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## An Interview With Jeremiah Campbell

This post was written by zzsimonb on 31 May, 2007 (21:25) | [All News](#), [Entertainment](#), [Movie News](#), [Reviews](#), [Movie Reviews](#), [Interview](#)

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I recently had the opportunity to review a newly released DVD, *The Gothic Vampires From Hell*. You just have to love the internet, because by an amazing stroke of good luck **Jeremiah Campbell** the screenwriter for this movie happened to read the review and left a comment. After trading a few emails he graciously agreed to do an interview.

### Hi Jeremiah, maybe you could give our readers a little background about yourself?

I was born June 29, 1977 (Cancer) in Atlanta, GA. The big 3-0 is creeping up on me! I was moved to Ohio at the age of 2 and have lived here ever since. Yup, you read that correct...Ohio! I'm about 10 minutes outside of Cleveland.

### Ah, home of some great sports teams?

Please, no Browns or Indians jokes. I'm not a fan of either team. Besides, I've heard them all. Clevelanders made most of them up.

### Somehow writing horror movies and being a family man seems incongruous to me, but I understand that in the day time you are just like us regular folks.

My wife Tracy and I have been married 7 years this October 28th (as close to Halloween as I could get it). We have two beautiful and full spirited daughters: Sabrina (7) and Maegan (15months). M-A-E-G-A-N is the old Gaelic way of spelling her name. I do have a normal "8-5" job (gotta pay the bills). I am a HUGE Horror Genre fan (movies, books, you name it). I have been since I was about 8 years old.

### Everyone has heard the term Screenwriter, but I for one am not really clear what a screenwriter does. Maybe you could explain.

Exceptional question! In the low-budget or micro-budget world of filmmaking, it is rare to find someone like myself. Most productions companies have such small budgets to work with, they really don't farm out work. Everything is done "in house". It's very common to see the Director, Screenwriter, Producer, Editor, and Cinematographer all being the same person. I consider myself damned lucky to be a "writer for hire" in this market.

As a screenwriter, I am contacted by the Producer with an idea or concept. I am sometimes given a lot of substance to work with. Other times I am given very limited input and I develop and tailor the story to what they (the Producer's) want to see on film. I try to give 2-3 different directions for the script. They'll pick the one they like and I'll flesh out a treatment. From there, if the treatment is approved I start writing. I have interacted with a few directors, but mostly just the producer.

I have also done rewrites and written additional material on completed scripts from another writers work.

### How did you get involved in this line of work?

A fellow Screenwriter/Actor, Eric Spudic actually hooked me up. I think we met on a message board and just started chatting here and there. That would have been back in 2002. I had wanted to be the next Stephen King since reading *IT* in the 4th grade. But I had decided that novel writing was too time consuming, so I thought I'd give screenwriting a shot. I had just recently finished co-writing my first script about a group of eccentric, upper-class cannibals. I told Eric about it and he was intrigued. Eric had written a few flicks for Producer David Sterling (Sterling Entertainment). Like most B-horror movie fans, I had heard of David Sterling and had seen a few of his flicks for Brain Damage Films. I emailed Dave per Eric's advice and in no time at all, Dave called me. We chatted about movies, life, etc and then he gave me my first paid writing gig in early 2003. I attribute my being in this line of work as meeting the right person at the right time. If you are reading this, **THANK YOU** Eric for the foot in the door, and a **BIG THANK YOU** Dave for putting your trust and faith in me.

### How did you get involved with *Gothic Vampires*?

*GVFH* was actually the 6th or 7th script I had written for Dave Sterling. He called me up and said "Hey, I got this idea..." I took the majority of his ideas, mixed a few of mine and fleshed out a treatment. The treatment was approved by the production company and I started writing. I was thrilled to write it. Like most Horror fans, I too am intrigued by the Vampire mystique. The "Battle of the Bands" element was something different for this kind of movie, so it fascinated me that much more.

### Obviously this is a bit of a 'how long is a piece of string question. But, how long does it take to screenwrite a movie like *Gothic Vampires*?

I started *GVFH* on 7/23/05 and completed the first draft by 8/14/05. The producers read it quickly and asked for rewrites. Mostly they wanted me to remove a sub-plot in the original script that had the character of Morgana being pregnant. I did as instructed and resubmitted on 8/16/05. Months went by. I had begun working on other scripts and then in February of 2006, I was asked for a few more rewrites.

Personally, I don't believe a script is ever fully complete. But generally I like to give myself at least a month to work on them. I have finished 1 or 2 in under two weeks.

### Zeroing in on *Gothic Vampires* once again, what did you think of the visual work, did it meet your 'on paper' expectations?

When I write a low-budget script, I keep description to the bare minimum. I know there isn't much money to work with, so I keep it simple and let the Filmmakers do to it what they will. I really don't know how much they have for a budget, so I never write elaborate screens, which I know they could never pull off.

I know there were some issues on set and filming was delayed a bit, but I was pleased overall with the finished project. I'd write a sequel in a heartbeat!

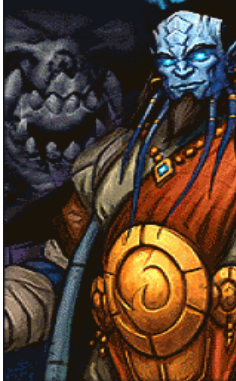
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  - Company News (111)
  - Stock Market News (18)
- Country News** (746)
  - Australia News (86)
  - Canada News (110)
  - China News (142)
  - France News (85)
  - Gambia News (344)
  - Germany News (284)
  - India News (470)
  - Iraq News (144)
  - Israel News (58)
  - Mexico News (26)
  - Philippines News (48)

[Russia News](#) (84)

[Spain News](#) (44)

[Sudan News](#) (12)

[UK News](#) (314)

[US News](#) (1444)

**Economic News** (352)

**Education News** (292)

**Entertainment** (573)

[Celebrity News](#) (438)

[Literary News](#) (142)

[Movie News](#) (280)

[Music News](#) (186)

[TV News](#) (245)

**Government News** (654)

[US Government News](#) (540)

[Congressional News](#) (350)

[Presidential News](#) (217)

[Supreme Court News](#) (46)

**Humor** (306)

**Interview** (40)

**Iraq War** (353)

**Odd News** (242)

**Regional News** (680)

[African News](#) (525)

[Asian News](#) (552)

[European News](#) (420)

[Middle Eastern News](#) (211)

[North American News](#) (370)

[Oceania News](#) (38)

[South American News](#) (25)

**Religious News** (234)

**Reviews** (231)

[Book Reviews](#) (139)

[Movie Reviews](#) (120)

[Coming soon](#) (10)

[Music Reviews](#) (56)

[Other-Non Media](#) (2)

[Theater Reviews](#) (1)

**Science News** (291)

[Archeology & Antiquities  
News](#) (14)

[Environmental News](#) (142)

[History News](#) (54)

[Medical News](#) (332)

[Research News](#) (188)

[Space News](#) (48)

[Technology News](#) (276)

**Society and Culture**

(1022)

**Sports News** (119)

[Baseball News](#) (39)

[Basketball News](#) (10)

[Football News](#) (32)

[International Sport](#) (19)

[Olympic Coverage](#) (9)

[Soccer News](#) (7)

**State News** (137)

[Alabama News](#) (8)

[Alaska News](#) (10)

[Arizona News](#) (38)  
[Arkansas News](#) (5)  
[California News](#) (84)  
[Colorado News](#) (19)  
[Connecticut News](#) (24)  
[Delaware News](#) (5)  
[Florida News](#) (37)  
[Georgia News](#) (21)  
[Hawaii News](#) (8)  
[Idaho News](#) (10)  
[Illinois News](#) (59)  
[Indiana News](#) (10)  
[Iowa News](#) (8)  
[Kansas News](#) (6)  
[Kentucky News](#) (8)  
[Louisiana News](#) (19)  
[Maine News](#) (6)  
[Maryland News](#) (10)  
[Massachusetts News](#) (36)  
[Michigan News](#) (59)  
[Minnesota News](#) (15)  
[Mississippi News](#) (7)  
[Missouri News](#) (18)  
[Montana News](#) (6)  
[Nebraska News](#) (5)  
[Nevada News](#) (12)  
[New Hampshire News](#) (10)  
[New Jersey News](#) (37)  
[New Mexico News](#) (20)  
[New York News](#) (55)  
[North Carolina News](#) (28)  
[North Dakota News](#) (12)  
[Ohio News](#) (29)  
[Oklahoma News](#) (7)  
[Oregon News](#) (8)  
[Pennsylvania News](#) (70)  
[Rhode Island News](#) (6)  
[South Carolina News](#) (10)  
[South Dakota News](#) (6)  
[Tennessee News](#) (7)  
[Texas News](#) (42)  
[Utah News](#) (7)  
[Vermont News](#) (5)  
[Virginia News](#) (34)  
[Washington News](#) (23)  
[Washington, DC News](#) (38)  
[West Virginia News](#) (6)  
[Wisconsin News](#) (9)  
[Wyoming News](#) (4)  
**[US Politics](#)** (633)  
[2006 Election Coverage](#)  
(217)  
[2008 Election Coverage](#)  
(193)  
[Abortion](#) (37)  
[Civil Rights](#) (126)  
[Gay Marriage](#) (39)  
[Second Amendment News](#)  
(27)  
[The War on Drugs](#) (22)

[The War on Terror](#) (413)

**Weather** (49)

**World Politics** (328)

[The Iranian Nuclear Crisis](#)  
(61)

[The Korean Nuclear Crisis](#)  
(50)

[The United Nations](#) (153)

## Archive

---

**June 2007** (91)

**May 2007** (820)

**April 2007** (680)

**March 2007** (676)

**February 2007** (587)

**January 2007** (733)

**December 2006** (798)

**November 2006** (970)

**October 2006** (1231)

**Before 10/2006**

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