

Fashion: Horror hits the floor with Dance Party Massacre

Written by Chris Alexander
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In a scene where every member sports a black t-shirt emblazoned with some sort of vintage movie poster or logo, clothing designer, ardent horror junkie and FANGORIA subscriber Alex Dakoulas opted to twist the pop culture tale and create a new line of fun, imaginative and playful horror tees that riff on rock and roll and monster culture in mildly outrageous ways.

The line is called Dance Party Massacre, a weird and cool post-modern series that is catching on with horror fans armed with a sense of style and humor including a Michael Myers/David Bowie mashup called "Mickey Stardust", Freddy Krueger moonwalking a la his gloved counterpart Michael Jackson and The Ramones posing with their latest member, Jason Voorhees. FANGORIA caught up with the man behind the threads. Have a look....



FANGORIA: What is your own background? Is it rooted in film or fashion?

ALEX DAKOULAS: I actually went to school for graphic design, but I chose that because it touches on many different areas. I have a love for film, and I also have a love for clothing as a form of expression—specifically t-shirts, because they are so universal. Anyone can wear one, but what you put on it can drastically change who it's for.

FANG: How did this wild line develop?

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DAKOULAS: I had been designing t-shirts while I was in college, wearing them and selling them. Pretty soon, they started to take off. When I decided to create an actual brand, as opposed to one-off designs, I wanted to pull from what I knew and what inspired me.

Horror movies have always held a special place in my bloody heart. Coming into my own, I felt a close connection to the victims in horror movies. I would often relate my struggles to the metaphors in horror and the survivors would remind me to fight for my life! When it came to starting my own company, it just felt right to bring together my two loves: horror and t-shirts.

Some of my favorite horror movies also have a sense of humor to them, which is reflected in the brand. I like playing off that interesting juxtaposition of horror and fun.

FANG: Do you have to pay any rights to quote the iconic imagery of the pop stars?

DAKOULAS: Coming from an art school background, I am used to creating things as a form of expression. I idolize pop culture, and in turn, the pop art of people like Andy Warhol. It's a way to say something widely by utilizing content the public is familiar with. I also admire people like Shepard Fairey or Banksy, who pull from well known images and give them a new spin. When DPM references something famous, it comes from a place of admiration, respect, and attempting to say something new. I do not pay anyone for the rights to imagery from popular culture, but we're using it to create unique, original art.

FANG: Where can people buy your wares, online only?

DAKOULAS: Our online store is the best place for the widest range of stock. But I am also working hard to get Dance Party Massacre into more brick and mortar stores. Currently, it's carried in a few shops in a few countries, a list of which can be found on our website. I also do a few markets and shows throughout the year.

FANG: What kind of response have you received?

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DAKOULAS: I've found that people sort of either love it or hate it. They think it's awesome or completely weird. That's sort of the point though. It's weird and funny and gory. It's not for everyone. I knew that when starting it. I would much rather create something a core group of people love, than be a part of something a lot of people kind of like.

To get on board the DPM, head to the [official site](#) . And keep logging onto FANGORIA.com for info on how you can WIN a DPM shirt!

