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DELIRIUM

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MAY/JUNE

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B movie actress Christina Bach is a geek like the rest of us, and is well-versed in the wet and wild world of monsters and mayhem that we are all so fond of. It is refreshing that she’s open and forthcoming about her past, present and future endeavors, and that she has remained grounded through it all, in this interview with DELIRIUM. It shows promise that Bach will have staying power in the genre for years to come, a scream-queen legacy that will grow organically.

DELIRIUM: Can you tell us how performing in theatrical productions and projects for the Florida State University Film School prepared you for acting on the next level? CHRISTINA BACH: FSU Film School is awesome! I was lucky enough to do a bunch of movies with the school, and every one was an amazing learning experience. They run their sets just like union sets, so the first time I walked onto a big TV shoot, I didn’t feel lost. The most important thing I learned was how to deal with the challenges of acting on camera. I guess the biggest one is when the technical aspects affect the way you deliver your performance, like having to do an emotional scene over and over when you have to speak your lines to a piece of green tape instead of a human face [laughs].

DELIRIUM: What are some of the horror films that you like to curl up with at night? BACH: Great question! To be honest, when I watch a horror movie at night, I might get scared and sleep with the lights on. There are certain movies I love that I will not watch right before bed, like 28 DAYS LATER. Oh hell no! I really, really love horror films, horror comedies and supernatural thrillers. Some of my favorites are NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD, DAWN OF THE DEAD, DAY OF THE DEAD, UNDERWORLD, SHAUN OF THE DEAD, ROSEMARY’S BABY, POLTERGEIST, THE CHANGELING, CARrie, THE OMEN, THE EXORCIST, THE SIXTH SENSE and STIR OF ECHOES. I could go on forever. Sometimes, I just love to binge-watch campy horror flicks and all kinds of movies on Netflix.

DELIRIUM: Would you say that cerebral genre films work better than visceral ones? BACH: Hell yes! I love a strong horror script. When everything makes perfect sense and is explained well, the film is believable. That is when you become emotionally invested in it. I want to be anxious as the story unfolds and terrified at the suggestion of what is to come. When the script and the actors have me holding my breath, then any visceral imagery is icing on the cake. Don’t get me wrong, I love me some gore and monsters, but you need much more than that for a memorable film.

DELIRIUM: The 1980s are my favorite decade for scary flicks. What is yours and why? BACH: It’s definitely the 1980s, because so many of my favorite films are from that decade, both horror and slightly less scary: BEETLEJUICE, POLTERGEIST, THE CHANGELING, A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET, THE MONSTER SQUAD, THE LOST BOYS, PET SEMATARY, GHOSTBUSTERS, THE FLY and CREEPSHOW.

DELIRIUM: [Inside joke] Can you believe there are some people who have seen an AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON, but not AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN PARIS? Blasphemy! BACH: Blasphemy is correct! I have a high-heeled shoe that is perfect for throwing at that kind of person. If you haven’t seen it, go see it right now! DELIRIUM: Do you think practical makeup FX work better than CGI? BACH: God yes! I know CGI is necessary sometimes, but it is overused. I love great practical effects. There are so many gifted effects artists out there really to make amazing things.

DELIRIUM: How did you find out that the neokbuster masterminds at The Asylum were doing a film called 2-HEADED SHARK ATTACK? BACH: I found out at the audition! The film was listed as “SHARK ATTACK” when I went in to read. When I got to the audition, I saw “2-HEADED SHARK ATTACK” on the paperwork and almost died. I knew it would be a B-movie-type movie. I did a little dance in the casting room. I was excited! DELIRIUM: Did you get the role you auditioned for? BACH: I read for three parts, including the character of Dana, which I did get. DELIRIUM: The film is a bit of a throw. Did you have any time with fellow actresses Carmen Electra and Brooke Hogan? BACH: Carmen Electra went on set as much as Brooke, so I didn’t get to spend a lot of time with her. I did get a chance to chat with Carmen on set, and she was really nice. Brooke and I had adjoining rooms while we were filming, and we had a great time hanging out. She is a really sweet, fun girl, and made us great guacamole. Our set was like summer camp. We had fun! DELIRIUM: Were you aware that director...
Christopher Douglas-Olen Ray's father is B-moviemaking legend Fred Olen Ray. The apple did not fall far from the tree in that family.

BACH: Yes! Chris is a sweet guy and great to work with. He was very calm and relaxed on set, which is tough when you have a huge group of actors, sweating heat and a small boat. He is really passionate about directing. He has made many more films recently, and I'm very happy for him.

DELIRIUM: I had a cameo in Fred's film SUPER SHARK, and got to participate, as a bar patron, in a bikini contest hosted by Jimmie "J.J." Walker from GOOD TIMES (laughs).

BACH: Yeah, I've heard you look pretty nice in a bikini. I haven't seen your cameo, but I'm sure you did a great job!

DELIRIUM: Anthony DiBlasi's DREAD, an adaptation of the Clive Barker story, is a sadistic little number. He followed it up with the supernatural serial-killer chiller CASSADAGA, and you were cast as one of the victims. What was that shoot like?

BACH: After I was cast in the film, I had to go to the makeup effects studio to make molds of a few parts of my body. It took several hours, but it was fun to see the actual process. When I got to set, it took several hours to apply all the special makeup before we were ready to shoot. Once I was on set, they had a crowd of people dealing with my prosthetics, makeup, wardrobe and harness. It was crazy, but so much fun. As a horror-film lover, I was in heaven.

DELIRIUM: You had a great death scene in CASSADAGA.

BACH: Oh yeah! It was everything you want in a death scene. I loved every minute of that shoot.

DELIRIUM: Lee Grimes handled the makeup duties on that project.

BACH: Yes! Lee Grimes did all of my special effects makeup. He's so talented. He has worked on so many amazing projects: ZOMBIELAND and Lady Gaga's tour, just to name a few.

DELIRIUM: The flick received mixed reviews from the on-line community. Does it bother you when something you work hard on doesn't gel with its core audience?

BACH: It does suck when some people don't like a project, but not everyone is going to like what you do. Everyone has their own tastes when it comes to horror films. There were so many people who loved the movie and continue to show support on social media. You have to focus on that, rather than the few who didn't like it. The best thing you can do is make a movie that gets people talking. I think Anthony DiBlasi did exactly that. He is a talented director, and I loved working with him. Bruce Wood and Scott Poiley did a great job with the script. They were all very passionate about the film, and it shows. I am so proud to have been a part of it.

DELIRIUM: What is the plot crunch of ROCKABILLY ZOMBIE WEEKEND?

BACH: I play Becky, a rockabilly girl deeply in love with her fiancé, Grant. Becky and Grant are preparing for their outdoor wedding celebration with all of their friends and family. At the same time, angry mosquitoes cause a West Nile virus outbreak. The chemicals sprayed to stop the outbreak, mixed with the virus, cause very bad things to happen to some of the locals. Let's just say, the wedding is interrupted.

DELIRIUM: Were you asked to do any special training to play the gun-toting role of Becky?

BACH: Yes. The actors who had to handle weapons in the film were invited to a couple of training sessions. The first was outdoors at the shoot location, so we could get used to running and shooting with various handguns and rifles. The second session was at a gun range. We had a lot of fun.