

Maynard Morrissey's HORROR MOVIE DIARY

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2011-10-17

Interview with director J.A. STEEL

Got the chance to ask J.A. Steel a few questions. She's the director, writer, editor and producer of "Salvation", "The Third Society", "Denizen" and the upcoming horror movie "Blood Fare".

- 1. How did you and Christian Koch came up with the story for "Blood Fare"? What was your inspiration to do this kind of movie?

I grew up in Pennsylvania so from an early age you're exposed to history, from the old buildings to finding bullets and arrowheads in the garden. My Grandma had an old black and white photo of my cousin who fought in the Civil War in the dining room of her house. We were always remembering our past and how it related to our present. I visited Gettysburg when I was little and got to see (and feel) first hand the sentiment that still resonates to this day back east of "Are you North or South?".



I love history and the concept that the war was fought over States rights was always intriguing – much like the Civil Wars between the City States in Greece. History always repeats itself and when I heard tales of Lincoln's dream before his assassination where he was lying in State with coins on his eyes. Coins on the eyes was a very Greek tradition to pay for passage into the underworld. So the scriptwriter in me filed it away until we had a chance to meet with distributors and make "Blood Fare".

When we were naming characters Christian was like, "Didn't your cousin fight in the civil war?" So we added the personal connection of my family name "Trout" (on my Grandma Steel's side) as the name of the main character. When the opportunity came to go to DC, I actually got to visit his grave in Arlington.

- 2. Which Civil War horror movies have you seen so far and how did you like them?

I have never seen a Civil War Horror movie. During the pitch meetings with the distributors, I was actually recommended not to watch any. They wanted to see what I came up with on my own.

- 3. You produce, direct, write and edit your movies. You're doing the stunts and the fight choreography and you're sometimes even involved in stuff like camera- or music-department. Gee, where do you take the energy from, to do this all?

It's not really "energy", it's passion. I'm compelled to write – whether it's songs or screenplays. I have to balance out the mental with the physical – hence the fights and stunts. You have to have balance in everything.

I also have a great team that when we're in production everyone operates at 200%. Then we take a couple weeks off and move into the next phase of production, post, or pre-production.



- 4. What do you think, how will the average horror-geek/horror-fan react to Blood Fare? Will he love it? Will he hate it?



Maynard Morrissey
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Hi, I'm Maynard, a weird but nice horror-geek from AUSTRIA (not Australia!) who (a) loves to watch anything horror-related and (b) loves to write about it in lame English.

-Warning: There may be SPOILERS!!!-

Thanx for coming by! Have fun, follow me, leave comments, push the LIKE-buttons - and, if you have any recommendations, screeners, press releases or questions, send me a mail

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Compendium Definitely, it's very: Absurd (1981) - Absurd (AKA "Rosso Sangue"/ "Horrible") Rating:***1/2 Starring: George Eastman, Annie Belle and Charles Borromel Following the success of

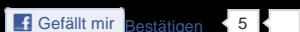
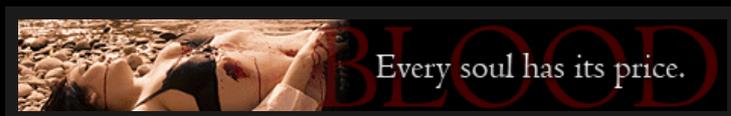
Depends on your definition of "horror". If you're into the "Saw" style movies – you'll hate it. If you like Hitchcock with a twist of William Friedkin – "Blood Fare" is for you. We have some blood, we have a story and "Blood Fare" gets you in your head – especially when you're digging for change for the parking meter.

- 5. Imagine you'd get the chance to shoot your #1 dream project with no budget limitations, what would it be and whom would you cast?

I wrote a script awhile back called "Black Tide", an environmentally responsible action/horror film about our world's oceans. My dream cast? Sigourney Weaver, Hugh Jackman, Milla Jovovich, Ted Raimi, Marton Csokas, Clint Eastwood, and of course, Gil Gerard.

Thank you, Ms. Steel!

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I'm sorry to say that, but I've actually never heard of J.A. Steel, nor have seen any of her movies. I enjoyed the interview though. :)

October 17, 2011 8:01 PM

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