

Tiffany's Jewels, Part Two

Written by Tony Timpone

Thursday, 06 January 2011 11:32



In her bid to become “not just another scream queen” with a short shelf life, actress Tiffany Shepis has stepped up her game in the last few years. Besides starring in and helping to produce the surprisingly smart horror/sci-fi sleeper *THE FRANKENSTEIN SYNDROME* (see interview [here](#)), the spunky actress has also racked up strong showcases in Eric Shapiro’s dark drama *RULE OF THREE* and the Butcher Brothers’ bizarre *THE VIOLENT KIND*; contributes an amusing bit in the *NIGHT OF THE DEMONS* remake; and has the lead role in Marc Leland’s *SHE WOLF RISING* (see our last story [here](#)), a horror/comedy where Shepis plays a sardonic scream queen (talk about typecasting!). Read on for exclusive comments from Shepis and photos from the films...

FANGORIA: In *THE VIOLENT KIND* (pictured below), you get possessed by someone or something, and you literally climb the walls.



TIFFANY SHEPIS: Yeah, that was so cool! I got to crawl around on the ceiling all possessed and crazy, and the way we shot that was just so awesome. When I came down, I was just like, “You’ve gotta be kidding me, this is so cool.” I was harnessed, they hoisted me up to the ceiling and I got to crawl around spitting blood on people. I’m excited about that too, like *THE FRANKENSTEIN SYNDROME*. Only a handful of people have seen *THE VIOLENT KIND*, and if they did they saw the original, original rough cut which played at Sundance. The new cut, which I saw just a few months ago, is phenomenal. It’s another weird movie that crosses genres, and if people are willing to embrace the kind of David Lynchian horror of it, they’ll really dig it.

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FANG: I've seen the film twice now, and I'm still not sure what was going on. Did you?

SHEPIS: No, I had no idea what it was about, and I'm not going to give any spoilers away. When they told me about the ending, I was like, "What?! What is this?" [*Laughs*] So I was definitely confused, but I thought that was just the dumb actress in me, going, "Oh, I don't get these kind of weirdo artsy people" [

laughs

]. It certainly is a strange film. I love that movie. I was blown away, and I'm quite happy with it. That's another one that I hope gets a pretty decent release, because it's very cool.

FANG: You play a scream queen in SHE WOLF RISING (two photos below). Was that autobiographical at all?



SHEPIS: [*Laughs*] No, not particularly. I don't think I have any wolf in me... That's a fun movie. That is one that my particular fans go, "Hell yeah, that's what I wanna watch!" It's a movie-within-a-movie thing, and it's very much a horror/comedy—a very silly, very goofy, gross

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film. I just had to go back to New York a few weeks ago to reshoot some stuff for them, because—imagine this—they decided I needed to turn into a wolf in the movie! [

Laughs

] So I got to play a she-wolf for the first time in my career, which was fun. But, yeah, it's a fun popcorn/get drunk kind of movie.

FANG: I wanted to see more of you in NIGHT OF THE DEMONS. What happened?

SHEPIS: Oh, me too [*laughs*!] No, nothing happened with that. I came in late to a casting, and, honestly, I was such a fan of Kevin Tenney's original that if you asked me to play a mute extra, I would have done it. So I was thrilled to have any kind of part written in for me, and that's what [director] Adam Gierasch and [co-writer] Jace Anderson did. They wrote in the part for me as Shannon Elizabeth's partner, who ran the door. And I had a great time shooting it; I couldn't be happier. I probably would have been happier had I played Angela [

laughs

], but I was thrilled to have been a part of it, it was a lot of fun and I'm doing another movie with Adam and Jace in the next few months—and that one I do have a way bigger part in, so it all worked out in the end. Can't tell ya what it is, though! Sworn to secrecy.

FANG: You also have a movie coming up called THE FRANKENSTEIN BROTHERS, which I assume is *not* a sequel to THE FRANKENSTEIN SYNDROME...

SHEPIS: [*Laughs*] No, it's not. I just do a cameo in that movie; it's a romantic comedy with Zelda Williams, Robin Williams' daughter. It was just an odd thing how that worked out. I went to visit a friend of mine who's a makeup artist, and she was on a set in Colorado. I happened to have the weekend off and I was like, "Oh, I'll come and hang with you." Then I met the whole production, and they asked, "Oh, would you just be in the movie, would you just do like two scenes?" And I said, "Sure, I'm here, why not?" I just recently watched it, and it's a totally fun romantic comedy.



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FANG: How did SICKLE (pictured right), in which you co-star with Kane Hodder (who discussed it with us [here](#)), turn out?

SHEPIS: I've seen a few cuts from it, and what I saw looked amazing. They have some editorial problems, fixing it and all that, and from what I understand, they're chopping at it at the moment. But Kane Hodder saw some of it and said it was fantastic as well; same with [actress] Rena Riffel. So that's definitely going to be one that your readers will want to check out.

FANG: And BONNIE & CLYDE VS. DRACULA is coming out—and in theaters, no less (see details [here](#))—in February.

SHEPIS: I know, finally, I just read that on your website today [*laughs*]. I didn't know that, and I was like, "Holy crap!" It's fantastic. People have been waiting for that movie for at least three years. It was very exciting. That was one movie that was very close to my heart, just because I loved the character I got to play in it. What they did with virtually no money was absolutely amazing, and it certainly needs to have a DVD release. How we're getting a theatrical release is just phenomenal. These little movies don't get any type of play anymore, so it's fantastic. And it won every festival it played at! People want to know every day when the BONNIE & CLYDE T-shirts are coming out, and figurines. And I'm like, "Oh, I don't know, I guess I'll start bootleggin' them myself..." [*Laughs*]

Laughs

] But I don't have to; it will be out February 18.

FANG: Any other projects you're attached to that you're excited about?

SHEPIS: Well, obviously THE VIOLENT KIND and THE FRANKENSTEIN SYNDROME are the two I'm really rootin' for. But gearing up for production now, I'm shooting a movie called BLACK out here in Arizona. It's more of a thriller than anything else. I did a movie a few months ago called DIRTY LITTLE TRICK with Michael Madsen and Dean Cain, which is a money-heist kind of deal. I play Dean's little sister, the funny, comic-relief bitch with an attitude, and I get kidnapped by Michael Madsen, so that was a lot of fun. Then I'm going on to do William Forsythe's directorial debut called NEW BLOOD. That should be a good-time vampire movie!

FANG: You admit yourself that you've done a lot of crap. Are you in a position now where you

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can start weeding out the junk you get offered?

SHEPIS: Well, the fact of the matter is I'm an actor, and it's not every day that a FRANKENSTEIN SYNDROME or THE VIOLENT KIND comes around. And I like to work, so I take movies because some are really fun, or someone on the production just sounds cool and is really hungry and it's their first film, and, you know, "God, I've watched your movies since I was 17, and I want you to come out and do it," and there's nothing that beats that. It's like going to a convention; anybody who asks for my autograph, I'm always friggin' honored—it's like, "Really?!" [*Laughs*] It's the same thing when I get these calls from these young kids, and they're just out of film school, and for whatever reason, they've been inspired by my stuff, then I kinda wanna go do it. Now, are they all good? No [*laughs*]. But I can only hope that at least my stuff kinda shines in them.

I'm definitely working on better projects that I'm certainly more passionate about. It has made me think more about the longevity side of things, as opposed to, "Right now, I wanna make a movie" or "Right now, that money sounds really good." So it has made me a little more choosy. But, come on, I mean, I'm a f**kin' actor, I'm a scream queen, I like making horror movies, I like getting bloody [*laughs*].

FANG: So what are your goals at this point in your career?

SHEPIS: I'm producing a lot more now. I don't know if you know, but I married Sean Tretta, the director of THE FRANKENSTEIN SYNDROME...

FANG: Wow, congratulations.

SHEPIS: [*Laughs*] Thanks. Yeah, we got married in June, and I've been helping him with his movies. We have a project that Dustin Lowry and I produced called WOOD, GLASS AND BONE, and we attached Jeff Allard, the executive producer of the TEXAS CHAINSAW remake and THE VIOLENT KIND. So we're just in the early stages of that right now, just starting to shop it. So there's gonna be a lot of stuff on the producing side for me, as opposed to making 80 movies a year [*laughs*]. Also, just for the reason that it tires me out now, man! Being on a plane six times a month is exhausting. So a lot more producing and hopefully just better movies that get wider release.

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