

Gemma Arterton: Life's a "WITCH" for "HANSEL & GRETEL"

Written by Michael Gingold

Wednesday, 23 January 2013 13:20



British actress Gemma Arterton's career has seen her literally running the gamut, from big-ticket actioners like the 007 film *QUANTUM OF SOLACE*, *CLASH OF THE TITANS* and *PRINCE OF PERSIA* to the intense, confined thrills of *THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ALICE CREED*. Now she's kicking butt again as one-half of the heavily armed sibling team in *HANSEL & GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS* (opening Friday from Paramount). Arterton spoke to Fango about her most adventurous role yet, as well as her upcoming vampire drama *BYZANTIUM* and a reunion with her *DISAPPEARANCE* director.

In *HANSEL & GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS*, directed and co-written by Tommy Wirkola (who broke out with the Nazi-zombie film *DEAD SNOW*), Arterton and *THE AVENGERS*' Jeremy Renner play the sister and brother who defeated a predatory sorceress in childhood, and have since devoted their lives to exterminating her kind. Their chief nemesis is evil witch Muriel (Famke Janssen), who has been stealing the children of a small village in preparation for a sacrificial rite during the impending Blood Moon. Mixing period and fairy-tale tropes with updated weaponry, *HANSEL & GRETEL* is a true genre-blender, as Arterton explains...

FANGORIA: Were you familiar with *DEAD SNOW* before you did *HANSEL & GRETEL*?

GEMMA ARTERTON: Yeah! When I heard about the project, I did watch it. I'm not usually one for gore [*laughs*], so I watched it with hands over my eyes, but it was a really clever film, tonally. Tommy has a great sense of humor and knowledge of film, so I was excited to work with him.

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