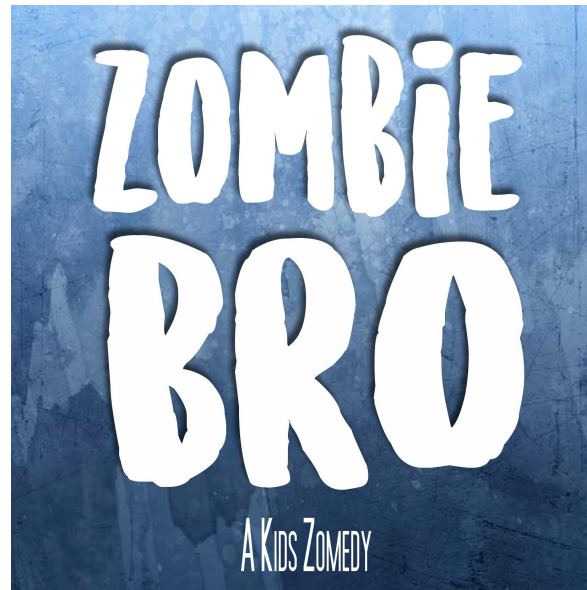


ZOMBIE BRO PRESS KIT



Directed by May Grehan and Co-Produced by Claudia Pickering

Starring: Anthony Taufu, Claudia Pickering, Lauren Grego, Cooper Flynn, Karina Bracken, Natassija-Belle James, Ned Morgan and Keoni Davis.

For more information, visit www.zombiebromovie.com

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

RUNTIME	1 hr 20 min (80 min)
SOUND MIX	5.1 Surround Sound
COLOUR	Colour
ASPECT RATIO	2.35:1
CAMERA	Canon 100

LOGLINE

A young girl must enlist her juvenile father to help save the town from her biting brother.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

They say blood is thicker than water, but does infected zombie blood count? When Francine catches her brother, Teddie, in the act of attack, she must convince Ma & Pa they're in danger and worst of all figure out a way to get rid of her beloved brother. Along the way, Francine learns to defend herself, makes a best friend for life, and becomes closer to her idol, her father.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Francine, a ten year old, has a very normal life, with a not-so-normal family. She goes to school, she comes home, she goes to dances occasionally. But there is something strange about the Luca's, something odd. Teddie, her older brother, is a zombie.

While Francine and her brother have a great relationship, things get a little off kilter when he catches him trying to bite Ma. Only then does the reality sink in that maybe Teddie isn't as safe as he seems. When Teddie comes along to the school dance, he has an abundance of chew toys to pick from, including Francine's new best friend.

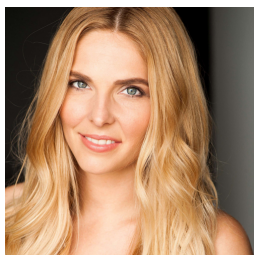
When people all around Francine start turning into zombies, it is up to her to enlist the help of her charming but childish father. They've never gotten along but desperate times call for desperate measures. With his policeman expertise and blowgun collection, they must find a way to stay uninfected.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Zombie Bro is a family-friendly film with a big dose of comedy thrown in and a pin-drop of gore. Think Taika Waititi's *Boy* split with Chris O'Dowd's *Moone Boy* and injected with a centilitre of Edgar Wright's *Shaun of the Dead*. It's a quirky story about a normal kid with a not-so-normal family.

I grew up watching *The Sandlot Kids*, *The Little Rascals* and *Matilda* on repeat. Whatever happened to the classic, live action family film? I mean, is it really that hard to work with children and animals? I say no, you just need the right director. More recently *Paper Planes*, *Oddball* and *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, are examples of live-action family films that have done well in the box office. *Zombie Bro* hopes to follow the success of those films, as well as serve as a stepping stone to make the next live-action children's film in the Liah Liah film vault.

ABOUT THE CAST



Claudia Pickering is a Sydney-born filmmaker whose feature film projects have achieved widespread festival acclaim, including her directorial debut *Frisky* which has gone on to be optioned as a television series. Pickering regularly creates sketches with her comedy trio *Frothpocalypse* having studied comedy improvisation at the Upright Citizen's Brigade in Los Angeles. She is one of the founders of Freshflix Film Festival.



Anthony Taufa graduated from NIDA in 2009. His most recent stage productions are QTC's *The Octoroon*, and STC's *Black is the New White*, *The Golden Age*; *Love and Information* and *Orlando*. He has appeared in many stage productions in Melbourne and Sydney, including *The Brother's Size* for Griffin Independent and *10,000 Beers* for Darlinghurst Theatre Company. In 2012 was a member of the Bell Shakespeare Learning Ensemble. He also plays the role of Taufa in the feature film *Downunder* and the television series *Top of the Lake – China Girl*.



Lauren Grego is a young actress from Sydney, Australia. This is her first lead role in a feature film and has enjoyed the experience. As well as acting, she spends her free time doing gymnastics and dancing with Brent Street. She is represented by Jenni Anderson at Brent Street Agency.



Cooper Flynn is a young actor from Sydney, Australia. This is his first role in a feature film. He has been in numerous commercials (Uncle Tobys, Disney) and looks forward to working on more projects like *Zombie Bro* in the future. He loves anything Star Wars and old school rock n roll bands. He is represented by Sonya Marturano at Random Management.



Karina Bracken is an actress and writer based in Sydney, Australia. She has played roles in multiple theatre shows and film works. Most notably, she worked on award-winning *Superman Returns* in 2006 and has been on Channel Seven's, *Home & Away*. She is currently writing and shooting a sketch comedy show available across Facebook and Youtube titled *VODville* with Madeleine Butler.



Natassija-Belle James is an actress based in Sydney, Australia. This is the first feature film Natassija has worked on. Although she usually gets confused for being older, she liked playing a role younger than her age. She looks forward to working on more film sets and continuing with her dancing. She is represented by Sonya Marturano at Random Management.



Ned Morgan is an actor based in New South Wales, Australia. He most recently played the role of Pheonix in the award winning short film, *Sleepwalking*, in which he had to shave his head on camera. He comes from a family of actors, his younger sister Martha can be seen in the popular Australian Domestic Violence ads and has worked on shows at STC. He is represented by Vicki Jackson at Matrics Management.



Keoni Davis is a talented young actor who enjoys being on screen. Already, he has worked on numerous film including *Embedded* (2016), *Random and Wacky* (2017) and now, *Zombie Bro*. His modelling and acting have taken him to Los Angeles where he has won many awards. Keoni enjoys being on screen and is proving to be a real natural. He is represented by Vicki Jackson at Matrics Management.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



MAY GREHAN
(Writer, Director,
Producer)

www.maygrehan.com

May Grehan is an Aussie-bred, Singapore-raised, Toronto-living actor, comedian and children's entertainer. She made her professional stage debut playing Martha in Spring Awakening at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in 2011. Since then she has toured theatre shows around Australia and made appearances in TV shows Deadly Women (Discovery Channel) and Old School (Matchbox Pictures).

As a writer, May has written sketches, short films and feature length scripts. She has received highly commendable reviews from numerous screenwriting competitions (Stranger With My Face Festival). She is mentored by comedy writer/director Claudia Pickering (Winning Formula, Frisky) and Awgie award-winning writer/ director Timothy Wilde (Primeval Evolved, #30). Zombie Bro is her first screenplay and she is very excited to see where it may take her.



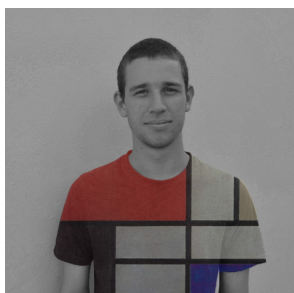
CLAUDIA PICKERING (Co-Producer)

www.pickclaud.com
www.freshflixfest.com

Claudia Pickering is a Sydney-born director, screenwriter, producer and actor whose feature film projects have achieved widespread festival acclaim, including her \$5000 directorial debut Frisky which, after a successful release in US and Canada, has gone on to be optioned as a television series by Jungle (No Activity). Her earlier screenwriting and producing debut Winning Formula will be released in 2018 through Indican Pictures (Lionsgate).

Pickering thrives in the comedy genre, her passion for finding honest, human moments between people being her calling card. She regularly creates sketches with her comedy trio Frothpocalypse having studied comedy improvisation at the Upright Citizen's Brigade in Los Angeles and was a selected director for Screen Australia's Talent LA program in 2017.

She has a masters degree in Architecture and is one of the founding partners of Freshflix film festival and emerging filmmakers' conference, which brings indie film, art and music together in Sydney (partnering with Vivid Ideas) and Los Angeles (partnering with Australians In Film). Pickering has recently directed Resting Pitch Face starring Nakkiah Lui, Bridie Connell and Emily Havea, and is currently developing several projects under her company, Cliff House Productions.



COLEMAN GREHAN
(Composer)

Coleman Grehan is a Brisbane-based theatre director and sound designer. Mostly composing for the stage for his own work, Coleman has also collaborated with various Australian companies: Canberra Youth Theatre, National Portrait Gallery of Australia, Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre and Fairly Lucid Productions. Zombie Bro marks his first professional venture into film composition.

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

Kids First Canadian International Comedy Film Festival IndieFest Awards	Honourable Mentions and Best Young Actors Awards Award of Merit: Children/ Family Programming Semi Finalist
ReelHeart Action on Film Megafest Film Festival	Runner Up: Best Children's Film and Best First-Time Filmmaker
Gen Con Film Festival The International Indie Gathering San Diego International Kids Film Festival Central Florida Film Festival	Best Horror Comedy

FULL CREW

Director	May Grehan
Writer	May Grehan
Producers	May Grehan Claudia Pickering
Casting	May Grehan Claudia Pickering
Cinematographer	Drew Bontoft
Camera Assistant	Carl De Masi
2nd Unit Camera Assistant	Alexander Mitchell
Lighting Assistant	Tobias Ridewood
2nd Unit Lighting Assistant	Sky Dominic
Sound Recordist	Charles Swales
First Assistant Director	Mahveen Shahraki. M
Second Assistant Director	David Kelly
Production Designer	Ashlie Fisher
Costume Designer	Daphne Grehan
Catering	Daphne Grehan
Makeup Artist	Kristina Moschella
BTS/Photographer	Mansoor Noor
Production Assistant	Dario Nadile
Editor	David Kelly
Music Composer	Coleman Grehan
Sound Editor	Oscar Jemmott
Colour Gradist	Rio Zoulas
VFX Editing	Andy Sutton

PRESS AND REVIEWS

June 2019	Interview	BZ Film	https://bzfilm.com/talks-interviews/zombie-bro-may-grehan-bzfilm-interview/
July 2019	Review	Film Threat	http://filmthreat.com/reviews/zombie-bro/
June 2019	Press	Film Ink	https://www.filmink.com.au/public-notice/brisbane-filmmaker-takes-america/
June 2018	Press	Cinema Australia	https://cinemaaustralia.com.au/2018/06/19/trailer-of-the-day-zombie-bro/
Jan 2019	Review	Kids First	https://www.kidsfirst.org/detail/218390.html
June 2019	Press	Ciao Magazine	http://ciaomagazine.com.au/inner-west-film-takes-on-america/
July 2019	Press	Dural Roundup	https://www.duralchamber.org.au/aussie-filmmaker-takes-on-america/
July 2019	Review	BRWC	https://battleroyalewithcheese.com/2019/06/zombie-bro-review/
Aug 2019	Review	UK Film Review	https://www.ukfilmreview.co.uk/post/zombie-bro-indie-film-review

Q&A WITH THE DIRECTOR

Tell us a little of your story May, how did you get into making films, and in particular this one?

I started off in film as an actor and when I wasn't landing roles left, right and centre I had to think seriously about what I wanted to channel my time and efforts into. I'd written *Zombie Bro* while I was living in Sydney for a year and so I set myself the goal of shooting the film and finishing it before I left for Canada. It was one of those "don't wait for the calvary" kind of moments.

Where did you get the idea for *Zombie Bro* from?

I'm actually pretty lucky. This might sound funny but I actually have pretty vivid dreams and a lot of my creative ideas come from those. I also work with a lot of children when I'm not filmmaking, who are a constant inspiration - it's them who told me Zombies are all the rage.

This film is hilarious - who would you say had the biggest influence on the style of humour?

I love Taika Waititi. And I actually hadn't come across his work until someone read my script and said it was a lot like his style in *Boy*. I did a little research and it turns out that yes, he is in fact the funniest person in the world. I also grew up watching a lot of *Southpark*, which is a big influence. My comedy is very playful, but can sometimes get a little dark.

You managed to raise \$20,000 yourself to make this - how did you go about filming on such a low budget?

Low budgets suck, but it does mean the work has to be great. I was able to snag a great DOP had Claudia Pickering mentoring me - and then to top it off I found an amazing AD.

After that, it was just a matter of finding people that loved the project enough to do it for little to no pay. We shot it all in 12 days and only 4 locations, which helped too.

What was it like working with child actors?

It's the easiest thing in the world. I love it. I work in childcare back home, and used to run my own children's party business. So working with kids is always high on my to-do list. Added to that, my actors were so switched on it was almost like working with adults.

What was it like working with Anthony Taufa?

Anthony Taufa is such an amazing actor. I only found out after we shot the film that he studied at NIDA. He is humble, hard working and so, so funny. A few of the lines that made it into the film were improvised by him too.

What was the worst thing that happened during filming?

The house we were shooting in was an Airbnb rental, which we had rented for two weeks. A week out from shooting, there was an issue and the family who rented it could only let us have it for one week.

On hearing this, my fantastic AD leapt into action and whipped everything together so that all the house shoot days were up first and that there was no wasting time on set. We also ended up adding a fourth location later on because we didn't have enough time to put the 'chamber' in the original house.

I think if you pick the right team, the worst thing becomes just 'a thing' that needs to be fixed - you find a way to make it work together.

Discuss the casting process a little...

Originally, the family was meant to be Maori, who I find have a very positive and naturally quirky sense of humour. When I couldn't find exactly what I was looking for, I just wanted to stay as true to the original idea as possible.

Funnily enough the lead, 'Francine', was originally a 'Frank'. We auditioned several boys but by the end of it, I still wasn't convinced, so we opened up to girls and Lauren Grego was found - and I couldn't be happier. I was particularly pleased to get Anthony Taufa on board too.

Then it was just a matter of putting together a believable family. Zombie Bro isn't intended to comment on diversity, if anything, I just wanted to show a typical Australian family experiencing life with a Zombie child.

What is it like being a female director - did you experience many hurdles while making this film?

In the pre-production stages when I would tell people I was making a feature film I definitely got a lot of people saying it wasn't possible, and I do think being a young female may have

added to that. Luckily, I had some pretty strong females by my side to back me up and support me to throughout the project.

Why is *Zombie Bro* important - why does this story need to be told now?

I think there are not enough live-action kids films being made - ones with messages like standing up for yourself. I find that there is a big gap from the really 'kiddie' films to suddenly really grown up ideas of love and crushes; a gap for the children aged 8-13, who are still young and playful but learning to be independent. There is also a lovely father-daughter story in the film, which I hope shows the audience that love is given and received in different ways.

Do you have any original music in your film?

Yes. I'm lucky enough to have a brother, Coleman, that writes music. He wrote all the pieces, and you can even hear him having a sing during the school dance sequence of the film.

What are you most excited for audiences to see your film? What do you think will resonate with them the most?

I think Francine is pretty kick-ass. Audiences will be able to resonate with her right from the start and go on this journey with her. At the end of the film the audience can make their own mind up about what they would do if they were in her situation. Every other character in the film also have their own quirky storylines that I think the audience will enjoy too. Especially Pa, he is very very funny.

What are your hopes for *Zombie Bro*?

I made *Zombie Bro* as a stepping stone into my next feature film. It was small enough to do on a tight budget and it showcases my type of writing and humour. We are hoping it will win some acclaim at festivals, before going through sales/distribution and releasing it to the world.

What did you personally learn while making this film?

I learnt that things are going to cost more than you think. I learnt that great pre-production is key to a great production. I learnt that post-production never ends. And I also learnt that you are never too young to start something, that no amount of time or waiting prepares you. You will never be ready, you just have to do it.

What's next for May Grehan?

I've written a kids sketch show that I'll be shooting and putting up on Youtube later in the year. I also have a completed script for my next feature film, *Game On*, which I'll be pitching every chance I get (the budget is far higher than *Zombie Bro*'s). There are also a couple more screenplays in the pipeline, so - hopefully a lot more!

MAY GREHAN - FILMOGRAPHY

Actress (18 credits)

2020	<u>Don't Click</u> (filming)	Shannon
2018	<u>Bait and Switch</u> (Short)	Katherine
2017	<u>Roommates</u>	Kylie
2016	<u>The System</u>	Office receptionist
2015	<u>Pop-Up</u>	Yana
2015	<u>Paul the Rabbit</u> (Short)	Jess
2015	<u>Things Transplant Recipients Never Say...</u> (Short)	Hysterical Friend
2014	<u>Without</u> (Short)	Receptionist
2014	<u>The Army Within</u> (Short)	Sal
2014	<u>Deadly Women</u> (TV Series documentary) - <u>Mom's Money</u> (2014) ... Jody Herbert	Jody Herbert
2014	<u>Wingman</u> (TV Series) - <u>How to Start a Threesome</u> (2014) ... Liz	Liz
2014	<u>Old School</u> (TV Series) - <u>Yesterday's Heroes</u> (2014) ... Waitress	Waitress
2014	<u>It's a Dole Life</u> (TV Series) - <u>Scott</u> (2014) ... Receptionist	Receptionist
2013	<u>Die Krankenhaus</u> (Short)	Nurse Reeves
2013	<u>The Daytime Sun Chronicle</u> (Short)	Kate
2012	<u>Freshwater</u> (Short)	Mary-Anne
2012/III	<u>Mute</u> (Short)	Alice
2011	<u>A Girl Like U</u> (Short)	Morgan