A splendid look at not only home hauntings, but ultimately the humanity, community and DIY passion behind them, THE AMERICAN SCREAM is a perfect Halloween film. Michael Stephenson, director of BEST WORST MOVIE, nestles into Fairhaven, Massachusetts and three families whose annual tradition becomes all at once hilarious, heartbreaking and inspiring. Preceding its Chiller TV premiere this October 28, THE AMERICAN SCREAM is (deservedly) playing a host of theaters across the nation (including Brooklyn, NY's Nitehawk Cinema October 20 & 21). FANGORIA spoke with Stephenson, producer Meyer Shwarzstein and home haunter and star Victor Bariteau about living THE AMERICAN SCREAM.

FANGORIA: You spoke about the original plan for a broader doc. Do you feel the specificity of it translates to it being more universal, in the end?

MICHAEL STEPHENSON: Oh yea, absolutely. I think when we first jumped into this and saw the subculture was so big, there was never a feeling of, “We need to cover the subculture. We need to define this wide, big, growing thing.” You get much more meaning examining a smaller story up close and personal. That’s always where I’m driven more towards: characters and ordinary people in a smaller light, as opposed to, “here’s a phenomenon. What made this happen?” It’s an interesting point you bring up, because I do think the meaning and the takeaway ends up being more impactful if you just focus.

FANG: I’m curious what the change was doing this as a tradition every year, but then also here’s a camera and Michael following you as well? Much of the film is in and around your house and family, but even going to work; that seems like an interesting ordeal.

VICTOR BARITEAU: Having them in the bathroom while I’m brushing my teeth. That was definitely interesting [*laughs*]. The thing is, my family took to them immediately. It wasn’t like having a camera crew in the house, it was like having friends and guests. So, it was very easy to adapt. It wasn’t an issue. It was a little nerve-wracking to me, at first, but very quickly, it got comfortable.

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