Written by Michael Helms
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Horror is primal, and PRIMAL is a new Australian horror film that puts a bunch of unhappy campers in touch with various basic instincts as one of their own begins to mutate after diving into a swimming hole. Things get very ugly very quickly as the group find themselves in a situation that has completely escalated out of their control.

“It’s got all the right elements,” says producer Rob Gibson, who also provided the music as well as the exclusive photos seen here. “I think it presents the dilemma of these kids very well. They go into the middle of nowhere, and when things go wrong with one of their company, they basically have to work out whether they should still treat her as one of them—as basically human—or whether they just have to cut their losses and treat her in the same respect she’s treating them, because she’s effectively a predator at that point. It’s a great setup.”

PRIMAL was shot in and around Sydney by John Biggins, the cinematographer who expertly disguised the not-far-from-civilization environments in BLACK WATER, and the gore, fangs, etc. were supplied by the Connelly Make-up FX team, who had their own aquatic experiences on Greg McLean’s ROGUE and also created the grue for McLean’s WOLF CREEK. “We got four days at Fox Studios,” writer/director/editor Josh Reed tells Fango, noting that PRIMAL had its initial inspiration when producer Nigel Christensen went on a camping trip (besides his story credit and producing chores with John Cordukes and Reed, Christensen also served as postproduction supervisor). “I love a good bit of violence,” Reed continues, “I love a good bit of visceral film, but always at the service of the story.”

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