With her 20th birthday arriving next month, Emily Hagins has only a little while longer to enjoy (or endure) the label of "teen filmmaker." She has by now earned the simple designation of filmmaker, with three features (all horror-oriented) under her belt, including today's DVD/Blu-ray release, the vampire comedy MY SUCKY TEEN ROMANCE.

Distributed by Dark Sky Films, ROMANCE stars Elaine Hurt as Kate, who's about to head off for college but first goes with her friend Allison (Lauren Lee) to the SpaceCon genre convention. She's hoping to run into her crush, supermarket cashier Paul (Patrick Delgado), at the con, and does—but unfortunately, he has recently been vampirized by Vince (Devin Bonnée), a bloodsucker dating back to the '50s. When Paul accidentally "turns" Kate, her friends have to figure out how to cure her condition before it's too late. ROMANCE, which follows Hagins' ghoul opus PATHOGEN, made when she was 12 (as chronicled in the documentary ZOMBIE GIRL: THE MOVIE; see review here), and her ghost story THE RETELLING, balances teen courtship rituals and gentle satire of the convention scene with a surprising amount of bloodshed given the lighthearted tone. And of course, ROMANCE touches on that teen-vampire franchise that has been so conspicuous in recent years…

FANGORIA: Is MY SUCKY TEEN ROMANCE a response to TWILIGHT-mania?

EMILY HAGINS: In a way, but without negativity. I don't think there's anything productive about maliciously making fun of someone else's creative endeavors, but we do acknowledge that TWILIGHT exists within our universe too, since the timing of our film was important.

[redacted]