

HELL FEST TRANSCRIPTION

INTRO/SUMMARY

J - I can't wait to talk about it

S - Well we can start talking about it at any time now

J - Nice! We don't even have to wait, we can just talk about it right now, it's awesome

S - We don't have to wait for some robot to tell us we're recording

J - Oh my God, yeah! I'm like, over Craig (laughs)

S - Honestly paying for Zoom is like \$15 a month, but from an editing perspective, there's been zero latency issues, even with Craig, but not as bad as Zencast though, but with this, we always sound great, and we're synched up, so even if I'm lazy and don't do any editing...we're synched.

J - Okay, right on!

S - a little behind the scenes peek for our listener.

J - yeah, we're on Zoom right now, hehehe

S - Uh Welcome back to the Real Horrorshow, I'm your host, Sam Oty, and I'm joined, as always, by my co-host Stormy Skies

J - Hello!

S - So I'm starting to get back into pushing the podcast harder on social media. I did something crazy yesterday...I haven't gone forward with it, but I did claim our handle on "Tik Tok"

J - Shit! That is so crazy...

S - I know

J - But I'm excited because no one has our handle on TikTok now but us

S - I know but there are a lot of cool kids and they're gonna bully us!

J - Yeah, I mean there are a lot of podcasters, but I don't have tiktok but there are a lot of podcasters who are probably on there

S - yeah there's probably some benefit of it, so I'm gonna do some research before I, ya know, get active on it

J - yeah...well cool that means I'll have to get a Tik Tok

S - Yeah I'm trying to get better at actual promotion stuff and I used "headliner" when I do our episode snippets for our preview on social media, They now have audio transcription which is super nice, because full audio transcription costs a hell of a lot of money unless you do it yourself and I selfishly put it off and there's no excuse not to do it I can just do it while I'm editing...

J - But it's probably like..a lot

S - yeah

J - But I love it, I love the previews, they're so fun!

S - Everything I'm doing business wise, we make no money.

J - Yeah, we spend money! We make no money. (laughs) BUt you will have to tell me how to share the little snippet videos on my own instagram stories, and I tried to do it but...

S - I think if you just find it on Instagram...if you go to the Reels...

J - Reels...like the Reels?

S - Oh God, Oh God, Inception!

J-Oh God

S - If you go to the reels tab, click the little send icon and it should be able to send to your story

J - (continues repeating “reels”)

J - RealHorrorshow...ah yes, the reels tab, there it is, I’m going to click it and send it “add to your story” ah yes! I feel like such a damn fool, alright! Here it comes, send to, oh inception is happening, share done, boom it’s there. (laughs) Oh my god I am so “online” it’s crazy. Sorry listeners but I hope that delighted you so you got a behind the scenes look at what we do here..

S - we flounder...that’s what we do behind the scenes. Much like the victims of this movie we’re about to talk about, they do a lot of floundering

J - Excellent segway!

S - This week we are talking about Hell Fest, a 2018 American slasher film directed by Gregory Plotkin, Starring Amy Forsyth, Reign Edwards, Bex Taylor-Klaus, and Tony Todd and follows a group of teens who are stalked by a serial killer while visiting a traveling Halloween carnival. It was released by CBS films via lionsgate. Hell Fest was released on September 28th, 2018 and grossed \$18.2M at the box office on a budget of \$5.5M. It received generally mixed reviews from critics.

J - yeah..I can see that, I can see where they wouldn't understand (laughs)

S - so was this a wide release and I just completely missed it or...was it a limited release?

J - I straight up thought that it was a Netflix original

S - So did I, but now it's saying box office number so I guess I can scroll down on the wikipedia page and look at the release

J - like what was I doing in 2018 Like I'm really not sure

S - Like it's implying, it sounds like it was a wide release I guess we just missed it because...

J - I don't know...

S - Oh, you know what, probably happened in 2018 late September

J - I got married?

S - We were probably...

J - (laughs) shit!

S - it's your fault!

J - I was making everyone not focused on the movie, I was making them focus on me for the whole...fall...dammit

S - well you know what

J - next time, for sure

S - Well it was released on September 28th so...

J - What?! (laughs) no way

S - so your wedding was the next day

J - shit man!

S - what, what, we were at a rehearsal dinner? We could've been seeing a new slasher movie!

J - Yeah! We legit were at the freaking rehearsal dinner getting little gifts and they were NOT at the movies that night like shit we could've been there!

S - Do you know how (expletive) rare it is for an original, good, slasher film to come out these days?

J - Extremely rare, and that was 2018 so we would probably like, have to probably wait like for another 5 to 10 years for another one to come out

S - yeah, either way it's on netflix now and I enjoyed it

J - me too, I'm excited to dive right into this movie

S - I watched it a couple weeks ago because i saw it and was like "oh its a slasher i haven't' seen before its going to be really bad" but I was pleasantly surprised

J - yeah!

S - it was so fun - we can break into it by discussing the characters and acting

J - alright, yeah let's do it. Should we first talk about the plot or I guess that's...

S - I mean we can change it up we can talk about anything it's our podcast

J - that's true, um yeah...(clicking) I don't want to put you on the spot, let's just talk about the characters because now I'm thinking about that (laughs)

S - I know you're excited to talk about the plot because this is basically an autobiography

J - I know right (tiny voice) but why don't you start us off with characters and I'll follow up

CHARACTERS/ACTING

S - Ok so uh we got Natalie, we got natalee's best friend Brooke, and Brooke's friend Taylor who is basically just "The Stormy Skies"

J - (laughs) like the mohawk girl? (referring to the character's hairstyle)

S - yeah, I was like "oh..that is stormy without a doubt"

J - (agreement noises)

S - So, they're all going to a um spooky scary halloween carnival with their friend gavin who is interested in natalie, and i think taylor and bookre have boyfriends that they go with which I was surprised at

J - yeah me too

S - Like I'm surprised that Taylor had a boyfriend

J - me too I thought she would be totally like a queer icon but she was totally straight (laughs)

S - Yeah, I mean she could be bisexual or pansexual we don't know that but...

J - yeah..

S - I got strong gaydar vibes and it's possible she hasn't discovered that part of herself yet and were she to survive, her and her bf would've gotten married and a few moments later she would have fallen in love with a woman, but who's to say...(SPOILER) she's dead now.

J - (laughs) rest in peace, but anyway yeah we've got this group of three girls and three guys so perfect right? And there's two couples and the one is like interested in the other and they're not together yet so you know..of course...

S - Yeah...which (SPOILER) it bummed me out when Gavin died because I was emotionally invested in his character, he bought her a cute little stuffed animal....that was some bull-(expletive)

J - yeah...

S - and then the (epitve) serial killer, and this is one of the things I really liked about him, he's texting Natalie this whole time pretending to be Gavin!

J - I know, he's playing it totally cool! And I really have so much to say about everything...everything that happens I have a comment for it.

S - Ok, I mean there's not much to talk about regarding acting it's your typical good ol fashioned teen scream

J - yes absolutely! And something I will say about the characters...in the beginning I wasn't looking at the screen but there's only five minutes of exposition about the relationship of them with each other, like theyre friends from school, like that's all I got, and after that we are able to see them movie into the setting of scary haunt and we see their personalities of it they like scary stuff or not and the one mohawk girl is like revelingin delight, but then we see the main character is being kind of a dick about getting scared and stuff like that and the other one is neutral. So i'm glad we saw this rainbow of personalities that haunt actors come across, and we come across these three specific types of people. That's all I have to say about that.

S - And I guess the big standout performance was Mr Tony Todd who was candyman dn made a cameo which I was surprised by

J - I saw his name in the opening credits and I was like oh shit that's cool I wonder who he'll be and as they went through the different rides and stuff he was the narrator, and then later we see him on the stage as the ringleader guy so that was pretty cool too.

S - so any modern horror movie that gets a cameo by a classic horror icon is okay in my book

J - yeah I was actually pretty high hopes when I saw it was a lionsgate film, so i was like it can't be that bad. I mean "Saw" is a lionsgate film so it was going in a direction that I liked

S - yeah, so we can go ahead and segway into plot because you'll probably have 2 hours of notes to go over (laughs)

J - (laughs) yeah they're all up here (points to forehead) so let's go for it

STORY/PLOT

S - The plot is a group of teenagers go to a Hellfest, it's not by any means an original thought, we have movies like dark ride and some movie that probably inspired dark ride that came out in the 80s that take place at carnivals, but those movies take place inside like a haunted house ride and what I truly appreciate about this movie is it takes full advantage of its setting, the kills are happening right in front of you, absolutely anybody who walks by your dead body is just going to think you're a f***** prop, and we saw that right at the beginning of the movie when they're in the first haunted house and the girl is being murdered right in front of Natalie and she just stands there and watches because she thinks it's part of the show

J - yeah that that is actually one of like my favorite moments in the whole entire movie it's like, it's such a cool moment because this movie is completely self-aware and I feel like anybody that worked at haunt can sit there and be like wow, like yes I wish I can just have that moment where someone is acting like a dick like "ooh you think you're scary, do it do it" and then you just go for it and you f***** do a surprise they actually kill somebody and then, what is actually happening, you kind of just stand there and you're like should I stop this or is it just part of the ride that is such a cool part because it really emphasizes what I think is one big aspect of like attending a haunted attraction is this uncertainty aspect. One of the things that go to the haunted house because like they're just not too sure what's going to happen and when it does

happen in this movie, they take it a step further and thinking “I'm really not too sure if that's real” because we get that quick story in the beginning from the girl and she's like “oh yeah like the one girl actually got murdered at a haunt recently” and you feel like you never know, you know what I mean, it's kind of playing along but like the whole time you're like is it real is it fake is it the prop or is she an actor, is it “really” scary and I'm just freaking out over nothing. So you have all of these questions and they're all totally realistic.

S - because you don't want to like freak out and interrupt the “murder” and just have it be part of a show because then your friends make fun of you the entire night but then by not stopping it you're just a f***** a***** it's a lose-lose situation.

J - A total lose-lose situation

S - I mean I guess being made fun of by your friends for stopping a scene in a haunted house is significantly not as bad as letting someone get murdered

J - having murder on your conscience, yeah...

S - but yeah it's mostly just these friends maneuvering their way through a bunch of rides and a bunch of different haunted houses as they're being stalked unbeknownst to them by a serial killer. Actually Natalie's kind of aware of it but her friends are like you're just being a p****

J - Like seriously though and like that's what someone would say if you were at a haunt with a group of friends and then someone was acting super paranoid, they would be like oh well you're just being a p**** legit so how you deal with that and we've kind of seen Natalie take steps in dealing with that situation as it unfolds.

S - She's there on a date with Gavin and they make out in a photobooth, but the serial killer is a goddamn psychopath and steal their photos

J - yeah it was I didn't want that thought that there is like a lot of photos coming out like many many things of them...

S - Like I feel like in any movie when there's a scene with one of those photobooths like it's definitely more than 4 pictures!

J - I know right I was like I don't know how much money you have to have all these photos but like okay

S - it's been a really long time since I've been in one of them, in fact I haven't gone to the mall since last year yet for the movies closed because I used to get a cup of coffee before going to the movies, and there's a nice coffee stand in the middle of the mall. But... I just, maybe they do take more pictures and then you select the best one, yeah maybe they don't have that selection process. I don't know maybe someday I'll do a photo booth picture set with David and spend two whole dollars. But the worst thing the serial killer does in this movie is he steals their pictures.

J - This is literally the worst and it basically like splinters the group...

S - It cements the type of person he is.

J The group is splintered because of this action

S - they really are!

J - They really freak the f*** out over it and no one gets over it.

S - if you have two more dollars you could just redo it and start making out again

J - I know and speaking of making out, there's a lot of it. I don't think people make out all that much whenever they're doing like scary stuff in the rides and stuff but I was like wow there's like a lot of kissing happening so I was like okay

S - I mean I don't know I haven't been an actual haunted place in a while... was there a lot of kissing back when I did? Not that I want to remember

J - Yeah I was too worried about is anticipating the scares!

S - Yeah, because if you're at Busch Gardens or Cedar Point like we talked about last episode during one of their Halloween season yeah they have scare actors that just come and pop out at you so if you're making out by the bushes you are a prime victim.

J - yeah they're going to come at you, you're just asking for it. And yeah that's a good point to make. So, okay so the serial killer steals the photos and... what happened after that?

S - like not much, at some point Gavin splits off from the group because he's like I'm going to go surprise Natalie with this cute stuffed animal that she liked, but he made the grave error of going to the bathroom and that's when he gets his head bashed in with a mallet.

J - that was wild!

S - oh yeah I didn't expect a wild kill like that

J - Like listeners, this movie is so fun and then with the serial killer guy, like he really is very brutal kills, and that's something that we like to see here at Real Horrorshow.

S - Gavin got himself murdered Natalie has to go on The Tunnel of Love haunted ride by herself which, I freaked out with her when would the killer wears the same mask as a lot of the other scare actors in the park, and I was scared for her when one of them got into the ride with her and just rode with her in silence. I... if that happened to me on a ride, I would have cried.

J - probably how it's so funny that that's the part that you were like freaking out over because I was freaking out over that part two but then a different aspect of it so I guess I would be okay with the actor being there but, I would freak the f*** out if I was riding on the ride by myself and then it like got stuck, and then like the power went out like wouldn't you freak out?

S - yes that I think that whole sequence was an excellent scare and if you own a dark ride or a Haunted Amusement Park, I highly recommend you implement that! I think the person just getting into the ride triggered a repressed memory from high school where my friend Kelsey played a really cruel joke on me and it could have gone horribly wrong if I wasn't rational person, where our friend John's cousin who we had never met, was visiting, and she was only supposed to take a few minutes we were dropping something off from him but she told his

cousin who he never met before to come run up to the car and get into the car with me and I was like... hello...

J - Oh my God!

S - It's me in there and it was pitch-black it was like 10 at night and I was just like hi (laughs)

J - Yeah, like these are things to take notes on to scare others

S - and I know she's lucky I didn't carry like pepper spray or mace or I would've killed that kid...

J - What if you were like the type of person where you had a scared reaction where you just like punched people

S - Yeah, I start swinging while they're talking

J - Yeah because people really don't know that they will do that unless they're really scared and you know what I mean so like you know if you're that like you're pushed over the edge

S - I know people who don't do haunted attractions because they don't trust themselves not to punch an actor when they jump out of stuff

J - Like I don't know what my body will do when it's jolted into fright

S - Yeah, and that's what I liked about that ride, it seemed like it really created a nice bit of tension

J - Yeah because I really sat there and I was like I watch I tried to take everything that was happening and really put myself and everybody shoes and be like what I be scared of this is happening like, yes, maybe, no, but like for that, yes. Yes I would because like I love being scared but like I would not volunteer myself to go on a Dark Ride by myself like and then now that idea is put into my mind that that could possibly happen like what if there was a breakdown? Like that ride was being pushed to the max it was Halloween night you know what I mean? It's very realistic.

S - Yeah rides break down all the time

J - Oh my God dude like the power went out and then the red light came on and I was like oh my God I would be very, I would be like frozen. She was playing it like so chill though, I was like “girl, be more scared.”

S - the red keeps going and then she gets out and then that's like other people in the masks come out and I'm like, “ you guys are pushing this way too far. Someone's gonna start swinging!”

J - exactly and it's cool that the ride they had to go on like was the ride to transport them to like the next to level of mazes and stuff

S - yeah I'm remembering that there was a scene where there is a dead body or a prop dead body that they run into and I can't remember if that ended up being a real body or a fake one?

J - so I think... I'm not really sure, because I think it was a fake guy with like, maybe a really good fake hole, because he kind of does a jump scare and he had really heavy makeup on. I don't know, that's actually a good question because that's never revealed if that actually might murder victim.

S - that's one of the things I really like about this movie is because it took advantage of its setting

J - it did its it's totally did and it didn't reveal anything to the viewer because we were just along for the ride. I think by now after they get off the Dark Ride they kind of like take pause and they're like we need to wait for that guy to come and so they all kind of like are Milling about and this is when our main character makes the mistake of going to the bathroom.

S - Going to the bathroom by yourself!

J - I know I just yeah because like she goes with her friend, but then her friend leaves cuz she's agreeing to go to Spain, and I was like “oh wow okay” and then she kind of leaves...and then

she's along and then she's like "I have to blow dry my hair because something vomited on me" - viewers just watch it if you have questions.

S - Fair, and she texts Gavin again, and she hears his phone go off in the bathroom

J - Oh s***, on purpose! It's a trap!

S - and that's when she realizes she's not in there alone

J - And she sees the guy's boots, and she knows those boots!

S - so and yeah that's what I'm going to say that's a that's a homage to scream in the bathroom and Sidney sees his boots come down

J - Yeah, what a cool connection, I didn't even think of that man. But I was like yeah yeah boots I got it yes dude in Scream he's also wearing brown boots, whichever one it is, when they're in there. But I do have something to say about the bathroom scene Sam, and let me know if you noticed this too and questioned it yourself but there is a bit of an inconsistency and okay. So she is like, the dude is trying to get into her bathroom stall and she's like freaking out, so what she does is her door is locked so she Ducks down and crawls under the wall and goes into the next stall, and the next stall, when she's in there, the door's already closed and locked, so like, I don't know what's going on there.

S - Yeah...that's convenient...

J - I didn't want to focus too much energy on that because it's just a movie so I was like yeah that's fine that's fine for her but I was like yeah

S - in real life it would have at least been cracked a bit, or it would have been cracked a bit or unlocked

J - I just noticed that and I was like hey, OK.

S - but she manages to escape and she goes to tell security hey someone's trying to kill me and securities just like "hahaha everybody's trying to kill you tonight that's part of the experience." And she's like NO!

J - hat's probably my third favorite part because like one I kind of was laughing at that I mean like it is a big place so like yes there is security but I was kind of like a laughing to myself with the fact that there was security there and, yeah it's a big place, but there was security there and they are like "sorry, we are going to have to remind the actors not to go in the bathrooms"

S - Yes that's the issue, not that he attacked her.

J - right! He's like, "are you hurt?" But anyway...one of the characters was like, one of the guys was like, hey he's trying to get employee of the year, and I was like dude like that's another really good point to make the audience just like, not sure, you know what I mean? Like is he taking it too far and just acting, or is he just a psycho killer. you'll never know

S - so then Natalie catches back up with her friend not really questioning where Gavin actually is at this point I don't think anyone ever finds his body?

J - I think we're just over Gavin at this point

S - Poor Gavin, maybe I am getting emotionally attached now because his friends just don't give a s*** that he's missing and meanwhile he's in the locker room with his head bashed in

J - Right dude, well actually, he almost deserved it because he did go in there to like steal like a toy that he did not win fair and square cuz he sucks it the games for some reason

S - I mean we've all been there

J - Yeah, that's true, but I want to wait until we get through the whole movie to talk about my favorite part of the killer and his M.O.

S - so they're they're out of show and Taylor is volunteered to take part in the attraction where she'll be beheaded and this naturally causes the already terrified because she was just attacked by a not scare after by an actual serial killer, Natalie, to freak out and every and everybody is just like oh she just doesn't do horror, which I would feel so gas-lit at that point!

J - Yeah! Right, she has been freaking out like non-stop since they got out of the one ride and they're like "dude just f***** chill" and she's like "No! This is real!" but yeah I would feel pretty bad like "nobody believes me"

S - but then Taylor definitely believes her when the guy traps her in the guillotine and tries to decapitate her, which I'm going to say I am very glad that the guillotine did not decapitate her, because I would be writing a serious letter to OSHA about this Festival because they are using a real guillotine in that has to violate some rules

J - They're using a real Guillotine that's like freshly sharp!

S - It does cut the back of her neck but she's able to get out of that and we're giving the false sense of hope that she's going to escape, but then she makes the grave error of stopping when she bumps into someone to tell them to help her and that's when the guy gets her...

J - oh what a good part, because I was like, aw man she's just like going to get away and the end of the movie is going to happen, but then the dude just like takes them out, and I was like well... and I was shocked, but then I was like "uh oh, I forgot..."

S - And then finally everybody starts believing Taylor...not Taylor, Natalie!

J - Yeah! They were like "Oh Natalie you were right, uh oh I'm dead." But then like after they freak out and run away, like, the next crowds going to roll in and not care, cuz they're going to think it's just like an actor

S - Because it's a big park...

J - Yeah, it's like an amusement park, and that is so cool, and we'll talk about that later

S - and it's, um, Security's aware of it at this point, so hopefully you get settled but not fast enough. Panic ensues at the park because he got a huge chunk of people running and screaming, everybody else wants to start running and screaming because it's a scary park, and so Natalie and Brooke Escape into another haunted house because that's basically all this park is haunted houses of the occasional Dark Ride, and they become separated. Natalie stabbed "the other" in the gut before he can kill Brooke, and the girls make their way towards the exit and it looks like the killer got away, or did he? I like that there were two final girls in this movie and I like that they were the best friends that survived.

J - Absolutely, now they can go to Spain

S - they can go to Spain go to group therapy together

J - Yeah because they're (expletive) traumatized, they'll never go to a haunt again

S - because it's always kind of something we never touch on with horror movie final girls is they're the final girls so there's never going to be anyone to relate to the trauma that they just experienced. Yeah, yes yes they're going to have PTSD for the rest of their life, so it's good that they have that together now.

J - yeah they have a shared trauma

S - Which, speaking of final girls, have you heard in the new Texas Chainsaw Massacre movie they're going to bring back...

J - they're going to bring back the actress that played Sally?

S - it's not the actual actress that played her, but the character is coming back

J - Ooohhh, she's coming back.

S - Which, has never happened in a TCM movie?

J - I don't recall, no he just takes everyone out in every movie except for her!

S - so I'm optimistic for this one, because let's let's be real sequels to the Texas Chainsaw Massacre haven't always been I haven't always been good...

J - Haven't always been up to our par

S - haven't been watchable...just based on the idea that they're going to go for an "old man Leatherface" take and they're bringing back Sally is giving me Vibes that it's probably going to be super similar to Halloween 2018, which I'm not against, as long as it sticks to its, like, what it is

J - yeah yeah I'm kind of getting tired of this like, old serial killer guy thing you know we don't have to come back 20 years later, then 20 years again

S - which, at this point in Leatherface's life, getting off topic before we talk about the big twist ending with the character, at this point in Leatherface's life, he's going to be such a sad character because his family would be dead by now, right? His brother is probably getting up there,

J - everybody is just very very old or dead at this point...

S - so he'll just be lonely and it'll just make me sad. So, Sally why do you have to come back after all these years, and I would also hope after 50 years, because of the direct sequel to the original, they would have caught him by now ? I don't know.

J - Yeah, would't Sally have been like, " hey guys let me tell you about where I was in Texas and what you guys should do as law enforcement officers to eradicate murder and cannibalism"

S - I am cautiously excited about the new Texas Chainsaw Massacre, I liked the remake in 2003 , I liked the beginning... 3D was hot garbage, which was the first attempt at an old man Leatherface

J - yeah yeah that was like, I don't know why they did that because it was like not very...

S - there were a lot of issues

J - yeah yeah like the neice girl, I don't know, I don't think it would have worked out with the age gap there

S - And biggest insult is they just kill off the entire family except Leatherface at the beginning so we don't get any Sheriff Hoyt , I mean, what's with that s*** ?

J - I know, that is some s*** and you know what rest in peace R. Lee Ermey in real life. Very sad we won't get him back.

S - It's sad and the worst part is that we're never going to get a solo Sheriff Hoyt movie

J - I know, and that's why I like "the beginning" so much is because we see him being sadistic

S - Oh yeah, the beginning would have been fucking terrible if he wasn't such a huge player in that with the way he carried it on his shoulders.

J - He really did though, he really did because like he was in he was like in the whole movie - so yeah, there, I said it.

S - Anyway, Real horrorshow is cautiously optimistic about the next Texas Chainsaw.

J - Stay tuned on our thoughts as that progresses

S - Yeah, it'll be fine. I mean tt can't be worse than Leatherface which I haven't watched but I heard is absolute hot garbage

J - oh my God! Like, it CAN'T be worse than Leatherface. I don't think it's humanly possible...

S - Did you watch Leatherface?

J - yeah I did because I think it's streaming somewhere?

S - I think oh s*** it's on peacock, should we cover Leatherface next week?

J - no I don't, I don't care to watch it again!

S - I'll watch it by myself tonight

J - Yeah, just watch it to have watched it. it's not good, ohmygod, I don't know what the f*** they were thinking, but it doesn't make any sense. You're going to understand when you watch it.

S - I've heard enough. I've heard it's terrible.

J - that's that's all you need to know

S - there is a low bar picture this will just pass that bar. They're bringing back Sally for the first time since 1970, it's not the original actress, I'm sure there's reasons behind that, but it'll be fun. Anyway let's talk about a big spoiler alert, if you have not seen this movie, because I love, I love this ending and I could write a thesis about this ending! Because the Killer escapes the police, as they always do.

J - Of course they do guys, because listen, they should be 10 steps ahead of the police

S - and the next time we see him he is hanging up a picture of Natalie in his closet of masks and then he walks down stairs, and it's not your typical serial killer house that you see in these types of movies, it's a normal house, and you think he's about to kill this young 9 year old girl on the couch, but no it's his daughter! She wakes up and she greets him and he gives her a stuffed animal from the park.

J - and I was just like, I was like they set it up for you, there's this sleeping child and it sets you up to be like "uh oh, he's sick, he's going to kill this child" and I feel like me and Sam, at this point we both said "that's definitely his f***** child"

S - Yeah, I love it, because at the end of the day the person who's most likely to murder you in real life isn't Michael Myers, it's not Leatherface, it is just John down the block, who has a normal family, mows his lawn every Saturday, probably wears denim shorts and white sneakers when they go see the Fourth of July fireworks

J - absolutely and he brings his little girl a...because she's like "Daddy, what did you bring me?" and he pulled out a (expletive) little toy and I was like, wow, adorable, the end.

S - it's just so great and it works so well that you could leave it at that, or it sets up a great sequel potentially

J - yeah...but no. Please no.

S - I really love this aspect because I watched another Thriller, the name is escaping me right now, is on Hulu or something where a guy kidnaps a woman and in the movie you hear him talking on his phone to his wife, and at the end of the movie, spoilers for the movie I can't remember the title of, she steals his phone and she calls the police but then she keeps it and after he chases her and she leads him to an open field where someone can find them, she calls his wife and tells his wife "hey if I get murdered your f***** husband did it to me" I love it because that is so realistic! Ted Bundy was a normal dude, had a girlfriend/fiance who never suspected it...

J - It's on Hulu?

S - yeah I'll find the name of it and send it to you if I can ... I like when they do the realistic thing where the murderer is the normal guy down the road

J - yeah absolutely that is awesome

S - the Golden State killer lived in peace for 40 years before he was finally caught because he was just a normal guy

J - yeah most of the time they're just like normal dudes and then like, I guess this dude, every fall season will just kind of hop along and travel with this traveling circus thing and just like (expletive) kill people because it's so easy to get away with it in that setting

S - he probably tells his wife he's heading on a business trip and then he just goes the next day to the closest Halloween festival and has at it

J - Yeah yeah absolutely, so that that's a really good like transition to what I wanted to talk about regarding his method of operation and I think I kind of caught a little bit of a pattern with it, and that would be that there is this kind of seen in the beginning, there's the introduction, during the opening credits, where it's him stalking and killing a girl in a haunt, which is I guess the previous haunt where they found out that someone has been murdered, and she is just being such a jerk! She's like "what... do you think you're so scary a***** like move out of the way!" like everyone is just being such a jerk and if you act like that, I feel like he targets you. I feel like you're marked after you had to show that type of attitude. So that's what I've seen mostly from him, and he does kill the one girl with the Mohawk although she is fabulously in love with Halloween and haunts and he kills her anyway so I think she might be an outlier, but he kills everybody else if they act like a f***** jerk and I feel like haunt actors everywhere kind of rejoice, like "yeah like I hate when people pay like a hundred fifty big ones to go to this like all night haunted attraction and act like jerks to the actors" Because they're trying to be scary and scare you and do their best and if you're going to like call them and a***** and like push past them, like good I hope that you get stabbed because you deserve it. Don't pay for a haunt if you're not going to enjoy yourself. But Sam, in real life, how much money do you think they spend on VIP tickets to this all night haunted thing

S - probably way too much

J - It must have been like an astronomical amount

S - More than a college student can realistically pay

J - yeah and I just want to put it in perspective, for whenever they start to talk about being in the VIP line on Halloween, and if you go to just a single haunt with just one walkthrough and pay

for VIP it's easily going on a hundred bucks for one ticket. So this is like there's like fifty attractions you can hit up easily like extremely expensive.

S - so the last time I went to the popular hunt here which is st. Alban's Asylum, it was 2012 and tickets were like 25 a person

J - yeah that's pretty good

S - yeah you know that's just a haunted house you walk through. So I'm going to guess, let's see fast pass prices at Cedar Point, to get an idea of how much it cost, probably like at least \$100 per person

J - yeah per person and if you're going to do something like that on Halloween, that is like the only ticket worth buying much as you can do as much as you can and get your money's worth

S - like for me if I were to go to Cedar Point at all within the next two years, I would save up my money to get FastPass Plus, because we're going to be driving 8 hours to go to the park, you want to do all that s*** you can, and not wait in 5-hour lines

J - exactly, and then waste a lot of your time in the day.

S - And in fact, Hell Fest was filmed at Six Flags White Water in Atlanta, Georgia

J - Oh really, how fun!

S - I hope the actors had a lot of fun and got to ride the rides during the day

J - I really do too, because this was probably such a fun movie to just be a part of

PRODUCTION

S - Production-wise it was good, it I was expecting something kind of cheap and bad since it was a slasher I hadn't heard of, yeah and sometimes, I don't know why, this might just be me being

stingy and an awful person... Sometimes bad camera quality in a horror movie just makes me nauseous. I don't know why it doesn't work

J - I can agree, I don't like to see that. I like it, you know I like for people to kind of, step it up with their camera equipment these days

S - maybe I just watched too many bad ones that I just get the sinking feeling that there's going to be a very exploitive gross sex scene at some point that'll make me uncomfortable so my brain just puts me in that mood immediately. Otherwise I don't have a lot to say about production The Kills we're good like I said I'm really glad that Taylor the cool mohawk chick wasn't killed with the guillotine because that that would just be a major OSHA violation

J - oh absolutely and I feel like that is some really cool stuff we can talk about in our like real horrorshow realistic aspects but, let's talk about the kills

S - all right so the head bashing took me by surprise because I was like "they're they're not going to show it" and then they do

J - the cool thing about the head bashing kill is when (expletive) "theif man" which is what I'm going to call him, tried to pick up this Mallet and he either has no upper body strength or the killer has super strength, but this is a very heavy mallet hat he can't like pick up and like move it and stuff because it's like a full sized, big Mallet, and then the f***** dude picks it up like it's a feather and like I was like "oh my God" and he doesn't like, he doesn't do a one and done hit, he like hits his neck and then he can't breathe, and then he crushes his trachea, and then he finally like explodes head. So this guy has some kind of super strength going on

S - oh yeah he has his five-year-old and those things are heavy

J - absolutely I guess I should consider that

S - he's a homeowner

J - Yeah, maybe he fixes things around the house, possibly Cars too, you know I mean, like you don't really know what his profession is

S - you know they're going to be sad for a while and they realize "oh Gavin was probably murdered" but in the long run I think Natalie's going to do much better than Gavin

J - I agree, at the end of the day I feel like people watching saw that Gavin was really holding them up cuz they were trying to like, get to like all the scary stuff and they had to like keep waiting for Gavin to like do like very small tasks that he didn't need to do and then end up taking a long time so everybody was held back because of him. So I feel like he's just like a little annoyance

S - Yeah, honestly, he could have waited till the end of the night to go steal a stuffed animal

J - I agree cuz yeah

S - Yeah he would have had to carry it around the entire time

J - Yeah, and that is also kind of an annoying thing in itself because it is kind of like this toy you're like sh** I wish I didn't have this right now let me just buy a locker to stow it away. He waited for like the most inopportune moment to do that because everyone was like "ok guys we're going to go get in line for the most important ride of the park" and he was like "wait guys I'm going to like go try to win a toy so like I'll catch up with you" and I'm like "how are you supposed to catch up with them if you're looking to go in the line together like that." It just he was just, he just doesn't understand how things work, I think, when you're at a haunt. So, rest in peace.

S - he's thinking with his dick, not with his brain

J - I know...this guy! Anyway, apart from that kill, the moment that the guy walks into the park we're kind of put off because he goes through the metal detector, which is actually cool to see that they have one of those. In real life I've never been to a haunt with a metal detector. I don't know if there are metal detectors at haunts over there?

S - I think probably bigger ones it's becoming more common just because, Hi, we live in America there was just a another mass shooting yesterday, which, you know, the country starts opening back up from the pandemic and the mass shootings start again.

J - But yeah, the metal detector is cool to see but he walks through, and he goes off, and we're like, does he have a secret weapon? No, he f***** pics one up an ice pick at the shaved ice stand Sam, he steals the ice pick!

S - He's resourceful

J - I didn't even like, oh my God, I just like... I was like wow that's really clever!

S - I like this killer a lot

J - yeah so that's not even his weapon, it's theirs, and it's their fault because they had a sharp stabby thing and then the rest of the time...

S - If you're not going to let your guests bring in Sharp stabby things. don't let your employees do it

J - yeah they shouldn't have shaved ice

S - Yeah, who wants shaved ice in October? You know what you eat at a Haunted Trail you eat f***** fried Oreos. You eat something warm.

J - I don't know what you're getting at with this shaved ice and ice cream situation, it is very strange but anyways moving on from that. The rest of the kills were mostly he was just stabbing girls and then the guillotine was kind of cool but it didn't work out because I don't know why he thought it was going to be real. (laughs)

S - like it was sharp enough to cut the back of her neck which is mildly concerning but if you're going to have a guillotine prop at your Carnival it should look real but it shouldn't be able to cut somebody

J - yeah I feel like whenever you have a realistic-looking weapon is usually made out of like foam

S - yeah they're made to look real from a distance but once you get up there

J - yeah once youtube up there you're like "oh, I can tell the difference". so the kills, when they did happen though, were brutal as f*** so that was what we like to see that

S - especially right there at the end where he did catch up with Taylor and kill her and then just immediately kill who I guess Taylor's boyfriend or Brooke's boyfriend. One of their boyfriends, all the boyfriends look the same

J - Yeah one of the guys, and they all had very generic names too and they didn't call each other's names out

S - which which is another justification of why Taylor should have had a girlfriend instead so I would be able to tell them apart

J - yeah absolutely but they all had like a dude partner.

S - or maybe not cast three white guys who all look the same to play their boyfriend so I don't know

J - Right, but yeah he catches up with her, f***** stabs her and then turns around and stabs the dude, like whoa he's quick. So not only is he strong, but he's fast, and he doesn't care that he's in a crowd because you're not safe anywhere, and that's actually kind of a cool aspect and it paced the rest of the film which is just being in fear and running away.

S - Actually I take that back of one of their boyfriends...

J - the Hispanic looking one?

S - yeah his name is Matt Mercurio, so I think so he's probably Hispanic or Latino? So I take that back, but that doesn't change the fact that they do all look the same. They all have short, dark hair.

J - They're all just men. If it was a woman, I would just know.

S - yeah like a woman with hot pink hair maybe? I don't know, I don't know what kind of girl Taylor would date, I just know she would probably be dating a girl, not a guy

J - yeah maybe if the guys had outfits that were a bit different then maybe that would help

S - like maybe Taylor's boyfriend is hardcore goth

J - Yeah! Or maybe someone, like, wore a hat.

S - a hat would make a world of difference

J - It would, but they all basically had the same outfit on, which is not helpful, the only person that stood out was Taylor because she like dressed differently from everybody else, in short hair that was dyed, so that I know that she like, I know that this is her. And then Natalie is the main character I guess, um a generic white girl with brown hair.

S - I mean that's your average final girl

J - anyway

REALISTIC ASPECTS

S - anyway realistic aspects not being believed when you talk to a security guard about your attack...

J - Wait a minute, wait just a minute! Here's a realistic aspect, calling like 911 when you're at a haunted house and like not having reception in the bathroom like don't get it on that s***

S - at this point it's almost impossible for you not to have cell phone reception unless you're at the top of a mountain

J - this was 2018 and she like a times that she would look outside and she didn't have reception, like dude, listen, I'm not buying it, because her phone was very new...

S - they are in a crowded park it was never established that the park was like in the middle of nowhere...

J - Yeah, it's not like rural. Like there's a cell phone tower inside the park I guarantee it, and the park probably has Wi-Fi too, so like don't get on that s*** where it's like "I don't have any reception to call emergency."

S - You're not out on a haunted (yawns)... if you're not on a hiking trip you're going to have some sort of cell phone reception

J - Yes! And even on my trail that I worked at you had reception my friend, like, trust me. But anyway, yes, Sam said, what Sam said was true because if you're at a haunt and you're like freaked out and you saw some s*** that was real, and they don't believe you because actually, everything is meant to be a facade, that sucks.

S - I would be extremely frustrated.

J - (laughs) I would have just been like "alright I need to leave."

S - I would have been like all right if you're not going to do anything I'll just call the real police and then see what happens

J - yeah

S - oh wait she doesn't have cell service!

J - oh right, no cell service! But they like get there anyway, like the cops do arrive late, and when they arrive, it's in like a very bizarre SWAT-style and although there are several people with the same mask they somehow know which one to go after and then they're like "I can't find him but we'll keep looking" like what the f***, like come on now guys, you're never going to find him and whatever it was just kind of weird but I'm sure that would be quite terrifying if you're at a haunt and like the real police show up because something actually bad happened and you're like "uh oh, this is the real horrorshow coming true."

S - Mhmm

J - I also do you have like a quick note, just backtracking back to production, whenever they were going through, like, you know the first mazes and kind of showcasing the strobe effects and like really scary animatronics, and stuff, like that was really cool. Like they went all out and they had actual haunt equipment that they were working with and I can appreciate that...but there's one thing I must say about it. There's one part where everybody was kind of running around just like, it was like f***** running around, and then they were like doing a piggyback ride everybody was doing a piggyback ride, and for some reason the hallways in whatever maze they were in were so f***** enormous that all three of them were doing a piggyback ride! There's no way in hell you could just run around like that, and have that much open space in real life you don't have that much space! So, that's all I have to say about that. I kind of caught their bluff.

S - Having a maze that big kind of defeats the purpose of being scary. You want the tight corners.

J - yeah yeah they had too much space. Also there's something else I have to say..actually, let's go back to realistic aspects, I'll just say it in realistic aspects.

S - I just I remembered when we went to one of the Haunted Trails we went to up in Northern Virginia, I don't remember which one, but we were in a house at some point and then we just got to this big black empty room we all just stopped including the people behind us and we were

like “well where the f*** is the door” so you just whipped out your phone to get the flashlight out

J - Yeah dude because like real s*** you need to get the phone camera flashlight out or you’ll be in that room forever.

S - You would have to because our door was in this corner and it was a pretty big room and it was in the other corner and it's like, did they just expect us to like find it?

J - yeah to like walk across the room? (laughs)

S - And there was no scare actor in there anyway so that was a good thing because of how dark it is. There would have been a lot of stepped hands

J - Yeah a lot of stepped hands or a lot of bumps, or a lot of very scary scares.

S - accidental boob grabs?

J - yeah yeah and then you inch along the wall and you’re like “well how long do I have to inch along the wall I'm just going to say f*** it and utilize modern technology”

S - Yeah, we’ve gotta get through this so we can get our fried Oreos.

J - Yeah! And then you’re going through it and you’re like “uh oh am I going fast enough for the group behind me?” You really have to have time management in mind.

S - Yeah, alright go on with your realistic aspects.

J - Soooo, they were in like the first maze which they were having a lot of fun it was just a basic thing, which is actually, it wasn't a maze, it was just a haunted walk through. Whenever they got in there they were like touching a lot of the props and then they touched like a prop mannequin guy that was laying down and they were like “Let’s give him a boner” and I was like “first of all, why are you touching everything like stop touching everything!” As a scare actor, like, they

should be given rules that they're not allowed to touch anything at all. It was like nails on a chalkboard to see them like touching things. I kept thinking like "don't touch that, don't touch it, like what if you get your finger caught." Ya know, so like just, don't touch it. That, that's a really scary aspect of them just touching things.

S - Definitely don't touch S*** if it isn't yours

J - Yes! Don't touch it if you don't know if it's mechanical just be careful! But yeah so that's another realistic aspect, and then another huge one that is problematic and I'm kind of shocked that they had it here, but I guess it's like how it is these days, is like once they got there they immediately were like "let's do shots" and I was like "shots as in alcohol?" What kind of Attraction is this? Of course people are going to be murdered they're all like kind of drunk (meowing in background)

S - Yeah you're just asking for a lawsuit. I hear one of your cats, I think. You need to pay attention to it.

J - I know I think it's Pepper. So yeah it's it's problematic when you're drinking at a haunt, it is problematic for the actor is because like people can become drunk and belligerent and either become more afraid or they are more carefree and they can touch you and that's not allowed either

S - and that that ties back into people not wanting to go to Haunts just because they don't know how they're going to react when you add alcohol into that it gets so much worse

J - yeah and I don't know if that sounds fun to me like I don't drink myself, but it doesn't sound fun to like, be drunk and be afraid...

S - I'm not going to pay \$100 for an all-night Festival just to get blackout drunk at it (Laughing from Stormy)

J - And the point of going into a haunted attraction like walk-throughs is that you're supposed to be like a light on your.. not light on your feet, but like it is supposed to make you, you're

supposed to feel like out of control of your body as it is, you're supposed to like trip around and like have all these lights and all of your six senses are like totally assaulted and you're supposed to be uncomfortable and I don't know if that would be any fun or if you would get the full effect if you were just like "Let's do six shots." Because we're teenagers! They had to sneak that in somewhere, and it actually caused the death of one of the people in the group because he had to like see one of the actors who had the alcohol shot and he steals it because he's a thief and you have to die! That's the killer's M.O. he kind of cleans up the place.

S - yep

J - I'm trying to think if I have any more, do you have any more realistic aspects?

S - I don't think so...

J - okay well I have another one, that's the bathroom situation. So we have two individuals who do go to the bathroom, and they go to the bathroom by themselves and the cool thing about those bathrooms is that it's like a shelter, so you should expect there I guess not to be a scare actor in there, if there is a scare actor in there like, good, that's awesome, that means that that scare just got so much better because they're like kind of going all-in, but you have to understand that you're safe nowhere and if you go to one of those backwoods haunts like the one I used to work at, we didn't have like toilets we had like porta potties and of course those aren't safe, so you know what I mean, so you just going to have to watch out.

S - look I'm going to say having scare actors in the bathroom, maybe not a good idea because there's a reason people are going to the bathroom like that might get messy...

J - right, a little messy!

S - Something I have a hard time believing the bathrooms in this movie because both times they were empty, and when you're at a park that size there's going to be like 20 people waiting for the stalls

J - yeah there's gonna be a line so, yeah absolutely it was totally f***** empty over there like where is everybody? And there's not that many bathrooms so yeah there's that and I don't think

I can think of another realistic aspect... well, there's one thing I did want to mention before we do wrap up though and it's something that whoever wrote this script, whoever worked with the actors did extremely well (cat meows in background) and the person wrote like the Mindless chatter that comes out of your mouth whenever you're walking through the haunt, you know what I mean like you're trying to like crack jokes and likes a funny stuff and just keep talking because that calms you down, when you're going through the haunt, and all their mindless chatter was completely mindless, and they could have just not spoken and the same outcome would have happened. I'm glad that that was emphasized because even though it may have annoyed some viewers, that's what they do in the maze. They just talk like that, they make little quips and funny things, and this and that, and they flirt and they make jokes and try to make it light but I'm glad they emphasized that, because that's what I remember the most. I think I've been exhausted all the realistic aspects,

S - yeah I don't have any more. I like this movie I thought it was fun.

GRADING

J - It was a very fun I'm going to say "aw yeah that f***** me up" because at the beginning I wasn't so sure and then we started to pick up and get more violence and more blood, not a lot of gore, but it was brutal all the same, and that coupled with just fine spooky Halloween vibe, it was just an excellent film for me and I really enjoyed it so yeah "a plus"

S - yeah, it definitely f***** me up just that, and I blame Ari Aster for bringing head trauma to the Forefront of the horror genre, but when it works it works.

J - Yeah, we even got the shot of him stabbing that guy in the eyeball. It didn't cut away. And I was like Oh my god! But it was just enough, you know, it didn't go overboard, it was a pretty good balance of what he did with the kills, he didn't like overboard if he didn't need to. (Talking about the killer) If he was in a rush he'd just stab ya.

S - and at the end there he was in a rush cuz the park was going to close soon

J - (laughing) yeah he was in a rush, so yeah he was like "Hey I gotta go , I gotta leave the parks' closing." And hey, when the park was closing at the end and they were still in the scary hell

maze, like this all the stuff should have been turned off, and have the security lights should have been turned on at that point, you know what I mean, it's like where is everybody?

S - That's a really good point because I can't help but feel like all the rides will be shut down, all of the staff members would be assembled to keep people from going into the rides,

J - and all the other people who were in the haunts, I was hoping that there be at least one actor in the ride, but there was like none, to escort people out of here, and they should turn off all the stuff and like have the security lights come on and say "OK everybody please walk slowly and calmly towards the exit"

S - I feel like at this point, any good well-managed attraction like this, like state fairs, definitely amusement parks, they all have...because "hi this is America" they all have active shooter drills so the staff should be prepared for something like this to happen, in fact, it's probably easier to get around this when it's just one guy with a knife, though I mean, I guess you wouldn't have the big final running around the Maze scene and if you actually had that realistic part where the staff members kind of know what to do in this situation.

J - Yeah yeah and I feel like any haunted worth its salt is going to have exit signs, you know what I mean, just like in a movie theater would, illuminated exit signs, so that's important to note, usually there are big doors that say "exit" no matter how fancy of a haunt you're going through you'll kind of come across those. And these like didn't have those, so I'm like "how are you supposed to get out of there?" oh yeah so I think that's all I got

S - me too and it sounds like Pepper's done so...

J - Yeah Pepper (talking about pet cat) she brought me a toy and Shadow (talking about other cat) is here, so if you want, I can go ahead and read the outro?

S - hell yeah

J - alright guys so I have the outro up and ready to go so... Real Horrorshow was created by Sam Oty and Stormy Skies and is directed by Sam Oty. During this episode Sam and I learned that...

S - you should respect the scare actors...

J - yes respect the scare actors because if you act like a jerk, they'll stab you! Off with your head! They'll try because they're people too and they have feelings okay? Like what you hear? You can find Real Horrorshow on Spotify, TuneIn, Google Play Store, Stitcher, and iTunes, and Pandora! Really really like what you hear? Follow us on Twitter: @Horrorshowpod or search for Real Horrorshow on Twitter. Follow us on Facebook @Real Horrorshow. Like our page and share our stuff. We also have a website that all of our written reviews and podcasts can be found: realhorrorshow.com. Want to interact with us? Want to make sure we're real humans and not space vampires? Comment on our website or email us at realhorrorshowpodcast@gmail.com. Want to argue with us about something, or think you have a really great horror movie review that you're dying to share with two random strangers from the internet? Submissions are open for movie reviews! Check out the "submit" page on our website and follow the rubric before sending us anything! If it's not done according to the rubric, it will be disregarded. Sorry, not sorry. Submissions are open for our yearly anthology called "The October Monologues" ! Check out the submission guidelines on our website and send us your creepy shit! We love horror, and if you're listening, you do too. Please help us keep our project going by visiting our "support" page on our website where you can make a one-time donation via PayPal. We also have an Amazon wishlist if you feel like buying us something tangible will help convey your love more than a monetary donation would. Also, "Buy us a coffee!" is a button you can click that will pay us the amount you would need to buy a coffee, a little bit goes a long way! Sometimes we can't help out artists monetarily, and that's OK! By simply liking, sharing, retweeting, and even giving us an awesome review will help us out tremendously!

Any other pertinent news?

S - I don't think so.

J - I don't either you guys, if you want to keep up with us in between movies, just truck on through the Vampire Diaries because you know that we are going to chat about that in between.

S - yeah!

J - Other than that...Our outro song is called "Creepy Doll" by Jonathan Coulton! Thank you, fuck off and have a swell evening! This is Real Horrorshow signing off!

S - Bye

J - Bye-bye!