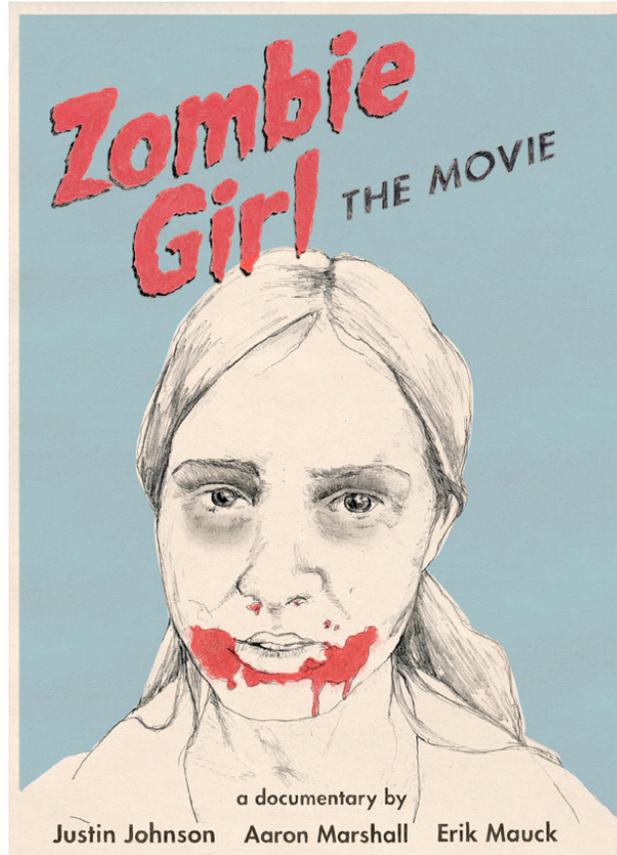


Bob B. Bob Productions, Vacdoomed Productions, and Part Olson Pictures

present

ZOMBIE GIRL: THE MOVIE



**A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY
JUSTIN JOHNSON, AARON MARSHALL, ERIK MAUCK**

USA, 91 MINUTES

www.zombiegirlthemovie.com

PRESS CONTACT

Aaron Marshall
T: 512.923.5273
info@bobbob.com

USA SALES

Steven Beer
Greenberg Traurig
T: 212 801-9200
Direct: 212 801-9294
200 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10166
beers@gtlaw.com

FOREIGN SALES

Sheri Levine
Forward Entertainment
T: 914.450.6791
74 Riverview Rd.
Irvington, NY 10533
USA
slevine@forwardentertainment.us

Main Production Credits

Directors/Producers

Justin Johnson, Aaron Marshall, Erik Mauck

Editor

Aaron Marshall

Cinematographers

Justin Johnson, Erik Mauck

Titles & Poster Design

Deborah Allison

Music

Christopher Thomas

Sound Designer

Zack Howard

Digital Colorist

Raphael Kryszek

Produced by

Bob B. Bob Productions, Vacdoomed Productions, and Part Olson Pictures

Cast

Emily Hagins

Megan Hagins

Jerry Hagins

Tiger Darrow

Rebecca Elliot

Alec Herskowitz

Rose Kent-McGlew

Harry Knowles

Troy Lanier

Tim League

Neil Reece

Alex Schroeder

Elisabeth Sikes

Kevin Triplett

Tony Vespe

Synopsis

Log Line

A documentary about 12 year-old filmmaker Emily Hagins and the exhilarating two years she spent writing and directing her feature length zombie movie, *Pathogen*.

Short Synopsis

Emily Hagins is making a zombie movie. It's feature-length, it's bloody, and the zombies don't run -- just like it should be. But there's just one difference between her film and every other zombie movie you've ever seen: Emily is twelve. ZOMBIE GIRL: THE MOVIE is the documentary that chronicles the making of her film.

Most twelve-year-olds are busy with friends, homework, and online chatting. So is Emily, but she's also part of a new generation of teenagers raised on technology and expressing themselves through video. Only -- she's doing it on a feature-length scale!

With the help of her mother as agent, crew, and biggest fan, Emily launches an epic adventure in genre filmmaking, battling everything from budget shortfalls to self-doubt, all while coming of age as a teenager. Emily has the vision and her mom has the driver's license. Together, their journey is a fascinating look at a growing world of young moviemakers and the bloodiest mother/daughter story you've ever seen.

Detailed Synopsis

When eight-year-old Emily Hagins saw Peter Jackson's "The Fellowship of the Ring," it was life-altering. It was the moment she transformed from a mere fan of movies into someone desperate to make her own. She even wrote a fan letter to Peter Jackson to tell him so. To her surprise, he actually wrote back.

Jackson put Emily in touch with Harry Knowles, editor of Ain't It Cool News, who also lived in Austin, Texas, which opened Emily up to the local film community. She gained access to special movie screenings and began expanding her film palate. And then she saw "Undead."

"Undead" was a zombie import from Australia. A low-budget film with no

stars. But Emily didn't care. To her, it was amazing. After that, her appetite for horror was insatiable. She landed an internship on a horror film and even started writing her own feature-length movie about a mysterious zombie-inducing contagion in the water. Not long after her 11th birthday, the script for "Pathogen" was complete, and Emily had already set her mind to shooting it.

It took a while to get things moving, but she eventually held auditions, casting 12-14 year-old kids. With a few adults thrown in there, too. It was around this time that the logistics of a 12-year-old actually making a feature-length film started to catch up with Emily. Because of that, her mom, Megan, found her own role to be expanding.

Megan and Emily had always been best friends. As a huge movie-lover herself, it was Megan who introduced Emily to "The Lord of the Rings" and sat by her side at every film she ever saw -- including "Undead." So, naturally when Emily decided to make a movie, she wanted her mom's help. And not just because she needed a chauffeur and a credit card. They had no idea how much the next two years would test their relationship.

Things started out simple enough. Emily shot chronologically, which meant that the climactic zombie apocalypse -- where everyone dies -- wouldn't be a problem until later. Which was good, because she was making every mistake in the book. On the first day she even forgot to say "cut" at the end of the scenes, providing much confusion for the actors. Plus, it wasn't easy to coordinate the schedules of half a dozen middle schoolers. And money was running thin. Which is why, after only a couple months of sporadic shooting, things ground to a halt.

Despite Emily and Megan's best efforts, it appeared that "Pathogen" was dead. But, come summer vacation, Emily resurrected it like the zombies she so loved and rallied her cast and crew. She scheduled 7 days of back-to-back filming to wrap it up. Megan had to burn all of her vacation days at work, but she was there to help. In a long-shot attempt to raise desperately need funds, Megan even talked Emily into applying for a Texas Filmmaker grant, though the competing applicants were mostly three times her age.

Armed with new ideas, they dove into the final week with a script more ambitious than it had ever been -- which led to more problems. Some scenes had so many characters that Emily confused the actors' schedules. And Megan's endurance began to wane as the pressures of being a full-time employee, movie producer, and mom took their toll.

Emily was demonstrating a new confidence, with her experience giving her better command of her actors, but by the end of the week they were all near their breaking points. And then things broke.

The day after the epic climax -- where Emily directed two dozen zombies in full makeup, complete with an aerial crane shot -- she learned her hardest lesson, yet. She forgot to cue her tape and recorded over some of the footage. It was heartbreaking. She had to reshoot the lost scenes and try to find the energy to start editing.

By this point the debt was mounting, and Megan worried that they couldn't afford to finish. As luck would have it, the Texas Filmmaker's Production Grant gave a welcome boost by making Emily its youngest recipient ever. It was just what they needed to help slug out the next nine months -- a grueling period of editing, reshoots, and more editing.

After two years, Emily's directorial voice was maturing. She made decisions with confidence and grappled with the difficult fact that she no longer shared a cinematic vision with her mom. In the past, Emily had defaulted to Megan on many decisions, but now she stood her ground and insisted that the film be done her way. It marked a turning point in their relationship.

As they prepared to premiere "Pathogen" before a sold out crowd, Emily realized that it was unlikely they'd ever work together again like they had on this. And Megan was coming to terms with the fact that thirteen-year-old Emily was growing up. "Pathogen" was once-in-a-lifetime experience, but now it was over.

As a filmmaking team, Megan and Emily were through. But as a mother and daughter, they had grown so much that it didn't matter. And luckily, the zombie movie that started out as the far-fetched dream of little girl would forever be there to remind them of that.

F i l m m a k e r S t a t e m e n t

Co-Directors

Justin Johnson, Aaron Marshall, Erik Mauck

Three and a half years ago we were all filmmakers living in Austin, Texas, dabbling in short films and television. Documentary, narrative, music videos, commercials... We produced a large body of work, but were still searching for feature-length inspiration to strike. When we saw a local web posting that read, "Need 12-15 year-olds for zombie movie directed by twelve-year-old girl," we knew that it finally had.

After just one meeting with Emily and her parents, our cameras were rolling, and for the next two years we watched Emily's zombie adventure unfold.

There are a ton of things that attracted us to her story (beyond the fact that "a documentary about a twelve-year-old girl who wrote and directed a feature-length zombie movie" might just be the coolest logline ever). We were once young filmmakers, too, and even though we weren't producing at the size and scope of Emily when we were twelve, her passion and drive was familiar to us. Plus, the fact that technology had advanced to a point that even allowed someone like Emily to write, direct, and edit a feature-length movie, was something worthy of exploration.

Being filmmakers, ourselves, presented a unique set of challenges when it came to making *Zombie Girl: The Movie*. It was important for us to remain objective in our storytelling and not let our knowledge pollute Emily's experience. We employed a "fly on the wall" technique as much as possible to allow Emily to grow and learn on her own. Though it was hard to sit back and watch moments where things went horribly wrong on the set, it was worth it to see Emily learn, make changes, and then get things to turn out wonderfully right the next time.

Even in the construction of the film, we tried to keep our presence to a minimum. There is no voice over. Instead, we taped candid interviews with Emily and others every day so that their own voices told the story as it happened. This gives it a more immediate feel and draws you into the world of the story, almost as if it were a narrative film.

If there is a message that we took from the making of *Zombie Girl: The Movie* it would be that the passion and drive of a child should never be

underestimated and should always be encouraged by parents and others. The bond between Emily and her mother, Megan, is the backbone of our story. Megan didn't just provide logistical support, but their relationship was the foundation upon which the entire success of Emily's project hinged.

If you look past the blood, guts, and occasional decapitation, *Zombie Girl: The Movie* is a mother/daughter story, through and through. Emily and Megan are a team. Without their bond, Emily's movie would have failed - - which would have made a pretty depressing ending to our documentary. As with all movies, it's the human element of the story that is most compelling. The "coolness" of a kid making a zombie movie is what attracted us to the story, but the family we discovered is what made us want to make sure we got it right when we told it.

F i l m m a k e r B i o s

Justin Johnson -- Co-Director, Cinematographer

Justin Johnson earned a BA in Cinema and Photography from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, before moving to Austin, Texas where he co-produced shows for cable access and made documentary short films. *Zombie Girl: THE MOVIE* is his first feature-length effort. He currently resides in St. Louis, Missouri and has just finished producing the feature film narrative *Fire Proof Gloves*.

Filmography

Zombie Girl: The Movie (feature documentary)

Winner – Spirit Award, 2009 Slamdance Film Festival

Forties (short), 2006

Official Selection - Miami Underground Film Festival; Seguin Film Festival

My Life with Georgia (short), 2004

Official Selection - NALIP San Antonio

The Granddaddy of Em' All (documentary short), 2003

Dog Tired (short), 2002

Aaron Marshall -- Co-Director, Editor

Aaron Marshall is a Los Angeles resident with a BS in Radio/Television/Film from the University of Texas at Austin. He has directed a collection of award-winning short films and has had screenplays place in competitions such as the Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting and the Slamdance Competition. His next project, a narrative comedy, is currently in development.

Filmography

Zombie Girl: The Movie (feature documentary)

Winner – Spirit Award, 2009 Slamdance Film Festival

Who is Ben Kramer? (screenplay)

Quarterfinalist - Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting

The Last Adventure of Martin Finch (screenplay)

Quarterfinalist - Slamdance Screenplay Competition

Quarterfinalist - Writers on the Storm Screenplay Competition

Con-Purse (spec commercial), 2005

Winner - Best Commercial, 2006 San Fernando Valley Film Festival

When the Cat's Away (short), 2004

Winner - Best Short, 2005 Desert Reel Film Festival

Winner - Best Film by a Texan, 2005 Desert Reel Film Festival

12th and Ripley (short), 2000

Official Selection - Cinematexas Film Festival

Erik Mauck -- Co-Director, Cinematographer

Erik Mauck graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale with a BA in Cinema and Photography. He worked as a freelance camera operator and editor for the local PBS affiliate, before moving to Austin, Texas, where he produces a “behind-the-scenes” show about local film productions. In addition, he is currently working on two short documentaries.

Filmography

Zombie Girl: The Movie (feature documentary)

Winner – Spirit Award, 2009 Slamdance Film Festival

Old Friends (short), 2007

Official Selection - Austin Film Festival

The Lucky Mutant (documentary short), 2006.

Official Selection - Seguin Film Festival

Forties (short), 2006

Official Selection - Miami Underground Film Festival; Seguin Film Festival

My Life With Georgia (short), 2004

Official Selection - NALIP San Antonio

Additional Bio

Emily Hagins

Nicknamed the "Movie Girl" In second grade, Emily Hagins was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1992. Emily's family moved to Austin, Texas in 1993, where as a child she became increasingly fascinated with movies. Some of her earliest film influences include *The Muppet Movie*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Iron Giant* and *Spy Kids*.

In third grade, shortly after reading *The Hobbit*, she saw Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, and was inspired to become a filmmaker herself. After writing Mr. Jackson, Emily received a supportive reply, and Mr. Jackson put her in touch with legendary Austin film critic Harry Knowles of *Ain't It Cool News*, who became a mentor and friend. By the age of 11, Emily had produced several notorious shorts including "Buddy vs. The Barbies" and 'making of' documentaries of local independent films.

By this time, she also had also written her first feature-length script, the zombie horror film *Pathogen*. *Pathogen* won a Texas Filmmakers Production Fund grant to support its post-production, making Emily the youngest ever recipient of the award. At the age of 13, Emily premiered *Pathogen* in Austin at the famed Alamo Drafthouse to a sold out, enthusiastic crowd.

The Austin film community (including the Austin Film Society, The Alamo Drafthouse, *Ain't It Cool News*, *Fantastic Fest*, *Austin Film Festival* and *SXSW Film Festival*, and numerous local filmmakers) has fully embraced and supported Emily and her filmmaking career.

Now 16, Emily has just finished her second feature film, *The Retelling*, a ghost story set in a small town in Texas.

Emilys's directorial influences include: Peter Jackson, Danny Boyle, Robert Rodriguez, Guillermo del Toro, Jon Favreau, and Otto Preminger.

Influential films include: *Lord of the Rings*, *Night Watch*, *There Will Be Blood*, *Bunny Lake is Missing*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, *Zathura*, *Millions*, *Elf*, *Pan's Labyrinth*, *Iron Man*, *Speed Racer*, *The Goonies*, *Back to the Future*, *Shaun of the Dead*, *Undead*, *Kung-fu Hustle*, *Ong-Bak*, and *Gremlins*.

S c r e e n i n g H i s t o r y

Slamdance Film Festival -- WINNER - Spirit Award

AFI Dallas International Film Festival

Hot Docs Canadian Documentary Film Festival

Comic-Con

Woods Hole Film Festival

A w a r d s

Spirit Award – 2009 Slamdance Film Festival

T e c h n i c a l S p e c s

Feature-Length Documentary

Color

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Completion Date: January 2009

Total running time: 91 minutes

Screening format: Digitbeta or DVD

Full Production Credits

Cast

Emily Hagins
Megan Hagins
Jerry Hagins

Christopher Cargill
Jessica Cargill
Mary Celeste Kearney
Tiger Darrow
Kate Dawson
Rebecca Elliot
Alec Herskowitz
Kirk Hunter
Rose Kent-McGlew
Harry Knowles
Troy Lanier
Tim League
Jay Giovanni Ramirez
Neil Reece
Alex Schroeder
Elizabeth Sykes
Kevin Triplett
Tony Vespe
Jurgen Vsyh

Also Featuring

Jegar Erickson
Joy M. Furman
Estrella Gonzales
Amanda Haight
Leila Hernandez
Dannie Knowles Ramirez
Roger Kunshick
Courtney McMinnis
Natalie Nooner
Jose Ramirez
R. Corey Starck
Jed Strahm

Directed and Produced by

Justin Johnson
Aaron Marshall
Erik Mauck

Editor

Aaron Marshall

Directors of Photography

Justin Johnson
Erik Mauck

Title Designer

Deborah Allison

Musical Composer

Christopher Thomas

Sound Designer

Zack Howard

Sound Re-Recording Mixer

Zack Howard

Digital Colorist

Raphael Kryszek

Color Correction Facilities

Clifton Production Services

Additional Camera

Alberto Guevara

Additional Production Sound

Mark Schoon

Graphics Consultant

Kurt Volk

Production Assistants

Deborah Allison
George Blume
Chelsea Hernandez
Mary Timmel

Poster Design and Promotional Art

Deborah Allison

Additional Promotional Art

Daniel Mingus

Clifford Stancihos

Score Recorded at

Q6 Studios in Los Angeles

Recording Engineer

Michael John Mollo

Musicians

Violin -- Neli Nikolaeva

Clarinet -- Melissa Garner

Flute -- Rachel Mellis

Cello -- Christopher Thomas

Vocals -- Cassi Coulter

Score Mixer

Jay Kim

Score Produced by

Christopher Thomas

Thanks

Alamo Draffthouse Cinemas

Austin American-Statesman

Austin Community Television

Austin Film Society

Austin Pizza

Dick Bauer

The Blue Theater

George Blume

Juri Bohus

Kat Candler

Rain Chavez

Matt Clark

Dave Damant

Dan Eggleston

Mar Elepano

Goodwill

James Harrison
Jeremy Hayward
Justin Hayward
IGA (Crestview)
I Luv Video
Iron Works BBQ
Ian McAllister
Lora Marshall
Sarah Marshall
Media Toolbox
Mopac Media
Roman Morales
Redrum Club
Aaron Robertson
Mike Steinberg
Brigitte Thomas
Vulcan Video

Special Thanks

Scarlett Annadeus Baker
Scott Bate
Bradford Buckley
Shirley Buckley
Jeff Colwell
Michael Johnson
Connie Marshall
Gary Marshall
Kristoffer Aaron Morgan
Barry Wheeler
Mario Xavier

Clip taken from "Undead" provided
through the courtesy of Lionsgate.

In loving memory of Chiyoko "Rose" Wagoner.

©2009 Zombie Girl: The Movie LLC