

## Jeff Kirkendall's Thoughts For The Month Column

Thoughts, Opinions, Reviews, Commentary & More!

Hello and Welcome! My name is Jeff Kirkendall and I'm an independent filmmaker and actor from the Upstate New York area. This is the section of the Very Scary Productions website where I write about topics related to independent filmmaking, digital video production, acting, movies in general, horror movies in particular, my own indie movies, as well as anything and everything related or in between.

I decided to create this commentary page because I find that I often come across things that either interest me, excite me, intrigue me, or maybe just bug me. Any topic related to movies and cinema is fair game, from the most mainstream to the most controversial. For example I'll often read about movie projects that I have a strong interest in or opinion on, for one reason or another. This page gives me a forum to discuss these things. It's all about discussion and furthering understanding of our pop culture. Anyone who has feedback concerning what I have to say here, feel free to contact me (see the contact link at <http://www.veryscaryproductions.com/>).

I'd also like to point out that the following is just my opinion, and everyone is free to agree or disagree with what I have to say. Enjoy, and to all the Indies out there: Keep on Filming!

SUBJECT: New Projects, New Beginnings 2005 - Production begins on *Shadow Tracker: Resurrection* – July 2005

As regular readers may have noticed, the main title of this column is the same as the title of my July 2003 TFTM column. This is because two years later I'm fortunate enough to once again be involved in new projects. In July 2003 I was beginning work directing the comedy *Of Theatre & Bikinis*, and now I'd like to talk about my experiences to date working on the vampire feature *Shadow Tracker: Resurrection*.

*Shadow Tracker: Resurrection* is the long-in-the-works sequel to the independent vampire epic *Shadow Tracker: Vampire Hunter*. Like the first movie, this one is being written & directed by my friend filmmaker Joe Bagnardi and being produced in Upstate New York. I'm working in various capacities behind the scenes, and I'm also scheduled to edit the picture when shooting is completed. I'm especially pleased to be a part of this movie because of my fondness for the first one. You see, *Shadow Tracker: Vampire Hunter* provided me with one of my first film acting gigs. In the movie I had a bit part (no pun intended) as a graveyard vampire who attacks Ron Rausch's title vampire hunter character. This wasn't too long after I began auditioning for movie roles, and I was actually the first one to try-out for the film. Even though it was a small part, I remember how exciting the shoot was. The scene was shot in an area graveyard and involved some cool makeup effects. It was a true independent horror movie experience. We even got temporarily locked in the place after the shoot because we stayed too long past closing time! That scene was a good introduction to the world of low-budget horror and action movies, and I remember the biggest thrill for me being when the movie was premiered in my area (and then subsequently released on home video). Seeing yourself in a movie for the first time is definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Now, ten years since production began on the first film, the second is underway. And I feel privileged to have been asked to be a part of the creative team behind this sequel.

Our first shoot for *Shadow Tracker: Resurrection* was on the same calendar date that filming of the original began on back in 1995. As of this writing we've shot for a few weekends, and so far I've had the pleasure of working with returning original cast members Ron Rausch and Voni Powell, as well as good friend Ed Dimmer, who was a producer on the first film. Everybody is doing a great job and it's cool to see some familiar characters come to life again before our eyes. It should continue to be exciting as more returning cast members begin filming along with the numerous new cast members coming on board. To date we've shot mostly dialog scenes using a tripod, which to me almost feels like a warm-up for the numerous action sequences to come. In fact I'd say exciting action set-pieces were a big strength of the first movie, so it should be interesting to see how things turn out this time around. Joe shot the first movie on Super 8 film over the course of about two years, while the planned shooting period for this digital video production is approximately six months. Oh how times change. Right now I won't discuss the plot, but I will say I believe fans of the original will enjoy this film. *Shadow Tracker: Resurrection* has many elements that capture the same spirit as its predecessor, while still being its own entity. Keep watching the site for more information and updates on the movie in the months ahead.