

## Nicotero talks decomposition and directing on "THE WALKING DEAD"

Written by Samuel Zimmerman  
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AMC's latest dispatch comes from their resident legend, Greg Nicotero. For what to expect from season three's zombies and his second venture into episode-directing, head below!

THE WALKING DEAD returns this October and something worth pondering is just how Nicotero keeps the zombies fresh (creatively speaking), now that he's neck-deep in them. By paying attention to detail, it seems. "Well one thing I always think about and the rest of the crew can attest to is just how grueling the weather is in Georgia," he says. "The sun literally will bake you if you stand out in the sun too long. And one day I'm thinking about it and I'm like, 'OK, what would happen to these creatures that have no actual ability to protect themselves from the elements?' So you can only imagine how horrible the smell would be, and what we felt it was important to play up is the idea that these things are becoming dried up and disintegrated and leathery."

He further explains, "We've been able to do a lot more full-body prosthetics. One thing that I wanted to allow for in Season 3 was, you know, rotted chests and rotted backs. So we sculpted male and female rotted torsos that get glued directly to the performers. And one of the ideas we like playing up was that the walkers, because they are rotting and decomposed, is that they're sort of putrefying -- so if you come in contact with any of them and you slash at them, parts of them might sort of liquefy and come off."

On returning to the director's chair, after helming one of the standouts of season two, Nicotero says, "I tend to get these really good dramatic bits in my episodes... I got the script and I read it and it's huge. Every single character in the show has something to do, something to say and there are great dramatic moments. I also had several key moments from the graphic novel that fans will recognize that I had to establish and set up in Episode 5 that will play out through the rest of the season. And then there's a lot more zombie action in my episode. Actually there's a lot more zombie action in every episode this season."

For the full interview, head over to [AMC](#). THE WALKING DEAD premieres October 14.