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An Interview with Wren Walker, Star of *Peelers*

by Mike Haberfelner
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Your new movie *Peelers* - in a few words, what is it about, and what can you tell us about your character in it?

Peelers is about... peelers! And what they do when all hell breaks lose in their strip club because a few infected (and infectious) patrons. It's closing night, the bar is being sold to a corporate dickhead so my character Blue Jean is bummed. But bigger problems arise, obviously!

What did you draw upon to bring your character to life, and how much of Wren Walker can we actually find in Blue Jean?

Blue Jean is a no-bullshit -- ex-ballplayer -- stripclub-owning -- Tough Mama! I tend not to tolerate fools easily so that quality definitely lent itself to my character, but I'm a sarcastic weirdo in my own life so playing 'the straight man' in the movie was very interesting for me.

How much fun was it actually to play a bad-ass zombie killer?

My favourite part of the shoot was filming the stunts! The physicality of the role was the most fun for me. From swinging the bat, to jumping off tables, jumping out of the way of moving motorcycles -- Seve (the director) [\[Sevé Schelenz interview - click here\]](#) said "You're in a good mood today" after I got to bash in the head one of the infected with my bat.

How did you get involved with the project in the first place?

Craigslat. For real. I was the last girl to audition.

To what extent would you actually identify with *Peelers'* horror and strip club themes?

I've been a horror film lover my entire life. No joke. I watched horror movies when I was way too young to be watching horror movies. Part of my excitement of nabbing this role was that the idea of being in a film of the genre I love so much. It was an honor to be cast. Before shooting this I had actually never been in a strip club. All of us girls had a night out and went to one before shooting began.

What can you tell us about your director Sevé Schelenz [\[Sevé Schelenz interview - click here\]](#), and what was your collaboration like?

Sevé is super chill. I loved *Skew*, his previous film, so I knew I was in good hands. And now after seeing *Peelers*, it's clear he puts out high-quality, entertaining work. I'll work with him again in any capacity.



Do talk about the shoot as such, and the on-set atmosphere!

It's funny because people think with all the gore and effects it will be such a crazy environment. But it got to the point where I asked the AD when lunch was and she said "after the head comes off" and I didn't blink an eye.

Any future projects you'd like to share?

I'm a writer myself and have written a short film I will be directing this year called *Self-Eject*. It's a sci-fi Hitchcockian thriller set in a motel room. So look out for that!

What got you into acting in the first place, and did you receive any formal training on the subject?

I've worked in theatre since I was a kid. I studied drama at the University of Waterloo and continue to train here in Vancouver.

What can you tell us about your filmwork prior to *Peelers*?

Prior to *Peelers*, I had done short films and web-series here and there. This was my first legit role. Since *Peelers* I've played a cop on both *Almost Human* and *Lucifer*, and continue to audition for cop roles. I'm not complaining!

Besides movies, you've also done your fair share of stagework - so what can you tell us about that aspect of your career, and how does performing on stage compare to acting in front of a camera? And which do you prefer, actually?

There is no safety net with stage acting, so it's great to have that experience as a film actor. Especially if you're shooting a stunt or working with practical effects where it's like "we got one shot to get this right". You flub a line, you trip, ... you keep going.

How would you describe yourself as an actress, and some of your techniques to bring your characters to life?

I like to work off of instinct and energy. I try not to block my actions unless the director has asked me to do something specific.



with *Peelers* co-star Chaz Odín Darko

Actresses (and indeed actors) who inspire you?

Charlize Theron. She can be beautiful, ugly, funny, tough.

Your favourite movies?

The Thing by John Carpenter, *Audition* by Takashi Miike, anything Park Chan-Wook. I love David Lynch as well.

... and of course, films you really deplore?

Just google "post-horror".

Your website, Facebook, whatever else?

Follow me on Twitter and Instagram! @WrenWalks

Anything else you're dying to mention and I have merely forgotten to ask?

Some advice to other actresses -- don't wear long nails if you have to perform stunts. Part of my nail ripped off during one stunt, it was pretty painful. But I did have fun showing everyone my injury on set -- "look, REAL BLOOD!"

Thanks for the interview!

Thank you!

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