Deadmonton is just as horror-able as ever

**festival preview**

**Dedfest Horror Festival**

October 15-18

Metro Cinema (9126-104A Avenue),

$70/weekend, $20/day.

Tickets available at Mars and Venus and The Lobby.

Full schedule at www.dedfest.com

**GARR RICHES**

Arts & Entertainment Writer

What do lesbian vampire killers, zombie brides, and neighbours from hell all have in common? They’re going to make every movie fan tremble in pure horror at this year’s Dedfest Horror Festival.

Kevin Martin and Derek Clayton, the genre-obsessed creators of this unique event, are thrilled about hosting yet another shocking carnival of severed limbs and disembowelled lurkings at Edmonton’s Metro Cinema. With only a week remaining until the horror movie festival, the level of anticipation and excitement is as potent as a nostril flush. With last year’s festival completely sold out, Martin and Clayton are expecting the Metro to be packed with horror freaks of all kinds. Dedfest 2009 will once more of punk rockers, metalheads, and horror movie hounds.

“Right after we announced we were putting on another Deddsfest Horror Festival, people were blindly buying tickets without knowing which movies were going to be featured,” explains Clayton.

New and underground movies such as Neighbor, Rampage, Vampire Girl vs. Frankenstein Girl, Blood Thirst, and Escape from Dead Planet are sure to quench any horror fan’s thirst for the unimaginable at Dedfest. The major motion picture at this year’s Dedfest is the brain-munching masterpiece, Return of the Living Dead.

“This is a movie about punk rockers taking on zombies. This movie kicks ass on every level possible! I had my first crush on a woman because of this movie. When she performed the striptease in the graveyard, my eight-year-old mind was on fire,” Martin exclaims as he reminisces about the innocence of graveyard romance.

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DEREK CLAYTON

CO-CREATOR OF DEDSTF FESTIVAL

Even better, it’s being presented in 35mm.

“There’s something about the sound of the pop and the hiss of a 35mm print, which is why we get a more horror movie, we want to showcase it on 35mm because it makes it special,” Clayton adds.

“There was something almost religious going on when we walked into the projection booth in the Metro and saw these big cans of film. They were just there, sitting in dust. There was something magical about it,” Clayton says.

“What was even more magical was seeing the face of the old-school projectionists of the Metro and seeing how happy he was,” Martin chirps in.

Despite the popularity of movie downloading and plain old movie piracy, the nostalgia of the communal movie theatre experience will never die, according to Martin and Clayton. The atmosphere at the Metro is another feature that attracts people. Not only does it serve beer (always a great complement to any horror film), but it provides a very authentic movie experience.

“At Dedfest Horror Movie Festival, people are more interactive and active in the movie theatres by yelling at the screen and cracking open beers,” Clayton says.

“We want to maintain that mythological factor, similar to the famous Grindhouse Theatres in the 1970s — it’s a pretty raucous affair,” Martin adds.

Clayton and Martin are also planning to keep the adrenaline pumping for the rest of year by showcasing monthly screenings at the Metro.

“The Metro has put faith in us to give one Friday a month some new-and-old-school flicks that you would never think of seeing on the big screen,” Clayton says. “This will build a brand name for the city and keep the momentum going.”

So what is it about Edmonton that makes it an ideal dwelling place for horror freaks and the living dead?

“I realized that there are a lot of people in Edmonton that are interested in this stuff. I’m not the only freak,” Martin says.

“The reason why we enjoy putting on Dedfest Horror Film Festival is because Edmonton has this crazy involvement in horror movies. Films such as one of David Cronenberg’s early Films Fair Company, the TV show Fear Factor, From Night to Night, and the first two Ginger Snaps movies were all shot here,” Clayton explains.

With the fifth-annual Deadstorm Film Festival fast approaching, Martin and Clayton aim at uploading films as a prominent name in horror movie circles.

“No matter what kind of vacancy is, no matter what kind of vacancy is going on, there will always be two things that people will be excited about: alcohol and movies. Hey, we get both to offer that weekend at Dedfest,” reminds Martin.

The blood-flow drenched in beer and zombie drool awakes.