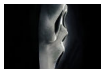

“What’s your favorite scary movie?” Fifteen years ago, that phrase struck fear into almost anyone within teenage years, horror fan or not. Why? Because this five-word euphemism was usually followed up with a 12-inch blade thrust to the gut of any unlucky soul who heard it. Such is the (short) life and times of an adolescent living in Woodsboro in Wes Craven’s SCREAM 4.

Following the events of 2000’s SCREAM 3, where heroine Sidney Prescott faced off with the “final” Ghostface on the sets of Hollywood, the series’ fourth installation finds the newly-minted author making the final book tour stop in her old hometown. However, with the return of Prescott comes the reemergence of a deadly force imbued with a tenacity of the Michael Myers and Freddy Krueger the SCREAM films so often poke fun at—Ghostface. He (or she) is back, and they want Sidney.

Reuniting cast members include the loveable Neve Campbell as Sidney; Courteney Cox, playing a married Gail Weathers-Riley, who is forced to cope with a massive writer’s block and the dawning realization that she isn’t the journalist she used to be; and finally David Arquette as bumbling Sheriff Dewey, wed to you-know-who. But with the current decade come new rules—and a new cast. Emma Roberts plays Sidney’s cousin, Jill Roberts; fans of the HEROES’ television series will get to see Hayden Panettiere here, along with SIGNS’ Rory Culkin. SCREAM has always had fun with its audiences, giving subtle winks here and there. But one of its best inside jokes of all, and certainly the most ironic, is the appearance of Anthony Anderson in the latest slayathon; the actor played a character in two of the SCREAM-spoofing SCARY MOVIE films.

When a fourth SCREAM entry was announced, any doubts were assuaged once it was revealed that Craven would be back directing, creator Kevin Williamson scripting again and Campbell toplining once more. “I’m a huge fan of the franchise and a huge fan of Wes Craven, and the fact that he was coming back to direct this one meant it was going to be good,” Roberts says. The actress, a newbie not only to SCREAM but the genre as a whole, was drawn to the movie because, she says, “I loved the part. I read the script, and it was an interesting role. I’ve never done a horror movie so why not?”

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