

ZOMBIAE



DATING IN THE WORLD OF ZOMBIES CAN BE MURDER

a Zombie Comedy Feature Film by Greg Zekowski



Log Line

Infected with a designer Zombie Virus, a suburban husband and his wife must overcome the symptoms, the CIA and the coming Zombie Apocalypse. The wedding vow, "Till death do us part" has new meaning with a zombie spouse in the house.

Synopsis

When a bump in the night becomes a vicious zombie bite, Bill Sampler finds himself with no pulse and a deep hunger for meat. Loving wife Shelly and her best friend Carrie are horrified when Bill devours a man in "like 10 seconds." His new fast food diet leaves behind no trace of a victim. While disgusting, the hunger is manageable and lucrative until Bill accidentally infects Carrie. Shelly's brother Charlie concludes the virus is a government conspiracy so together they concoct a crazy plan to protect the family, stop the Men in Black from beheading Bill and save the world from a Zombie Apocalypse. The vow "Till death do us part" has a new meaning with a zombie spouse in the house.



Notes from the Director



My name is Greg Zekowski and I wrote and directed *Zombae*, a 93-minute Zombie Comedy feature film shot in just nine days.

I am a huge fan of comedy. I love Mel Brooks, the Marx Brothers, and broad parodies like *Airplane* and *Scream*. In my career behind the camera I have worked with many great comic actors and earned membership in both the Director's Guild of America and the Television Academy.

Zombae is about what might happen to a loving wife in the suburbs when her soul-mate succumbs to an un-deadly virus. How would this affect the marriage vow of "Till Death Do Us Part?"

After a particularly hard season as a 1st AD on a television series, I wanted to create something to direct during the hiatus. Feeling utterly worn out myself, I pondered the undead, wondering "Why are zombies always the bad guys?" I thought about mashing up the two great films *Shaun of the Dead* and *Eating Raoul*. Both are dark comedies centered on characters that deeply care for one another.

I pitched the concept to my producer friend Steve Ecclesine while shooting a commercial at 4 in the morning in Pomona, California - he said we had to do it.

Why would anyone in their right mind attempt to shoot a film in nine days? The easy answer was the budget. Only \$70,000 made most people (certainly anyone who has ever made a film before) doubt we had any chance of successfully completing a feature. None of that scared me. I had worked with Mike Figgis on the Sony film *TIME CODE* and we shot a complete film by lunch. I pulled out all the stops and every film trick I knew to make the production work. We rehearsed and pre-blocked every scene, then crafted the dialogue for each actor.

And while initially skeptical of my ability to achieve such lofty goals, the highly talented group of actors including Ian Alda, Mariah Delfino and Gina Hecht brought their "A" game to every scene, every day.

Our Emmy-winning DP, Christian Sebaldt called in a few favors from Doug Leighton at Panasonic and Snehal Patel at Carl Zeiss Lenses and they donated the Panasonic Varicam LT and a complete Zeiss cinema lens package, respectively.

In order to get all the coverage I needed I had to treat every hour of every day like it was golden time - the last hour before the sun went down. We moved.

Horror normally includes gallons of blood, shadows, demons, and perhaps an armed, masked loner with bad skin chasing kids around in the dark. My monsters had to be new and different. The zombies in *Zombae* are dead, eat flesh, and are mindless when in the hunger, but the rest of the time they are just like you and me. Colder, pulseless and unable to bleed, but otherwise just like us.

Zombae zombies are part of a government program gone wrong, a designer zombie virus created to turn soldiers into, according to crazy brother Charlie "an army that will kill and eat the enemy before CNN gets shot one." Their evolved feeding pattern was the essential change. My zombies eat their prey in a frenzy that is a cross between the Tasmanian Devil and a swarm of piranhas, a tornado of flesh-ingesting bloodlust that's over in ten seconds leaving nothing but a pile of clothes and a wallet. No blood, no mess and most importantly, no evidence.

In order to create this whirlwind attack, the DP and I devised a practical blend of in-camera and visual effects that was terrifying and funny. We had the amazing Richard Nord, with decades of experience edit the film and feature Grammy-winning Alex Geringas' original music score. The icing on the cake was adding animated opening credits - thanks to the talents of artist Ryan Wick.

We finished post production just seven months after our first day of shooting. Everyone on both sides of the camera came together on this adventure because they believed in the story and I am forever grateful.

I hope you jump a little, laugh a lot and enjoy my film - *Zombae*.

The Dead and Undead Cast and Crew:

Marieh Delfino (*Shelly*)

Caracas-born and Miami-raised Marieh Delfino recently played the pivotal role of Claire in *The Invitation*, considered by Entertainment Weekly to be one of the "Ten Best Films of 2016" so far. Perhaps most recognized for her starring role in the blockbuster thriller *Jeepers Creepers 2*, Marieh is also known for her television work in *Nancy Drew*, *Boston Public*, *NCIS* and *Stalker*. In films she has worked with highly esteemed auteurs Wim Wenders, Paul Schrader and Karyn Kusama.

Ian Alda (*Bill*)

Ian's recent Film and TV credits include *Law and Order: SVU*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Touch*, *Guiding Light*, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, *Divorce Invitation*, *Squatters*, and *Incident on Highway 73*. He has also appeared on stage at the Mark Taper Forum, La Mirada, and Odyssey theaters in Los Angeles.

He currently plays Marc on HBO's irreverent *Silicon Valley*.

Courtney Scheuerman (*Carrie*)

An accomplished thespian and rising standup comedian, this funny Angeleno surfer chick has been pursuing and honing her craft since she was a small child. After earning her degree in Theater and Performance Studies from UC Berkeley, Courtney began her affair with standup comedy. With her own unique brand of comedy she is featuring for National Headliners all around the country and can be found regularly performing at all the major clubs in Los Angeles. You may have seen her standup on *Gotham Comedy Live* as well as *Last Call with Carson Daly*. Carrie's other credits include: *Tales from the Toilet*, *Hey Don't Do That*, and *Comedy on Wry*.

Gabe Greenspan (*Charlie*)

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Gabe moved back to LA after receiving his BA in Theater Studies from Yale University. He writes and performs as one half of the sketch comedy team The Idiot Chimney ([youtube.com/theidiotchimney](https://www.youtube.com/theidiotchimney)) and on the independent improv team, Merlin. Gabe has trained in improv and sketch at UCB, The Groundlings, iO West, The Impro Theater, and The Clubhouse and toured with his college musical improv group, Just Add Water. He also trains in and teaches circus for the French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts.

Bill Oberst Jr. (*Pick*)

Bill is an Emmy Award-winning stage and screen actor best known for playing killers. Among his 160 credited roles is his Season 9 character Unsub on the CBS-TV series *Criminal Minds*. Unsub is included in the network's list of Most Notorious Serial Killers in the series' history at CBS.com. Bill's latest stage project, "Ray Bradbury's Pillar Of Fire," won an Ernest Kearney Platinum Medal at the 2015 Hollywood Fringe Theatre Festival.

Gina Hecht (*Morse*)

Gina has had recurring roles in more than a dozen television series, including *Glee*, *Hung*, *Seinfeld*, *ER*, *Heartbeat*, *The District*, *Life Goes On*, and *Mork and Mindy*, and appeared in another sixty plus guest starring roles. Her more notable film credits include *Seven Pounds*, *Night Shift*, and *St. Elmo's Fire*. In theatre Gina has won L.A. Weekly and Drama-Logue awards for her starring roles in "Circle of Will", "Wrestlers", and "Night Owls".

Clint Carmichael (*Baxter*)

Very versatile, Clint has entertained audiences for over two decades. A native of Los Angeles, once at film school at San Francisco State University he saw a production of "The Rivals" at A.C.T. and decided, "Yeah, I want to do that." In Los Angeles, he studied with renowned acting teacher, Milton Katselas, at the Beverly Hills Playhouse. Recent film and television appearances include: *CSI: Cyber*, *Castle*, *Revenge*, *Criminal Minds*, *Rizzoli & Isles*, *Malibu Country*, *Reality Show*, *Victorious*, *Big Bad*, *Devil's Graveyards*, *The House Bunny*, *Knight Rider* and *NCIS*. National commercial campaigns include: Chase, Bank of America, Dish Network, Comcast, Viagra, Ford and Cadillac. Clint also produced two award-winning films, the supernatural teen thriller feature, *The Open Door*, and the action comedy short, *The Action Hero's Guide To Saving Lives* starring Patrick Warburton.

Carl Bressler (*Berg*)

Carl was born and raised in the music business in Detroit. He moved to LA to study entertainment law, then studied acting with Stella Adler and colleague William Chow from the Peking Opera. Known for playing characters (22 down / 28 to go) named "Berg," he has acted with many fine artists including Hamish Linklater, Liza Minelli, Kevin Spacey, Patricia Bethune and Noah Wylie. He loves the entertainment business, entrepreneurial ventures, and traveling and acting anywhere on Earth (and beyond, should that opportunity ever arise). He executive produced *Smoke Signals* and co-founded/owned Montana Artists Agency.

Dan Coplan (*Mr. Scorich the Landlord*)

Dan began making movies at age 14. His early film *The Incredibly Awful Dr. Sporgo* won accolades at several worldwide festivals. Before graduating high school, he wrote, directed, produced and starred in the short *Of Mirrors, The Mind, and Time*, which was presented at the Kracow International Film Festival. *Echos Of Enlightenment*, his feature directing debut has been shown internationally, is a top indie seller at Amazon.com and is available on Netflix. Dan co-produced *Good Ol' Boy* starring Jason Lee and Brighton Sharbino which won the audience award for Best Feature film at the 2015 Woodstock Film Festival. He also produced the documentary *The Lost City of Cecil B. DeMille*, which premiered at the 2016 Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

Director Greg Zekowski, DGA

Zombae is Greg's first feature after over 25 years in the business behind the camera. Greg directed *Wannabes* for TV and the festival-featured short films *John H.* and *Small Change*. A long-time 1st AD, he has worked for Amazon (*Salem Rogers, Sigmund and the Sea Monsters*), Disney (*Kirby Buckets, Mighty Med, A.N.T. Farm, Jonas*), Paramount (*Special Unit 2*), Nickelodeon (*Big Time Rush*) and Lionsgate (*Partners* with Kelsey Grammer and Martin Lawrence). An alumnus of HSPVA in Houston, Greg studied trumpet at the renowned Jazz Program at University of North Texas. Once in Hollywood, Greg developed a career in Film, Television, Commercials, Sitcoms, Multi-Cam, Single Camera, Internet and 3D projects. The work has taken him to locations all across the United States, England, Mexico, South America, Canada and the Caribbean.

Producer Steve Ecclesine

Steve has produced over 700 TV shows and 15 movies. His first film job was Assistant Film Editor for Roger & Gene Corman, which led to working as Orson Welles' film editor. With *Airwolf*, he became the second American ever to produce a TV series in Vancouver. He then went on to produce *Sliders* there. Steve delved into horror production with five original HBO/Screen Gems/Sony movies: *Creature Features: She Creature, Day the World Ended, How to Make a Monster, Earth vs. The Spider*, and *Teenage Caveman*. Steve also produced three films for Warner Home Video: *Rest Stop II, Otis*, and *Alien Raiders*. He then produced the features *Organyzm, Unwanted: Dead or Alive* and *Space Warriors*. His TV Producer credits include *Scruples, Mantis, The Amazing Live Sea Monkeys, Slamball, Black Sash* and *Pacific Blue*. Steve wrote the book, *So You Wanna Be A Producer*, now used as a text in film schools around the country.

Executive Producers Marlon Schulman and Brian Herskowitz

Horror Equity Fund, Inc. (HEF)

With the slogan, "We Fund Horror", HEF provides a cutting edge catalyst for content creators of all forms of horror-related entertainment; finding funding, and presenting lowered risk projects to hungry investors.

Co-Executive Producers Maynard Britton, David Horne, and Scott Walker

Co-Producer and Post Production Producer Gregory "Grits" Carter

Greg recently worked as Post Production Producer on the box office hit *God's Not Dead* for Pure Flix Entertainment, and as Unit Production Manager on *White Water* for TVOne (which was the highest-rated movie in the network's history). He also has been Post Production Supervisor on films for NBC/Universal, Syfy Channel, Sony, Red Faction, Mar Vista Entertainment, Arbor Bay, Artist View Entertainment, and CastLight Pictures.

Director of Photography Christian Sebaldt, ASC

Christian has accumulated more than three dozen feature film credits and has been the Director of Photography on well over one hundred television episodes (74 on *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* alone), as well as many music videos, network promos, commercials, TV movies and documentaries.

In 2010 Christian received a Primetime Emmy Award and an ASC nomination for his work on *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, as well as the 2010 Kodak Vision Award for Outstanding Achievements in Cinematography. Past accolades include a Silver Clio and an Art Director's Club Gold Award. Christian's work as a Director of Photography has taken him to many European countries, as well as Asia, Africa, Canada, Mexico and all over the United States.

Editor Richard Nord, ACE

Richard was nominated for Academy and BAFTA Awards for his editing on *The Fugitive*. In his decades of experience, he has worked with some of the top names in Hollywood. He received his early training under Woody Allen, working on five of Allen's films including *Hannah and her Sisters*, *Purple Rose of Cairo*, *Broadway Danny Rose*, *Zelig* and *A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy*. He also worked with Mike Nichols on *Biloxi Blues* and *Working Girl*. He edited *There Be Dragons* for Academy Award-nominated Director Roland Joffe. Other directors he has collaborated with include Forest Whittaker, Penny Marshall and Kevin Hooks. More recently he has enjoyed working with a newer generation.

Composer Alex Geringas

Born in the USSR, Alex is an Emmy-nominated and Grammy-, BMI Pop- and ECHO-winning Songwriter and Composer. He had fifteen #1 records and scored the wildly popular family trilogy *Hanni & Nanni 1-3* in Germany before relocating to LA. Recent clients include: DreamWorks Animation Film, DreamWorks Animation TV, Netflix, CBS, Universal Pictures, Hallmark Pictures, Endemol US/ABC and Warner Brothers Film Germany. He wrote and/or produced songs for/with (among others) Kelly Clarkson, Anastacia, Leona Lewis and Jessica Sutta. Alex produced and co-wrote "The Penguins of Madagascar's Black And White Christmas Album". In 2015 he scored the Warner Bros. German Movie *Ich bin dann mal weg (I'm Off Then)*. Alex currently composes scores for the DreamWorks Animation TV/Netflix Show *Home: Adventures with Tip & Oh* and composed the theme songs for *Voltron* and *Word Party* and the end title credit song "My Superstar" on *Ice Age 5: Collision Course*.

Special Thanks Must Go Out To

Doug Leighton at Panasonic, Snehal Patel at Zeiss

Dan Judy at TheLoft Post and Paul Long at Kappa Post

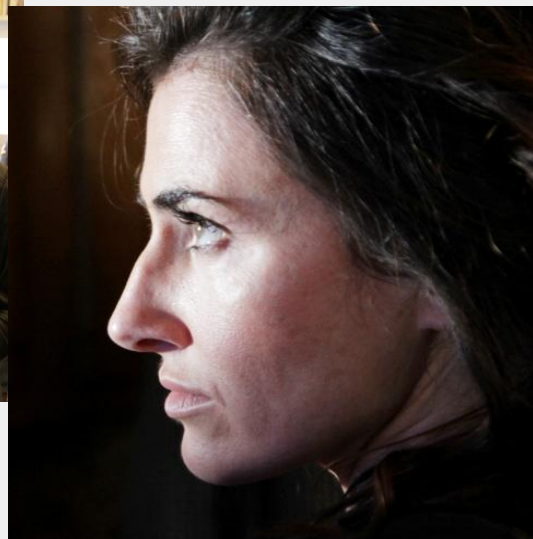




BILL (*Ian Alda*)
Devoted Husband with a
quirky love of brains.

SHELLY (*Marieh Delfino*)
Loving Wife, till death or
whatever the hell comes
next.

The CAST and ZOMBIES



CARRIE
(*Courtney Scheuerman*)
A best friend to die for.

CHARLIE (*Gabe Greenspan*)
The conspiracy-driven brother
who knows too much.

The Agents:



AGENT BAXTER (*Clint Carmichael*)

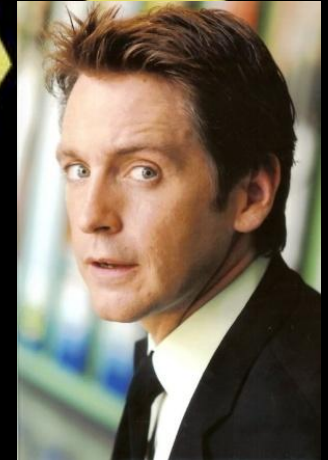
The big guy who bit off way more than he can chew.



AGENT MORSE

(*Gina Hecht*)

Tough as nails patriotic Agent with a heart of even more nails.



AGENTS PICK AND CADA

(*Bill Oberst Jr. and Doug Purdy*)

Two no-nonsense zombie hunting agents.

Have Machetes, will travel.



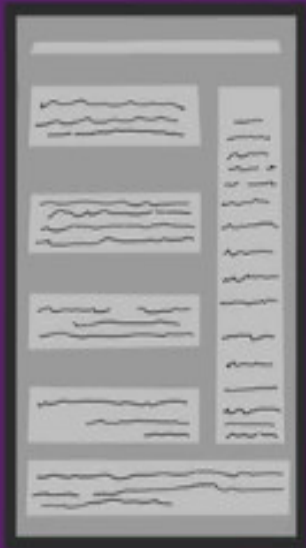
Shelly(Marieh)
readies to seduce her Zombie.



Bill(Ian)
wonders why he bit a banker.

Morse (Gina) reveals it was Baxter's (Clint's) fault the original Zombie escaped.

EXIT

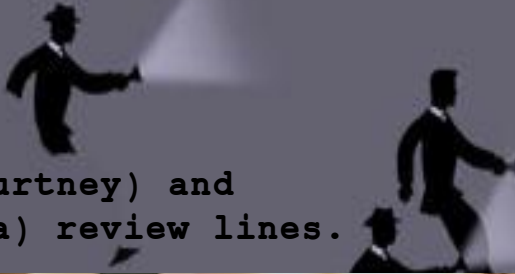


Charlie (Gabe) and Carrie (Courtney) rehearse his theories on the origins of Zombies.





Agents Pick (Bill) and Cada (Doug Purdy) stake out the Zombie crime scene.

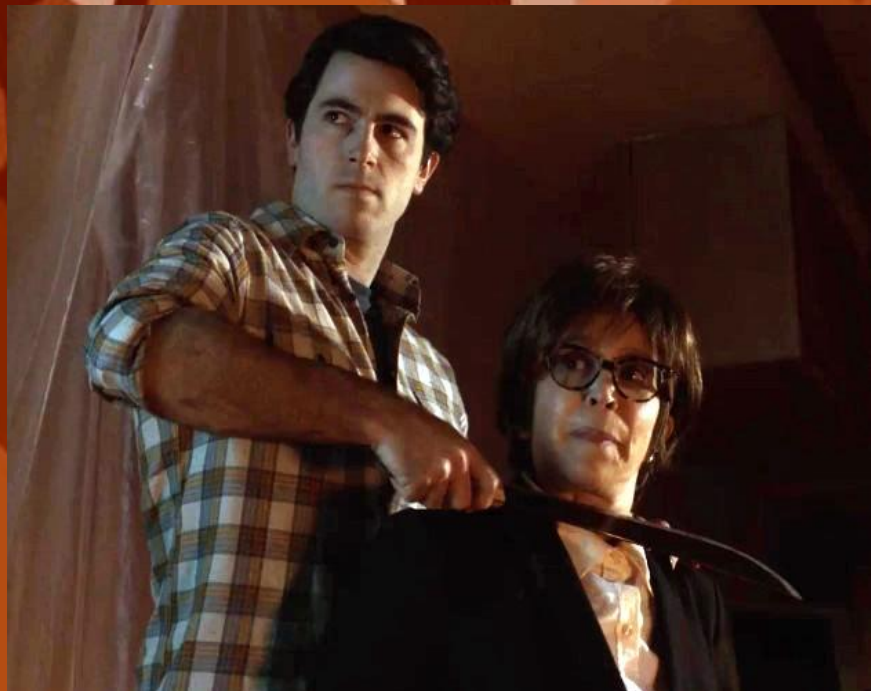


Carrie (Courtney) and Morse (Gina) review lines.



Director Greg Zekowski reviews blocking with Shelly (Marieh) and Bill (Ian).





Morse(Gina) tries to convince Charlie(Gabe) to join the force.



Baxter(Clint)works out fight choreography with Stunt Coordinator Joe Perez.



Director Greg Z works with Baxter (Clint), Carrie (Courtney) and Shelly (Marieh) on how to torture a CIA Agent.



Director Greg Z points out the rain clouds, leaf blowers and tree trimmers on location.