Unlike the characters in the original THE EVIL DEAD, the five post-teens populating its remake (premiering tonight at SXSW) haven’t assembled in the cabin in the woods for a hedonistic good time. Instead, they’ve gathered to preserve the health of one of their own, who has fallen into a cycle of substance abuse.

David (Shiloh Fernandez) and his new girlfriend Natalie (Elizabeth Blackmore) meet up with David’s sister Mia (Jane Levy), along with Olivia (Jessica Lucas) and Eric (Lou Taylor Pucci), at that isolated shack in the hope that they can exorcise Mia’s real-life demons. That David had abandoned Mia several years before creates tension on top of an already unstable situation, which is set to explode when they finally meet up again—and the resident evil spirits come out of hiding.

On a sunny morning after a series of night shoots, and with the last day of filming in sight, the stars of EVIL DEAD (which opens theatrically April 5 from TriStar) sat down during Fango’s exclusive set visit to talking about working with the director/co-writer Fede Alvarez, and his insistence that all its gruesome FX be created old-school, with makeup and prosthetics.

FANGORIA: Has working on EVIL DEAD been very physical?

ELIZABETH BLACKMORE: Yes, it has been, with bits of my body flying around everywhere. We've been very lucky that we have people like Roger [Murray] and the whole makeup effects team here. It's amazing what they do, and that we get the real thing; it's not fake, it's not CGI and it's not like miming or acting to nothing. To me, that makes it so much cooler. My character goes from being really quiet to very forthright, and eventually is possessed. There's self-mutilation involved that required a stuntperson doubling a body part while I hid that part of me away but continued acting in the same shot. I spent that whole day soaked in blood and water, and you know, you're just kind of miserable. Yet you've still got to get up and perform, so in that way, it helps. You're really cold, you're really covered in water, you're really trembling, you're really miserable and you really want to go home—you don't want to do it but you have to, and that's exactly how the character is feeling.

FANG: What other challenges have there been?

BLACKMORE: There are so many different types. There are emotional, dramatic scenes, and then there are also the physical challenges. One of them would be working with prosthetics and makeup. You get picked up at 4 in the morning and you go to the makeup chair—people pulling you and poking you and touching you for 7 hours! It's a long time. And then you have maybe 20 minutes to yourself and then you're covered in water and fake blood and you stick to yourself, the blood sticks to your hair and in your mouth and just gets everywhere. You have to do these scenes where you're getting abused and terrorized, so it affects you emotionally, and physically your body is hating you. I developed an allergy to my prosthetics as well, so at the end of the day, my face would be swollen when I'd go home, but I still had to get up at 4 in the morning again and start all over.

LOU TAYLOR PUCCI: I had to spend up to four hours a day in the makeup chair just to prepare when my character is at his worst—but anytime I began to feel fed up with my situation, I just had to think about Jane [Levy], who endured twice as much as anyone else on set. I'd look at her and tell myself to stop being such a pussy and get on with it. By the same token, Eric does endure a lot of damage.

[redacted]