

## Gay of the Dead: Actor Jeremy Owen, Part Two

Written by Sean Abley  
Friday, 07 October 2011 17:01

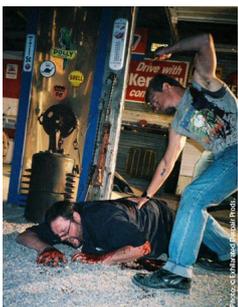
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In the second part of my interview with out actor Jeremy Owen (see the first one [here](#)), we talk about working with the original Leatherface, finally playing gay on screen—and comics!

**FANGORIA:** In GIMME SKELTER, you actually had a celebrity in the flick! At least, a celebrity to us.

**JEREMY OWEN:** Yes, Gunnar Hansen, the original Leatherface.



**FANG:** He's pretty decent in the film. I think this may have been the first time I'd seen him speak.

**OWEN:** He was a cool guy, laid-back. He had as f\*\*ked-up a sense of humor as any of us did, so he fit right in. His niece, Kristin Hansen, was in a lot of these movies and has been friends with Scott Phillips for many years. And we finally got work with, as she called him, "Ugh" [for] "Uncle Gunnar."

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**FANG:** I have to tell you, that film looks really good, especially for the tiny amount of money.

**OWEN:** Not that I was the writer or director, but I'm personally really proud of that movie. Again, anything I could do...I had the role of Stu, and I was the behind-the-scenes documentarian, and wherever else I could help out. That movie had a really tight schedule; it was another 16 days or something like that. So I remember it being very fast-paced and tight, but it wasn't super-stressful. I don't remember it being really tense except for one point when we were shooting at the gas station, and somebody over the fence didn't like our lights and tried to shoot one of them out [ *laughs*].

**FANG:** Next up was [PORNOGRAPHY: A THRILLER](#) (see review [here](#)), which I produced and brought you onto as the key grip. You ended up playing the masked killer in it as well. That was a SAG film, so I think that makes me the person responsible for giving you your first paid acting gig, right?

**OWEN:** On film, yes!

**FANG:** Look at that! I win!

**OWEN:** I got paid \$300 for a summer stock gig on stage once, but for actually acting in a film, yes, you are responsible for that.

**FANG:** What's it like to play a role like The Figure? You're sort of more an image than a character.

**OWEN:** It was kind of difficult at first. I talked with Dave [Kittredge, PORNOGRAPHY writer/director] about who this guy was—was he a person? And Dave said he was more an embodiment, or a symbol of the bad juju going on in the movie. So I didn't want to be human, I didn't want to be full of rage or angry or anything. And at the same time I didn't want to be Jason, because Kane Hodder nailed that. I didn't want to copy Michael Myers either, because

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that would just be stupid. It was kind of difficult to find it at first, but it was very fun to just be... I don't know, it sounds kind of corny, but kind of elemental in a way? Be a force, rather than a person. That's kind of how I approached it. I was an entity, I was a force rather than a thing. I was there to bring about this negative energy.



**FANG:** It must have been really difficult, because you were also the key grip on the film. Having to move things, run around and get stuff together on set, and then jump in front of the camera. I can't imagine how you could have any concentration working like that.

**OWEN:** Well, I guess I'm kind of used to it. On these no-budget movies, especially on the first few... On *STINK OF FLESH*, that was Scott's first movie and we had a crew of maybe seven people—and not all at the same time; everybody was kind of everything. There was no art department, there was no grip department, there was no anything. So being able to just be a grip and act was actually pared down from what I'm used to doing [laughs]. I've always been able to turn a character on pretty easily from a technique I learned in college called "Physical Gesture." It's basically, come up with the physicality of a character, and when I do that motion or create that physicality, the character comes with it.

**FANG:** I saw *DOZERS* when I was helping program a film festival. That was shot in LA, right?

**OWEN:** That was shot everywhere [laughs]. It was primarily in LA, but [writer/director] Don Adams did some of it up in, I believe, Milwaukee, and then some down here in Albuquerque. They did the bulk of it in LA, but they needed some more carnage scenes, and he knew he could get a bunch of people out here to act crazy for no money. I got to bash up a Lincoln Continental with a sledgehammer. It was a lot of fun!

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**FANG:** Then you took a huge jump up in budget and snagged a role in PAUL, starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.



**OWEN:** I play a vendor at Comic-Con. I have a small scene in the first 10 minutes of the movie where I try to sell Nick Frost a sword that's basically a ripoff of the BLADE sword. They called it "The Black Vampire" because Marvel didn't want them to use the actual BLADE sword.

**FANG:** And then [ROTGUT](#) ! I love the title!

**OWEN:** I'm super-stoked for ROTGUT to come out. It's about a bar that a bunch of people get trapped in. I play Leon, the bartender. There's this brand of mezcal where the worm in the bottom is demon mutant evil spawn. When it gets inside of you, it multiplies and starts to control you and make you do super-violent things before spewing forth from your bloated body.

**FANG:** Good times! And your next film, by the same writer, Devin O'Leary, was I