

Patrick Scott, cases of "ZOOCHOSIS"

Written by Samuel Zimmerman
Monday, 04 February 2013 13:05



Whether viral videos play a part in the resurgence of the anthology, or not is debatable (but intensely likely), but the varied, all-encompassing subgenre is certainly tailored-fit for web series—a place where the alternative often thrives. Patrick Scott, creator of ZOOCHOSIS is dealing in such.

Shining a light on a strange landscape, Scott is now expanding on his ZOOCHOSIS shorts with a Machinima-produced web series that finds a psychiatrist confronted with all manner of the horrific, sensual, monstrous and absurd. All can be found in “Case 1: Aliens,” in which a bride lays waste to her guest list after tentacled, squirming extraterrestrials find their way in. It’s a low budget affair, but in Lynchian form, truly highlights an off-kilter atmosphere. Slightly repulsive, with a psychologically questionable protagonist, “Aliens” is a stylish arrival for ZOOCHOSIS, with seemingly no rules on where it goes from here.



“[I have] always made my films a hybrid of genres,” Scott tells FANGORIA. “For a while, my work was influenced by neo-realism, as I really worked hard on directing and writing believable dialogue. In recent years though, my childhood leanings are really coming out and the films feel more like weird fiction. I’ve always been really bad about pushing my films and working on my career. I’d just finish one film and move onto the next without even putting the films out there. So ZOOCHOSIS just grew out of a need to find a home for all these short films that I was making and writing that I was producing. I’m a natural science junkie so when I had to come up with a name, I chose ZOOCHOSIS because it’s this great word that both encapsulates my view that human nature is animal nature, and that we’re all a bit messed up.”

The term “zoochosis” relates to a psychological effect of being caged, a prospect Scott’s fictional bride, Kelsey is facing in marriage. “Case 1 went through a lot of title changes, but it was always about a young woman who has been pushed over the edge in realizing that now

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that she's married, she's essentially a baby factory," says the director. "That realization leads her in this very crucial moment to see her surroundings and people's behavior very differently. If you look at my previous work, you'll see that even though on the surface things are very sexy or slapstick-y, there's always a deeper element there about the strain of how the individual conflicts with society. This series—as the episodes wind their way through sci-fi and comedy and horror and musicals—will explore that idea in different ways. Who am I? Who are you? Who are we? What are we doing to this long-suffering planet? It's pretty big, not only production scale but also in thematic ambition."



The themes present, of the naturally suffocating and strange in our world finds strong backing in the aforementioned unsettling air Scott creates visually. He explains, "I think you'll find that the style shifts a lot throughout the series but the work—whether it leans more heavily toward horror or erotica or comedy—will always be very polished. And even if the work is outright comedy that uneasiness will always be there. I don't try to disturb people, it just sort of happens because as a guy from this very picturesque tiny town in Northern Michigan, I'm always horrified by what I see in the world and on the streets every day. So the unease is always there. Plus, I think it's important to remember that the word 'disturbing' doesn't mean you're making strange stuff up out of the blue, but means you're stirring up stuff that's already there. That's Zoochosis."

You can find Cases 1 and 2, "Aliens" and "Love" respectively, below. For more on ZOOCHOSIS, follow its progress at the official YouTube channel, [Machinima Prime](#).

{youtube}hf9Zaurmbzg{/youtube}

{youtube}3jEX20kMZLQ{/youtube}