

Alternative Cinema/Camp's new indie fright features

Written by Michael Gingold

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Having produced and released microbudget genre features for the past two decades, Alternative Cinema/Camp Motion Pictures has announced a series of indie productions to be lensed over the next two years, with details of the first four movies.

First up in the quartet of projects is the '80s-slasher homage *BABYSITTER MASSACRE*, to be written and directed by *FACES OF SCHLOCK*'s Henrique Couto. Next will be a pair from Low Budget Pictures' busy Chris Seaver: the musical *PHANTOM OF THE GRINDHOUSE* and the comedic *PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (P.I.A.)*. Scheduled to roll next summer is *KILL, GRANNY, KILL!* the latest gorefest by *STASH* and *RED RIVER*'s Jacob Ennis and co-writer Gregory W. Brock.

"The production series is the newest endeavor in an ongoing campaign to support new and established filmmakers whose output embodies the spirit of '80s SOV [shot-on-video] DIY horror films," says Alternative president/executive producer Michael Raso. "This is my second opportunity to act as executive producer on a Jacob Ennis feature, and *KILL, GRANNY, KILL!* will be every bit as visceral and blood-drenched—if not more so—than his hillbilly horror epic *RED RIVER*. In regard to *BABYSITTER MASSACRE*, Henrique Couto produced his horror anthology *FACES OF SCHLOCK* while working for my company, and I've maintained an interest in his various pursuits since that time. In the case of *PHANTOM OF THE GRINDHOUSE* and *P.I.A.*, Chris Seaver's Warlock Video imprint and prolific output have been on my radar for years. Our shared love of '80s DIY movies and the video format—my Camp label released *THE BASEMENT 5-Film VHS/DVD Collection* last year—meant it was only a matter of time before we would collaborate on a project or series of projects."

"It's been a while since we wrapped *RED RIVER*," Ennis says, "and in between my other projects, I just couldn't shake the idea of shooting another horror film. The hours are long, the pay is minimal and the work is hard, but at the end of the day there is truly nothing like the experience. What's been so crazy about this madness is that I have been throwing subtle hints

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Mike's way for a while. One day he was like, 'What else you got?' and basically that is where it started. I can't say enough good things about Mike and Paige Davis [Alternative's director of business development] and the whole gang over at Alternative Cinema. They trust us and what we are able to pull off. Having that creative freedom is very refreshing.

"It's also very exciting to partner up with my AD and writing partner Gregory W. Brock once again for this project. I'm just all-around ready to get back to splattering some blood. This [new film] is gonna throw some people for a loop. It's not quite the same type of backwoods film we have produced in the past. While it still has the Southern feel, there is something darker and more demented about this project. Let's shoot this bitch!"

Raso and Davis are seeking more projects for their slate, the former adds. "The four-six additional features planned for 2013-2014 are not yet set in stone," he says. "I'd like to encourage any enthusiastic microbudget filmmaker who would like to be considered for the series to submit a treatment and budget proposal to Paige by the end of March 2013." Interested parties can do so by e-mailing Davis at paige@popcinema.com.