



TERROR FILM FESTIVAL – PRESS REVIEWS

By A.D. AMOROSI, PHILADELPHIA CITY PAPER

I'm putting my stock in Claw's indie gore reels and slicker fear fare... That's what his first Terror Film Festival is all about. Claw initiated TFF for horror fans both behind and before the lens. "The people who've made these films are the diehards who watch them," says Claw of cinematic genres like horror, fantasy, sci-fi and thriller. "They're the next **Peter Jacksons, Bryan Singers, Night Shyamalans and Kevin Smiths.**" Filmmakers from **Japan, Finland, Ireland and the United States** will hit TFF in hopes of winning a **Claw Award**, cash prizes and box office money when their flicks screen. At last check, the line up included Philly's **Mike Zaleski** (*Half Price Sale*), Johannesburg's **Jo Horn** (*The Mamtsotsi Bird*) and Barcelona's **David Alcalde** (*Happy Birthday 2 You*).

By DAVID GREENBERG, FREELANCE JOURNALIST

Hey, **TFF looks really cool.** It turns out that I know the director because he acted in one of my films 15 years ago. I have spent a lot of time on the phone with him (in anticipation of a face-to-face get together), on the website, and I just watched his two features. This is a guy **who really loves film** as an art form and as a centerpiece for a community of artists practicing the form. **I am really impressed** with the entire operation of the festival and, as it grows bigger and bigger every year, attracts more and more, bigger and bigger sponsorships, I think it is **poised to become one of the premier events** on the indie film scene. I have been encouraging all of my filmmaker friends and contacts to enter and participate.

By TAMI FERTIG, PHILADELPHIA CITY PAPER

Terror Film Festival...the darkest, grizzliest, un-cuddliest shorts and feature films from around the world!

By "FRESHLY" DOUG "GRAVE" WALLEN, PHILLY WEEKLY

So, is terror the new black, or is this just the usual pre-Halloween anxiety? Either way, Claw has organized a killer (heh) lineup including not just horror but thriller, fantasy and sci-fi. Culled from entries that Claw says exceeded expectations by more than **300 percent**, the selected films are an ambitious array of features and shorts from as far away as **Sweden, South Africa and Japan.** Among the standouts are the animated short **Teddy Scares**, starring **Clive Barker** and **Linda Blair**, and the [recently retitled and distributed] cult-centered thriller **Under Surveillance** [*now titled "Dark Chamber"*]. Awards will be bestowed...[but] the real winners, of course, are the moviegoers who get to gorge on gory, madcap flicks for hours on end.

By PTAH GABRIE, PHILADELPHIA CITY PAPER, OCTOBER 10

Gory, Gory, Hallelujah! Need to satisfy your taste for extreme gore? Philly's second annual **Terror Film Festival** promises to feed your dark side with six nights of roughly 100 **spine-tingling, hair-raising horror flicks** from around the globe. There's bound to be a gem or two that'll scare the bejesus out of you. "If it isn't fun, it's a turnoff," says the filmmaker and festival director who goes by the name of "Claw." This year, TFF received **twice as many submissions** as last year, and has nearly **doubled in length.** In addition, many of the entries have shifted away from run-of-the-mill bloodbaths to...films with more developed plotlines. One of Claw's personal picks is Jeff Leroy's **Werewolf in a Women's Prison**, which involves camp, werewolves and beautiful women. **Night of the Hell-Hamsters, directed by Paul Champion** (an artist on **Lord of the Rings** and **X-Men: The Last Stand**), is also what it sounds like, and features bloodthirsty hamsters taking over the world. "You can see the **professional quality to it,**" says Claw. A Philly native, Claw loves **promoting local films.** This time around, he's into Temple grad **Jenna Serbu's** four-minute **Kindfeuer.** "It takes you on this very artistic joyride," he says...And **Halloween II's, Leo Rossi** will hold a Q&A session following Wednesday night's screening of **Diamond Zero**, a comic thriller about celebrities who get crushed into diamonds. **The festival's popularity** is no doubt growing...[and] all entrants get a picture, project poster and synopsis of their [work] on the TFF Web site **just for submitting.**



By **MATT PRIGGE, PHILLY WEEKLY, OCTOBER 10**

The Fests Are Yet to Come. While the **Terror Film Festival** isn't mentioned in the same breath as **Cannes, Sundance, Toronto...**it's **gained a rapid notoriety** within the festival community—**unheard of for a fest whose second year** hasn't even happened yet. As with last year, submissions came from as close as **Philadelphia** to as far off as **Sweden, Japan, Denmark, Africa** and **South Africa**. This, by the way, is with next to no advertising. TFF doesn't buy space in trade magazines like **Variety**. "We're selective in our exposure attempts," [says Claw]. "When people are submitting...it's not because they want to give their film to anyone. It's because **they've heard something about us and they want in,**" [Claw] explains.

"We're geared strictly for **submitters** and the **audience...**we're not doing it for the money or the hype...it's based on **great filmmaking, great screenwriting.**" The playlist this year spans **horror to sci-fi to thriller** to even **dark drama**—a new addition. Financially, they run the gamut from **slick Hollywood fare** (like **Side Sho...**to movies with next to no budget (like **Werewolf in a Woman's Prison**, which [Claw] claims is "**the most entertaining movie ever**). "It's **very much like a rock show...**it's got a **lot of charisma**. A lot of our personalities go into it." [says **Princess Horror**] the fest's **host and spokesperson** at the nation's other horror festivals. [Claw and Princess Horror] both talk about expansion...but [say] they want to **keep the personal touch the same**.

By **THIS WEEK IN PHILLY, OCTOBER 16**

Anyone with a man crush on Bruce Campbell? Anyone? Terror Film Festival!

Are you one of the five people who actually saw **Grindhouse** in the theater? You like splatter and gore – what the **mediarazzi** refer to as 'genre' films. Hell yes, you like 'em! Nothing's better than a wet behind the ears **Bruce Campbell** getting his ass kicked from one side of the cabin to the other by some kind of super-tough undead demon after reading from the **Book of the Dead**. Or maybe you prefer **Romero's** zombies rising from the grave in slow motion pursuit of brains, though it's hard to imagine any of their witless victims actually having enough grey matter to qualify as such. Ladies and gentlemen, the **Terror Film Festival** is almost here. It matters not your particular filthy pleasure – horror, fantasy, sci-fi, drama, or screenplay, this annual **INDEPENDENT** film festival is geared towards bringing filmmakers and audiences together **October 21-25**, at the **Ethical Society Building** in Philadelphia. They come from all over with their pride and joy cinematic endeavors clutched between sweaty fingers trembling in anticipation. They come for the films, the world class screenwriting competition and the coveted **Claw Awards**, which, in case you haven't evolved from beneath that rock yet, are the **Oscars of Horror**. Tickets start at \$8 and go up from there, depending on your dedication and lack of other social engagements. Go go go! You can learn all you ever need to know about this event here. Prices, screening schedule, more. The **Ethical Society Building** is located at **1906 South Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA**. **Philly Weekly** said "Terror Film Festival has gained rapid notoriety within the festival community." Come one, come all. What more do you want? Be part of something notorious! I command it.

By **TIRDAD DERAKHSHANI, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, OCTOBER 17**

Invasion of the Film Fests

Genre film nuts who dig gory slasher flicks, creepy ghost yarns, and rapidly decaying zombies will find comfort and joy at the third annual **Terror Film Festival**, offered **Tuesday** through next **Saturday** on **Rittenhouse Square**. **Philly** screenwriter [Claw] founded the fest in [2006] as a low-key affair in his basement. It grew rapidly, drawing more than **1,500 fans** in year one. The impressive program features **56 shorts** and **six features**, including the opening-night film, **Lunical**, a dark comedy set in **Philly** about a fastidious serial killer (with a heart of gold) who is perturbed when another psycho muscles in on his turf. Other notable flicks include **Alien Raiders**, a dark...yarn starring **Carlos Bernard** of **TV's 24** as a scientist turned-alien hunter, who discovers a nest of aliens in a supermarket. An import from **Turkey**, **Gomeda**, is a deeply twisted, surreal exploration of dreams - and nightmares. It's about five friends whose relationships start breaking down as they become more desperately lost during a hiking trip.



By MATT PRIGGE, PHILLY WEEKLY, OCTOBER 17

FILM: REPERTORY: **Terror Film Festival**. The second year of the October-themed **film cavalcade** extends the genres to include drama alongside the usual horror, sci-fi and thriller pics, and includes fare from as close as **Philadelphia** to as far off as **Denmark, Italy** and **Germany**. Consult the site for the full lowdown, including such titles as the zombie pic **Plane Dead** and the doubtlessly genius **Werewolf in a Woman's Prison**.

By BARON CRAZE, FREELANCE JOURNALIST, OCTOBER 22

The Fest this year was great!! The **showmanship** is truly **unlike any other** and it is **an event unlike others**. A chance to meet filmmakers, directors, screenwriters, actors, up close. And there are the **parties and events...truly unique**.

By MOLLY EICHEL, PHILADELPHIA CITY PAPER, OCTOBER 22

ETHICAL SOCIETY BUILDING, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square. **Terror Film Festival**: Five whole days of genre movie goodness. This horror, sci-fi, fantasy fest mixes features and shorts so you can gorge yourself on movies with titles like *Alien Raiders* and *Basement Jack*. Tue., Oct. 21-Sat., Oct. 25, visit terrorfilmfestival.net for more info.

By JOHNNY ART, YELP!, NOVEMBER 26

Five Stars!! The best fest I've been to in a loooooong time. I attend a lot around the country (Sundance, Seattle, NY, etc), but this beat them all. It's the people that run it that made it so cool. The awards show at the end was a monster event (pardon the pun). I met people from all over the world and got to talk with them all. Really impressive event, good people, and the movies were impressive as hell. Plus we got to party every night after the movies and everyone was just great.

For more information on Terror Film Festival, including a full list of the nominees and winners and to stay updated, visit their website at www.TerrorFilmFestival.com.

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