How can such a tiny thing kick butt so effectively? That’s the first thing this writer thinks upon meeting actress Radha Mitchell at a post-screening Q & A for THE CRAZIES, Overture Films’ remake of the George A. Romero cult fave directed by Breck Eisner, in which she stars. But as soon as she opens her mouth, the reason becomes apparent: Mitchell may not be a giant among women, but she is fearless about staring down whatever challenges come her way.

She has battled space aliens (PITCH BLACK), the denizens of hell (SILENT HILL) and even a killer crocodile (ROGUE), so what’s to fear from a few madness-infected small-towners—not to mention rabid fans and geeky journalists? Articulate, intelligent and enthusiastic about her art, she’s also a great interview…

FANGORIA: THE CRAZIES is a genre film, but there’s this troubled adult couple at the heart of it.

RADHA MITCHELL: Certainly, it was interesting to see two adult characters dealing with adult issues in a movie like this. Generally those characters, the leads [in a genre film] would be teenagers. But here I think we succeeded in being able to generate that hipness without completely losing sight of things like character development. There are four people at the center of this story who need each other if they are going to survive. As much as we see them victimized by what’s going on around them, we also see that their love for one another is what keeps them able to go on.

Did you like that? That was the female side of me. [*Laughs*]

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