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Bikini Blood Bath

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Okay. So how many times has this happened to you?

You're all fired-up because you're graduating high school. You think, "Golly! It would sure be swell to have my friends over for a big slumber party!" That way you all could have one last get-together before you all go off to college. Just when the party seems to be going all right, a crazed and demented, homicidal chef decides to crash your little soiree and start hacking, slashing, stabbing and killing all your friends.

Oh yeah. And you're all wearing bikinis too.

More than just a schoolboy's wet dream gone horribly wrong, what you just read is the storyline for the noteworthy slasher comedy movie *Bikini Blood Bath* filmed right here in Connecticut. And it's getting released on dvd, Dec. 11.

The tellingly titled film is the irregular brain-child spawned from the heads of the demented folks at Blood Bath Pictures located in hard hittin' New Britain.

"It's extremely complex," explains Sheri Lynn, producer and actor in the film. "A bunch of hot girls have a party and a killer chef is on the loose and is trying to kill them. That's about it."

Like all genius ideas, the *Bikini Blood Bath* phenomenon came about over drinks. Nearly three years ago director Tom Seymour, executive producer and Tom's brother Bruce Seymour, cameraman/editor/beer provider Todd Reynolds and director/actor Jon Gorman were seated in a local pub when,....well, let's let Gorman retell the complex tale of how an idea sprang from the ether of some nimble minds and manifested into a task of love, culminating in an actual vision come true.

"Tom, Bruce, Todd and I were sitting in a bar. I turned to Tom and said 'bikini bloodbath'. We all laughed and then Tom and I started writing it."

Brilliant!

Inspired by schlockmeister movie *God* and founder of Troma Productions (of the *Toxic Avenger* series and *Surf Nazis Must Die* fame), Lloyd Kaufman and 60's B-movie legend Roger Corman (*Little Shop of Horrors*, *Attack of the Giant Leeches*, *T-Bird Gang*, etc.) the quartet set about forming their own production company. Following titular sameness, Blood Bath Pictures got its start.

Gorman remembers how he and Tom Seymour set about writing and creating BBB, their first project.

"We wrote it in three months, picked shooting dates, borrowed some money, contacted Debbie Rochon (slasher movie scream queen, see sidebar), ran ads in *Backstage* (theatrical magazine), had a casting call, selected the girls with the help of Sheri and Russ Russo. Then ran the numbers and shot the thing in nine days (of course going over the budget we had anticipated)."

Sitting and researching hours of bloody, 80s stalk and hack films, *Bikini Blood Bath* started out as a straight, slice and dice, cut-'em-up slasher flick.

"The whole *Bikini Bloodbath* series is really a parody of 80s horror movies," says Lynn. "When Jon and Tom first sat down to write it, it was intended to be a flat-out horror film. But the two of them are just so incredibly funny and sharp that the jokes just kept coming, so they ran with it and it turned into a comedy."

The intentional gags and laughs combined with good wholesome gore is a proven winner in the hearts and eyes of movie fans.

The BB Pictures team had premieres at the Genghis Con Convention in Pittsburgh, PA and at numerous theaters around the state, getting praise for the "beautiful and heartwarming tale of love lost and life lessons learned." But the laughs don't end there.

Those yucks- and the yucks directed at the gore scenes- proved to be too plentiful for just one 82-minute film to hdd. It will probably take at least three.

"The second is *Bikini Bloodbath 2 : Bikini Bloodbath Carwash*," says Gorman. "And the third is *Bikini Bloodbath 3 : Bikini Bloodbath Christmas*." The three films were shot in 30 days over the span of just under two years.

Both BBB sequels are in post production with release dates to be determined. "Also," says Gorman "it is not just a trilogy. We have several more in the works." Oh really? There are more to come?

"Oh are there! At least eight. Maybe more. I don't even know!" says Lynn who besides being a first time producer on this film got to star as Nerdy Suzy as well. An all homegrown affair, it's clear that everyone involved is doing all they can to make the best-worst film ever and have too much fun while doing it while on a frayed shoestring budget. That all-for-one-just-freakin'-do-it mindset saturates the film.

"The key is to have as many friends work for free as possible," continues Lynn. "If everyone who was involved with the film got paid, the budget would be huge. We are very lucky to have so many friends who volunteered their talents for this film."

With the better than minimal but still small amount of exposure BBB was getting, there were offers from distribution companies who wanted to put the film into people's hands. But the deals were not all that great.

"Each one was a terrible deal," recalls Gorman. "We would never see a dime from any of the companies. So, we held onto it."

And good thing too. A deal was struck between the Bruce Seymour run production house Brightly Entertainment (www.brightlyentertainment.com) and the multi-faceted MVD Entertainment Group (www.mvdb2b.com) to distribute Bikini Blood Bath on dvd. That type of distribution has the potential of letting slasher cult movie fanatics and fans of humor-gore throughout the entire globe get their mitts on this disc. How does that grab you?

"We'll see what happens," states Gorman.

"Scream queen legend" is quite the title to have on the top of your resume. And Debbie Rochon (www.DebbieRochon.com) has got it. Featured in hundreds of movies and starring in the Bikini Blood Bath series, she has solidified her position as one of, if not the hardest working cult film goddess around. Thankfully, she had a few minutes to answer some questions for us.

PLAY: What are some things you remember about being in Night of the Living Dead?

Rochon: I was in the additional scenes added for the 30th anniversary edition which was shot in 1998. Regardless of the response to messing with a classic, it was a BLAST! We shot in the same locations as the original and so many of the original people were there it was electric. If I had the chance to do it over again I would!

PLAY: What draw did/do you have towards horror movies and starring in them?

Rochon: LOVE horror movies. Love campy horror movies, love serious horror movies, love silly horror movies. They up the ante as far as dealing with things that (one would hope) would never happen in real life so you have to use your emotions to the Nth degree most times. If they're done well they are fun because of the great writing. I have a lot of crazy emotions and it's the PERFECT venue for expressing myself. I adore ANY well done movie in any genre though, let that be said!

PLAY: How many films have you been in (seeing as you've been in quite a few, a "shit ton" is an acceptable answer over an exact number)?

Rochon: Probably about 150. About 1/3 of them are just in cameo roles meaning maybe I have spent a day or two on them. But I would say there's a solid 35 films I have starred in. The rest fall somewhere between the two extremes! I feel lucky. I still love doing it too.

PLAY: Favorite movie you've starred in?

Rochon: Unfair question because every film has its own memories! I have had SERIOUS fun on at least 30 of the movies I have made. This list will overlook some for sure, but Color From The Dark, American Nightmare, Terror Firmer, Witchhouse 3: Demon Fire, Bleed, Beg, Dog, Splatter Movie, Dr. Horror's Erotic House Of Idiots, Mulva 2: Zombie Ass Kicker, Chicago Massacre: Richard Speck. I can't narrow it down it's impossible! I adore making the Bikini Bloodbath movies and would make 100 sequels if they wanted me to. LOL!

PLAY: Favorite scene you've starred in?

Rochon: I think I took a lot of emotional risks while making a movie called Nowhere Man. In that movie there's a scene that starts out as a consensual sex scene but ends as a rape scene. That was intense, scary and challenging and it really came off perfectly (I think). I am very proud of doing a scene that in one take has about 10 different emotions and transitions in it.

PLAY: Okay. I give you a movie you've been in and you gimme a one word response to it:

PLAY: Saloonatics -

Rochon: Vanished

PLAY: Tromeo & Juliet

Rochon: Classic!

PLAY: Terror Firmer

Rochon: IMPORTANT!

PLAY: Mulva: Zombie Ass Kicker

Rochon: Geekdom!

PLAY: Bikini Blood Bath

Rochon: ADORE!

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