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Thursday, 31 January 2013 13:00

Are you ready for THE ABCs OF DEATH? Were any of us, really? With one punchy line—"26 Directors, 26 Ways to Die"—the film announced itself as a highly anticipated, highly insane romp through one of our earliest tools of education. Attempting to learn you the alphabet something fierce, the horror anthology and its roster of some of genre's best international talent leaves no repulsive, splattered, pearl-clutcher of a stone unturned. Jake West, director of DOGHOUSE, landed "S" and subsequently crafted a multi-faceted, swiftly-paced piece. Here, he speaks to Fango about his own love for the subgenre and more.

FANGORIA: The anthology is near and dear to every horror fan's heart. What's your favorite? Do you have a particular favorite story?

JAKE WEST: My favorite Anthology is the 1945 British-made DEAD OF NIGHT. My favorite self contained story within it is "The Ventriloquist," about a ventriloquist who thinks his dummy is out to get him. However, it's actually the wraparound story which is the coup de grâce in this film, as it pulls all the previous stories into a genuine hallucinatory nightmare conclusion. It's a masterpiece and was way ahead of its time; and I'd say the granddaddy of the cinematic Horror Anthology.

FANG: With something like ABCs OF DEATH, do you enjoy going in surprised? Did you want to know what everyone else was doing?

WEST: I want to be surprised. I've no idea what any of the other directors are doing and that's what's so great about this project. We're all gonna push the bloody boat too far out and to fuck knows where. It's gonna be uncomfortable. It's gonna be insane. What a trip to take. I genuinely can't wait to see it myself!

FANG: DOGHOUSE, while a fun film, had some issues on its mind, especially when it came to gender relations. Are you playing with anything similar in your ABCs short? If so, what's it like packing something subversive into three or so minutes?

WEST: It's very different to DOGHOUSE. We shot this in the desert and it was a tough challenge to shoot in such a remote, difficult location, with such a small unit. The story speeds by and I think packs a neat story punch with a few barbs of subversion (if you wanna look for them). To me, it's like a beautiful exciting dream that then punches you in the face. I really liked working in this super short timeframe of just a few minutes running time, because it really forced me to focus my idea and sits in absolute unity with my film's theme that "life speeds by, oh so fast!"

FANG: When did you first come to understand death as natural, imminent?

WEST: For me, it was the pattern of first the death of family pets and then later friend, then family.

FANG: When did you develop a sense of humor about it?

WEST: The humor comes and goes, depending on one's closeness to the edge. As you get older unfortunately, you confront it more and more.

For me, in a horror film the humor comes through the horror, as it reminds of us how alive we are. It also challenges us on how much we are willing to feel if we're willing to project our imagination into those dark spaces. With movies, we can safely experience terrors and ironically, this awareness of death is actually life affirming. You've got to find some joy in such a wonderful contradiction!

FANG: Favorite cinematic kill?

WEST: Funnily enough, it's not a gore kill. For me, it's in Blade Runner When Roy Batty Kills Tyrell. It's the one kill that resonates beyond all others as it puts me in the emotional space of a mind-blowingly huge moment. Killing your creator. Wow!

FANG: What can we expect from your contribution to THE ABCs OF DEATH?

WEST: A revved-up amoral joy ride that takes a fiery rockin' trip through the desert of the "live fast die young dream." Fast cars. Fast women. And of course, hell to pay! Plus, there's an extra bonus for genre fans as its all accompanied by an exquisite score by renown composer Simon Boswell (PHENOMENA, HARDWARE). So I really hope the audience enjoys taking the ride down this slippery slope into Death [laughs]. Whatever the case, we're all gonna die, so try enjoy it while you can!

THE ABCs OF DEATH is now available on VOD and iTunes, with a limited theatrical release headed our way March 8. For much more on the film, pick up FANGORIA #321 (on sale February) and spend today perusing the likes of Shock Till You Drop, Badass Digest, FEARnet, HitFix, Bloody D and more as each profiles another of the film's directors, much like above!

And if you've yet to see the film, may we suggest you take today to visit your local beer distributor and be back in front of your TV or computer by 8 p.m. pacific for a group watch where the many filmmakers and fellow fans will use #deathparty and #THEABCsOFDEATH on Twitter, as a means of communicating just how real shit is about to get.