



WORKING CLASS NOBODY ZINE

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PREMIERE
ISSUE

FOR THE LOVE
OF HORROR

Actor/Film Maker Douglas Tait from
Halloween Ends, Actor Michael
Berryman from The Hills Have Eyes,
Writer/Director Queen Cujo, Horror
Author Jon Steffens & Movie Reviews
by Jonathon Kelly, UK

LOCAL ART
SCENES

Dive into the creative minds of
local artists Israel Rico from San
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DROP THE
NEEDLE

Featuring DJ Darenda from Houston

MUSIC
INTERVIEWS
FROM
VAMPYRA
STORM OF AGES
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Silver
Tongue
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This issue is dedicated to
Saul Joseph Palacios III
The world is not the same without you.

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FOR THE LOVE OF HORROR

Had the pleasure of speaking with Actor/Film Maker Douglas Tait who has played iconic roles such as Michael Myers and Jason Voorhees.

Growing up, what was your go-to movie of choice?

"Halloween was always my favorite horror film. I was also a big Indiana Jones fan – those were the movies that really stuck with me."

Having a brother, did you guys grow up close as kids or both did your own thing?

"We weren't very close growing up. We fought a lot because we were just so different. He wasn't into sports like I was, so we didn't always see eye to eye as kids."

Sports, were you active in sports? Ever think of pursuing any after high school/college?

"Yes, I played college basketball for a bit. I've always been into sports, and in my younger years, I dreamed of becoming a professional basketball player. But by my junior year in high school, that dream shifted, and I started wanting to become an actor and comedian."

Who gave you your first opportunity in acting? Did you know then that's what you wanted to pursue?

"My very first professional job was for a basketball commercial for the U.S. Navy. I booked it because of my basketball skills rather than acting, but it was an amazing experience shooting on a Navy ship. From that moment on, I knew this was what I wanted to pursue. I worked at Universal Studios for years playing Frankenstein, The Wolfman, Harry from Harry And The Hendersons. It was a great side job while I was pursuing my dreams."

Every movie set is different, but does working on one stand out from the rest? Because of timing or others in it?

"That's a tough question because I've had so many great experiences (and some bad ones). One that stands out is Freddy vs. Jason. It was my first big-budget feature, and being a huge Freddy Krueger fan, getting to hang out with Robert Englund was surreal. That's a memory I'll always cherish."

So many characters and film IMDb credits. Having played Jason Voorhees and the Michael Myers Stunt Double, has portraying Leatherface ever been an option?

"I'd love to add Leatherface to my resume! But the business has changed a lot since I started. Films used to be shot in Los Angeles, but now they're made all over the world. If a movie is filming in Canada, for example, they tend to hire local talent. Unless things align perfectly, it's tough to land those roles, even with a solid resume."

Interview By Spida





Everyone talks about their Mount Rushmore of horror. Who are your top 4?

"Halloween (Michael Myers), Nightmare on Elm Street (Freddy Krueger), Friday the 13th (Jason Voorhees), and The Exorcist (Pazuzu)."

Working in films has taken you all over. What states/countries have you traveled to because of work? Best or worst place you've ever had to work in?

"I've traveled to so many places that it's hard to list them all.

A few highlights are Bulgaria, Austria, Germany, Ireland, South Africa, England, Prague, Mexico, Canada, and all over the U.S. Austria was one of my favorites, and Canada is always a great place to work. The worst? Definitely China."

I also cover combat sports. Do you follow MMA, Boxing, or Slap Fighting? If the money was right, which one of these would you be more likely to try at least once?

"I love MMA and watch boxing from time to time, depending on the fighters. Those sports are brutal, though, and I don't think I could compete in them. If I had to pick one, I'd go with slap fighting."

With having played so many characters and spending countless hours in makeup, which was the most grueling?

"The most grueling makeup was definitely my character Skull Zerstörer on Grimm. I spent seven hours in the makeup chair, with prosthetics glued from my waist to my head. I had to fight in scenes, and the makeup on my back would start to chafe and come off. They had to glue it back on over open wounds, and all this during the harshest winter Portland, Oregon, had seen. It was rough."

In between sets, what's your music of choice, and does music help you get into character?

"Right now, I'm really into '80s metal. It definitely helps me get into character, especially when I'm playing Sasquatch for the Jack Links jerky commercials."

With so many films in Horror/Sci-Fi, is there one genre you prefer over the other?

"I really love working in horror. I grew up watching horror films and always loved scaring people – first on Halloween, and now in my career. Over the years, I've gotten to know the horror fan community, and many of them feel like friends. They support the movies I'm in, and I just love that community."

I'm sure everyone you've met throughout your career has been great to meet, but is there anyone you'd like to work with in a film that you haven't yet?

"There are so many people I'd love to work with. All the great directors, like Clint Eastwood, Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, Paul Thomas Anderson – they're legends. I'd love to be part of their movies, even in a small role."

Thank you for participating in our premiere issue! I'll be seeing you at MALLAPALOOZA in Temple, TX.

Anything you'd like to say before we wrap this up?

"I can't wait to meet all the horror fans reading this at a show. Be sure to check out my directorial debut, Angel Baby, now streaming. And follow me on social media to stay updated on my upcoming projects!"

Interview by Spida

A few questions with the iconic Michael Berryman!

Have you every visited Texas outside of work?

A few years ago I did a movie called Deadly Blessings and I almost moved to Texas but it didn't quite pan out the way I wanted.

Are you making more movies?

When the strike is over, we are still waiting on phone calls for projects ready to be created and we have some contracts out to studios so hopefully we will be getting back to work and taking care of the family and tell stories.

So many years of wonderful characters, is there one that stands out above all the rest?

They are all so different, but "Pluto" of course is iconic from the Hills Have Eyes and working with Wes Craven was awesome. I played a lot of different roles that were fun and silly, of course Smoking in the Boys Room video from the 80s. There was a film called "The Evil Within" the only film by Andrew Getty he passed away after we finished the film so different people put it out. It was based on a nightmare he had. All the special effects are practical so if you are a film buff it's a good watch. One flew over the cuckoo's nest of course I learned a lot like going to school.

Working with other talent do you pick up techniques?

Absolutely, in my early years I made it a habit to be on set because you can always observe and pick up nuances. I asked the director what I needed to know about the camera and he gave me a book on cinematography and I got to look through the camera lens. If you are an aspiring actor even if it's an independent film and you want to understand your craft as much as possible aside from creating your character because we all work together.

Did you ever get into martial arts?

I took a little bit of Tae Kwon Do, when my brother was in the marine core I use to lift weights in college and I learned a gentleman Paul Harris a grand master body building at age 60 who was my trainer so I learned how to weight train properly. I didn't really get into martial arts but if push came to shove I know a few things.

I come from the world of hard knocks and when it comes to the real world you don't have time to play that way. Fights are usually over very very quick. It's important to understand that most situations can be resolved without conflict by using your mind. Basically avoid negative people.

Have you ever done any voice acting?

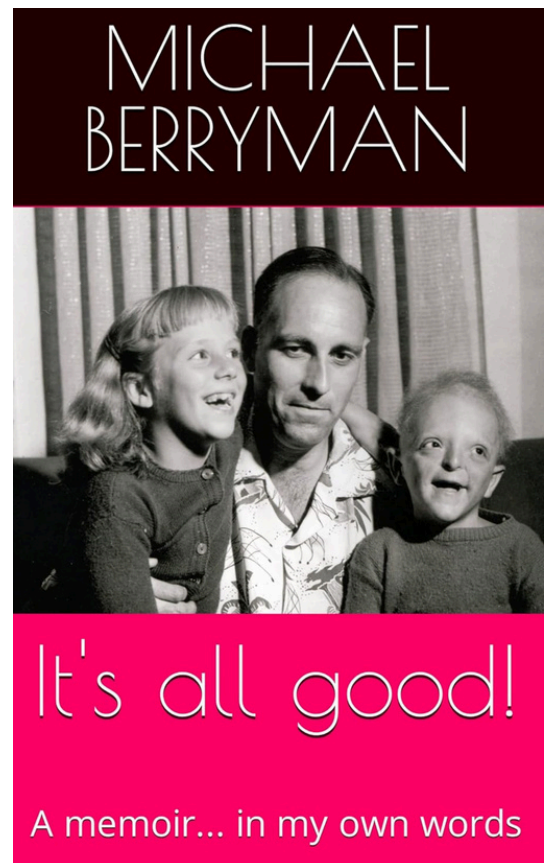
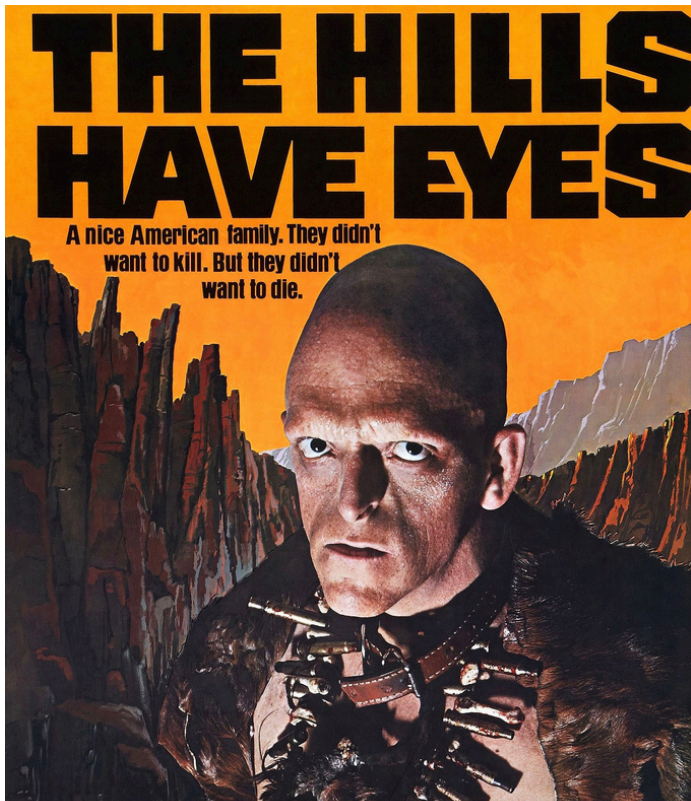
I can't remember the film but I did do the entire dialog for another actor. It was interesting because I was in the sound booth and doing lip sync and it's tricky, it's definitely an art in itself. Its a great gig if you can get it, its a small group of people in that specialty you are very fortunate if you have that as a career.

Is there one horror movie that you enjoy for yourself, a go to?

It's technically horror but is a little tongue in cheek but one of my favorites is the Evil Dead. I just like to kick back and relax.

Anything else you'd like to say?

If you have a chance go to amazon and put in the title Its All Good, my memoire if you want to enjoy a good read.
IT'S ALL GOOD!



Talking with San Antonio local Queen Cujo on her short film "Lucy The Lycan" and her upcoming project.

When it comes to making movies, how did you get into wanting to do that?

My mom used to manage a few video stores back in the day, universal video and pick a video. My mom managed for a really long time, so I basically grew up in a VHS shop.

About how old were you when all of this was going on?

I was probably in elementary school. I remember the cardboard cutout of Chucky, I think it was the second child's play the one where he was holding the big pair of shears that he is closing down on the Jack in the box and the Jack in the box has this scared look on his face. That cut out used to scare me as a kid every time I walked by.

I so being that your mom works there. Did she let you watch horror movies as a kid?

No. Oh God no. I think whatever was kid friendly she would let me take home. So anything like Bram Stoker's Dracula was a no, so I think like down the road when I was in high school, I rediscovered horror movies and would watch them all the time.

So when it comes to age, for example, would you let a five or six year old watch child's play?

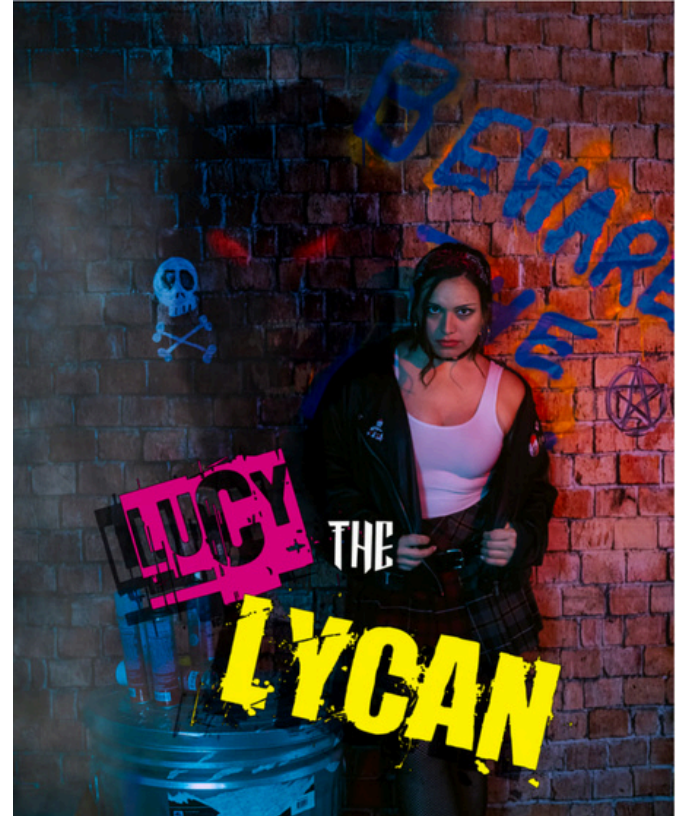
It depends on the kid literally I think I am that parent when the recent child's play came out and my daughter asked to go see it, she was just coming out of Junior high going into high school, and was raised to learn that this is pretending these are actors. We would discuss that these are people getting paid and that's fake blood and it's not real.

What was the first horror movie you can remember seeing at the theater?

Dr Giggles, it was great and at the time we had friends in New Braunfels and we went to one of the oldest theaters there at the matinee and i like that movie a lot still and rewatch it to this day.

When I think of horror I think of punk rock and metal, which is why we revamped this zine from the 90's - so when it comes to music did a lot of the inspiration for your short film come from music?

Yes! I use to go to all the punk rock shows at Sam's Burger Joint in high school, it was a fun time to be hanging out around broadway at the time. That's were all of my punk rock girl stories and attitudes come from. All of that is what shaped Lucy and when everything originated I wanted to make a werewolf movie that had never been done before. I wanted to make a punk rock werewolf movie about a girl that goes through the change and thought maybe people would be interested in it.



Did you write the short film during or after covid?

I wrote the short during Covid because I had so much free time being stuck in the house and once we were coming out of the whole thing I found a cinematographer and actors and kept building at it. I gave myself two days to film and edited for about a week.

How did you find actors, were they friends?

No, it was a lot of social media and networking and the cinematographer I used was able to find locations and a lead for an actress named Patty Corres who played Lucy.

The music you had in the short, are they local?

Yes they are from Austin and they would come and do showcases they are called The Butts

When did you start writing?

Short stories that I wrote when I was younger I just revisited and during Covid I had the time to explore and develop.

Where did you end up streaming it on?

You can find it on Youtube through 1014 Productions - Lucy The Lycan. Initially I sent it out to a bunch of film festivals and the last one I went to was the horrific women's film festival here at city base cinema. Im going to go back to working on the other project I've been working on and hope to make it a full length feature and is completely different but still horror.

What is your bucket list of people you want to meet?

More Jason's if I can get a hold of them like Warren Gillette and Ari Lehman.

Tell us about the project you are working on now?

The project is called Dead Flowers it's a movie about a killer gardener with a disposable cast of young people. It's a slasher with many creative kills and we have filmed 2 creative kills so far. We are working on more stuff down the road and setting up more stuff.

Tell us about 1014 Productions and why werewolves?

10/14 is my birthday, I wanted to personalize what I built.

And werewolves, I feel like they are underrated and there are no good new werewolf movies whatsoever and everything has been overshadowed by zombies with The Walking Dead and vampires with the Twilight movies. Werewolves have been pushed to the back.

The film that you are currently working on, what music are you planning on?

Whoever I can find who is willing to contribute and get a credit I am down. We have been preoccupied with getting scenes shot so we haven't thought about the music much just yet. There are literally 2 people on the film team, myself included. My cinematographer has every camera under the sun and lighting and sound and good at editing. Independent film making at its best. We have 2 days of shooting in but still have a butt load more to go.

Anything else you want to add?

Check me out on instagram queen_cujo along with 1014 productions and you can check out Lucy The Lycan on YouTube. Support local independent films and support Texas Horror!

Interview By Spida



All About Horror Author Jon Steffens from Dallas, TX

Can you share your journey as an author? What inspired you to pursue this path?

Sure thing. As a kid I devoured books like *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* and *Bruce Coville's Monster of the Year*. Before long, I was writing my own horror stories, even getting one published in the newspaper. By adulthood I had put aside most creative pursuits and settled into life as a working-class thug, albeit one who was still obsessed with horror and Halloween. Then in my mid-thirties, I got back into writing by doing record reviews and features for *Rue Morgue* magazine. A few years later I saw an open submission call for extreme horror novellas, thought what the hell, and the rest is history.

Who are your biggest influences, both in the world of books and beyond?

My main influences in the world of books would have to be Brian Keene, Stephen King, Joe R. Lansdale, and a slew of up-and-coming "indie" authors like Ira Rat, Rebecca Rowland, Richard Beauchamp, and Holly Rae Garcia. There are tons of smaller-scale writers working today with incredible bodies of work. Outside of fiction, I'd say horror movies, music (everything from punk, oil, hardcore, and metal to country and Czech folk music), and events from my life have influenced my writing.

What themes or messages do you find yourself exploring in your work?

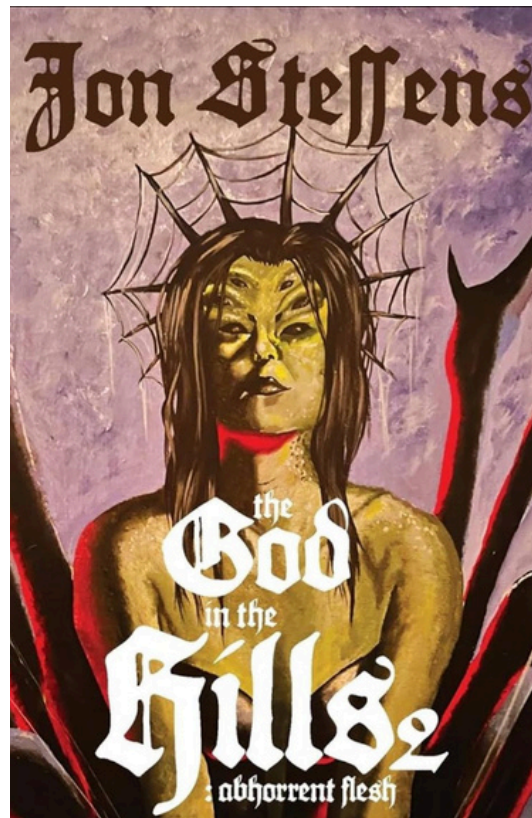
With my adult-oriented horror fiction, the theme I return to most is hopelessness (laughs). I don't just want the reader scared or even repulsed, though that's great, too. I want to leave them questioning the goodness of the world. In my horror work, there are no happy endings, and no one is coming to save you.

How do you approach the beginning of a new book?

After being struck by an idea, I like to get an outline together. I write down character names and traits, key scenes, and a general story first. Then I'll often create a playlist geared toward the feel of what I'm writing and get to work.

How do you handle criticism of your work?

I generally don't care too much. No matter how great something is, someone is going to hate it. Same with something terrible that still finds an audience who loves it. Of course it's not as fun to get a lukewarm reaction, as I'd prefer someone to either love a book or story of mine or downright hate it. That's fun, too.



What has been your most meaningful book to date, and why?

Definitely the first printing of my novella *The God in the Hills*. It was surreal seeing a book with my name on the cover. That was something that seemed like it was for real authors. When it was nominated for a Splatterpunk Award, it was one of the best feelings I've ever experienced related to my writing.

Have you experienced any significant challenges as an author? How did you overcome them?

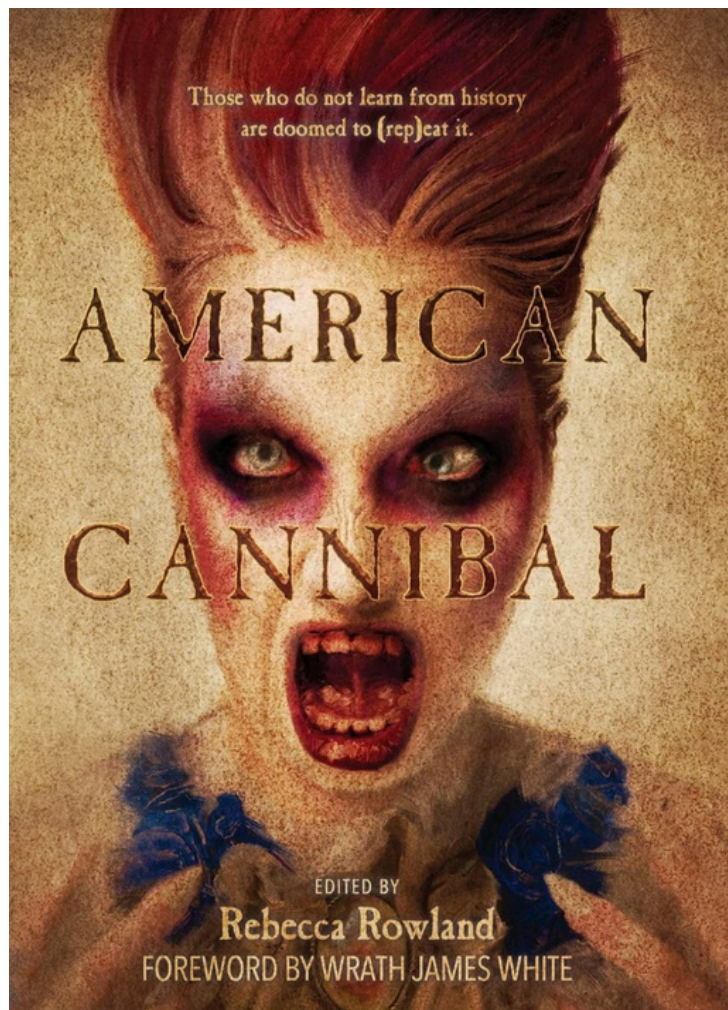
I have, aside from the writer's block most authors experience every now and then. Between my day job and my kids, it's tough to find time to write. Completing projects can be tough, but I just have to make a few hours a week to do nothing but write.

What do you hope readers take away from your work?

I want the readers to enjoy themselves. Whether it's something bleak, funny or whatever, I just want them to enjoy the ride.

Are there any new directions or ideas you're excited to explore in your future work?

Yes. I just finished up a kid-friendly short story collection called *Give Me the Creeps* that should be out by the time people read this. It's much lighter in tone than my extreme or Slavic folk horror stuff. Think something between *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* and *Goosebumps*. I even ripped off R.L. Stine for a pen name. It's coming out under the name J.E. Steffens, because under no circumstances should any child ever read my other work.



What advice would you give to aspiring authors?

Don't quit, no matter what. Read books other than those in your chosen genre, and don't get discouraged by rejections. If you haven't received a ton of rejection emails, you aren't working hard enough. Or you're immensely talented and very lucky.

What's a book (not your own) that has profoundly impacted you?

Probably not the book many would expect me to mention, but J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* has probably stuck with me more than any other work of fiction I've ever read. Everything about it is perfect.

Can you share any upcoming projects or exhibitions we should look out for?

Sure! Aside from the book of spooky stories for kids, I'm working on two crime books. One is a fictionalized account of organized crime out in East Texas, and the other is about skinheads and hoodlums in Dallas during the 2000s. Both will be very different from my horror work, though definitely brutal. Also working on my most extreme horror book yet. It will be my only book that truly goes all the way. It's fucked. Oh, and you can catch me at Hops & Horrors at Martin House Brewing on October 25th in Fort Worth, Texas or in 2025 at Texas Author & Reader Con at the Irving Convention Center on July 19th and 20th!

Is there anything else you'd like to share that we haven't covered?

Visit jonsteffens.com or filthyloot.com to pick up my books, and I'd like to thank you for the interview. I'm proud to be a Working Class Nobody!