

## Face Riff: "THE CONJURING"

Written by Jeff Tuttle

Friday, 19 October 2012 12:51

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A positive mental attitude can be a powerful thing. Those Bad Brains dudes were definitely on to something. As my days at The Motion Picture Institute continue, I am finding myself more and more inspired to create. Maybe it's all the movies I'm watching, maybe it's the scholastic environment, or maybe it's just the coffee. Whatever the case, I can't help but feel a sense of rebirth. I'm like Uncle Frank in HELLRAISER, returning from what feels like an eternity of self-imposed torment. My body is transforming from a puddle of sanguine goop and into an unstoppable juggernaut of awesomeness.

Now, did these things really happen? No, they didn't. I was just being dramatical (Yes, I know that's not a word. I'm being creative. Remember?) What's important is that I feel like those things have happened. Positive mental attitude, man. Get with it.

My latest artistic endeavor has been the making of my directorial debut. It's a bridge I've wanted to cross for a very long time and I've officially crossed it. If this were the OWL CREEK BRIDGE (to reference my last entry) you would not see me hanging from the wooden crossbeams of its frame. Rather, you would see me stealing the noose, slapping the hangman in the face with it and challenging him to a duel. Incidentally, if any investors want to finance that as a remake, please contact me.

Making my first movie was one of the greatest creative experiences I've ever had. I've been doing music since I was a kid and I've loved every single minute of it. But this project was an entirely different beast. It was like that Engineer creature from HELLRAISER that comes scuttling down the corridor after Kristy opens a gateway to Hell in her hospital room. What the hell was that thing, anyway? It looks like some mutant cross between Rocky Dennis and Mr. Peanut, I digress.

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For this beast, I made the music and the pretty pictures to go along with it. How cool is that! Is my film going to win any Oscars? No, it won't. Is it even passable as a good film? That's not really for me to decide. What I can say is that I completely immersed myself within the process of its creation. For days, I was constructing the set, building the props out of tiny wood scraps and fashioning lights out of things that are not supposed to be lights. If THE EVIL DEAD has taught me anything it's that if you pour your heart and soul into something, it won't simply be swallowed by the Deadites. Rather, it becomes a part of your masterpiece. You become a permanent fixture, waiting to haunt your viewers like the TV people in POLTERGEIST. Your spirit dances across the screen like grain on old film stock. The D-I-Y road can be rough, and you may find yourself asking "D-I – Why am I still working on this project with no end in sight?" In the end, I can assure you that it's all worth the effort. Just remember to keep your positive mental attitude, man. Ya dig?

Now, making the movie was the easy part. Putting it out into the world is where things can get really scary. Lucky for me, my good friends at FANGORIA have allowed me to premiere it here and with their seal of approval. At this point, whether or not it's good becomes irrelevant. I've been a Fangorian for more years than I care to remember. Before I was old enough to truly stomach horror movies (but still watched them anyway) I would see FANGORIA's grisly façade on the news rack and my curiosity and fear would enter into a no-holds-barred battle to the death; my fear being the undisputed champion for many years. You have to understand that this was a time when bogeymen were still a legitimate threat to my general well-being and safety. So here's this magazine dedicated solely to their very existence and I'd be damned if I'd go anywhere near it. I wasn't entirely clear as to what FANGORIA was actually about, but I was fairly certain of two things: 1. Freddy, Jason and Michael were totally real and 2. FANGORIA was probably what they read on the toilet.

Over the years, this magazine has come to mean so much to me. To have my first movie featured here is both an honor and a privilege. In the spirit of positive mentality, there will be many more to follow. My rebirth is only beginning and the Cenobites have yet come for me. However, if and when they do, I will have no qualms about punching a Cenobite in the face. Well, maybe not Plinhead. He clearly has an unfair advantage.

So while we wait for the arrival of hells minions, please check out my movie. It's called THE CONJURING (Sorry, James Wan). This is my first effort, but certainly won't be my last. Stay tuned to FACE RIFF. I have such sights to show you!

{youtube}O0d0BQvTfEo{/youtube}

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