If you're a gay horror fan and you haven't heard of Michael Simon's romantic comedy GAY ZOMBIE, you're just not paying attention. Having screened in almost every gay and/or genre film festival in the U.S. and abroad, as well as being omnipresent on Logo, GAY ZOMBIE is a well-made horror short that refuses to die.

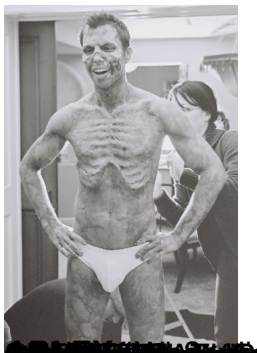
Like most filmmakers, Simon is prepping his next projects while beating the bushes for indie film financing. He took a few moments to allow himself to be peppered with my silly inquiries.

SEAN ABLEY: Give me a little scoop on your background.

MICHAEL SIMON: I'm just the typical American kid: Born in Durban, South Africa, raised in the suburbs of Chicago, home by 4:00 in the afternoon for tea time. Didn't all kids do that?

ABLEY: I think we're about the same age. Were you reading *Famous Monsters of Filmland* as a kid? FANGORIA? (And no, you don't have to say you read Fango…)

SIMON: To be brutally honest, I can't really say I was a huge horror fan; a fan, just not obsessed. I was high school age when THE EXORCIST, THE OMEN and films like JAWS were scaring the bejesus out of everyone, including me. I loved these movies but didn't pursue horror magazines or clubs and such. NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD sort of stunned me. That was my first exposure to zombies and it was really terrifying—all those arms coming through the barricade—yikes! I really liked (later in life) that the zombie genre was rife for incorporating humor. I've always been a fan of movies that manage to scare and make you laugh; it's a great combination. I see GAY ZOMBIE as a romantic comedy/coming out/zombie Pic. Gotta be original, right?



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