.

What can you tell us about your co-director David Sabal, and what was your collaboration like?

David Sabal has been a pleasure to work with & has great ideas. He is probably by far the best film partner I've ever worked with & I'm very proud of this film.

As far as I know, *Scream Machine* is almost done, but you chose to start a fundraiser for the film's last segment. So what can you tell us about your fundraising efforts?

So far we just need to raise a few more Dollars to complete the last short in the anthology & the wraparound story. Our deadline is Jan 2013. We will be entering it in the *Phoenix Comic Con*-deadline Jan 31st, we were accepted last year for one of our shorts, so we already have ribbons for the DVD sleeve. This time we hope to win!  
<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/266728?a=35469>



What can you tell us about the shoot (or rather shoots) as such, and the overall on-set atmosphere?

The atmosphere is great everyone on the crew works together and we never fight - which is why this will be a great film.

Any idea yet when and where the movie will be released onto the general public, or is this waaaaay too early to ask?

The film is set to be distributed by *World Wide Multi Media*. After we finish doing festivals they will sign it & it will be released on DVD sometime in 2013 - no set date as of yet.

Any future projects beyond *Scream Machine* you'd like to share?

I have some ideas, I'd like to do a full length feature - but I don't wanna give too much away but it will be a cross between *Black Swan* & *Re-Animator*.

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

Here is the link for the indiegogo page - please support!  
<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/266728?a=35469>

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

Thanks to all that contribute this film will be amazing & I think horror fans are gonna love it!

Thanks for the interview!

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