

## JAKE WEST



Jake West has cheekily hacked, slashed and gored his way into recognition as a highly talented writer and director of horror/comedy films. With the imminent Sony Entertainment UK release of his fourth feature film, *DOGHOUSE*, starring Danny Dyer and written by comic book writer/artist Dan (*Dogwitch*) Schaffer, his currency is set to rise and further establish him as one of a crop of emerging Brit filmmakers injecting new blood (and humour) into the horror genre.

In *DOGHOUSE* the age-old 'battle of the sexes' theme is given the full West/Schaffer treatment. As Jake comments:

"The guys in *Doghouse* are loveable and charming, but slightly clueless, and the women, rather than being mindless zombies, are all personifications of our heroes' paranoia and fears of emasculation. Of course, this is all in the context of a classic zombie-style action movie with loads of blood and gore!"

Jake's life-long love of horror coupled with his twisted brand of humour was first unleashed on cinema audiences with his 1998 debut pic *RAZOR BLADE SMILE* – "a neck-ripping, bra-busting, blood-spurting vampire ride", which won ten international awards and probably could have won another as the cheapest horror film to be released in the UK (£20,000 budget). Independently financed, the film was picked up by Manga Entertainment for theatrical release in the UK and the world in 1998. It made a considerable profit selling virtually every territory in the world.

His second feature, *EVIL ALIENS*, a maniacally raunchy and crowd-pleasing horror/sci-fi splatfest made an even greater impact. Hitting the ground running at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival, the film sold to most major territories around the world, and made Screen International's Top Selling Movie list. It also won the Raindance Award at the British Independent Film Awards in 2005, an award celebrating exceptional achievement by filmmakers working on low budgets and against the odds.. Against even greater odds, the film, picked up by ContentFilm, got a 20-print theatrical release in Odeon Cinemas across the UK.

In 2006 Jake co-scripted and directed *PUMPKINHEAD: ASHES TO ASHES*, for Motion Picture Corporation of America and the Sci-Fi Channel. This third, highly rated instalment of the legendary *Pumpkinhead* franchise stars Lance Henriksen (*Aliens*, *Near Dark*) and Doug Bradley (Pinhead from *Hellraiser*). Sony Home Entertainment have picked up worldwide DVD rights.

In 2005, Jake, in partnership with writer/film researcher Marc Morris, set up Nucleus Films, a DVD label devoted to bringing rare cult films to the UK as well as producing documentaries & featurettes for DVD release. These include the feature length *Phantasmagoria* – a documentary which was specially commissioned by Anchor Bay Entertainment. This has been released on both the UK and US releases of the *Phantasm* series (Parts 1 to 4) boxset.

Jake has also directed the C4 *Extreme Cinema* season introduced by film critic Mark Kermode.

