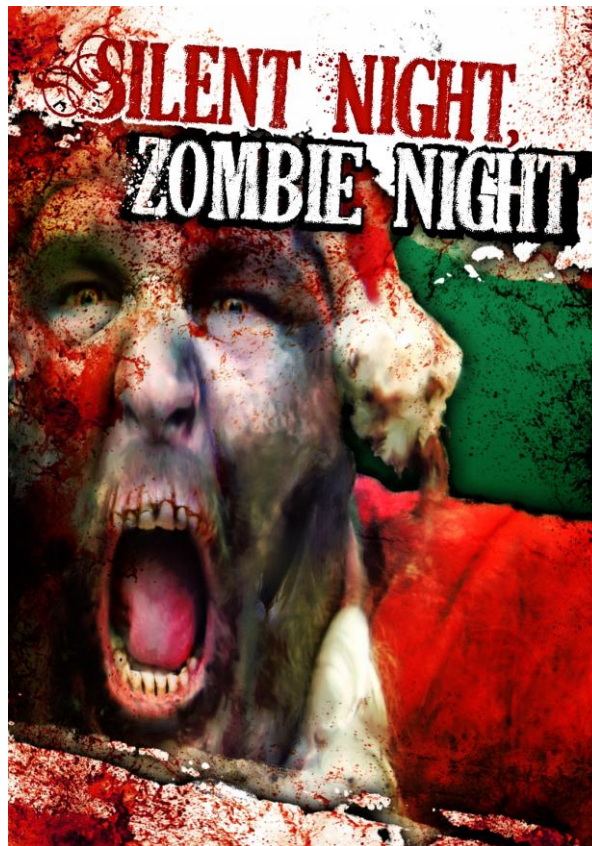


# Silent Night, Zombie Night

**A Velvet Hammer Films/ArsonCuff Entertainment Production**



**“...Cain has out-Romeroed George Romero...”**  
- Robin Pierce, GoreZone Magazine

# Silent Night, Zombie Night | Press Kit

Running Time: 83 minutes  
NR: Contains violence, language

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## **Synopsis (short version)**

A week before Christmas a viral outbreak turns the citizens of Los Angeles into the walking dead.

## **Synopsis (long version)**

A week before Christmas a viral outbreak turns the citizens of Los Angeles into the walking dead.

On the brink of severing ties with both his wife and longtime partner, L.A.P.D. officer Frank Talbot finds himself trapped with them. As death closes in their survival is further threatened by the fact that both men love the same woman.

# Silent Night, Zombie Night | Press Kit

## Cast

<b>Frank Talbot</b>	<b>Jack Forcinito</b>
<b>Nash Jackson</b>	<b>Andy Hopper</b>
<b>Sarah Talbot</b>	<b>Nadine Stenovitch</b>
<b>Jeffrey Hannigan</b>	<b>Lew Temple</b>
<b>Paul Irwin</b>	<b>Vernon Wells</b>
<b>Elsa Lansing</b>	<b>Felissa Rose</b>
<b>Raccoon</b>	<b>Tim Muskatell</b>
<b>Box-Mart</b>	<b>Luke Y. Thompson</b>
<b>Debutante</b>	<b>Sara Tomko</b>
<b>Little Daddy</b>	<b>Ricardo Gray</b>
<b>Fingers</b>	<b>John Karyus</b>
<b>Henry Glendon</b>	<b>Jimmy Williams</b>
<b>Melissa</b>	<b>Melanie Doyle</b>
<b>Lookout</b>	<b>Domiziano Arcangeli</b>
<b>Santa Zombie</b>	<b>Chris Gabriel</b>

## Crew

<b>Writer, Director, Producer</b>	<b>Sean Cain</b>
<b>Producer</b>	<b>Wes Laurie</b>
<b>Executive Producer</b>	<b>Mary Laurie</b>
<b>Cinematographer</b>	<b>James Wright</b>
<b>Composer</b>	<b>Mario Salvucci</b>
<b>Associate Producers</b>	<b>Melanie Doyle</b>
	<b>Jimmy Williams</b>
	<b>Ron Beall</b>

# Silent Night, Zombie Night | Press Kit

## About the Production

Director Sean Cain explains how “Silent Night, Zombie Night” came into being. “I tried to image “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” meets “28 Days Later.” Zombies are great for exploring human relationships and SNZN is about two police officers and the woman they love thrown into a situation where death is sooner rather than later. Unless they work out their problems there’s no chance at long term survival.”

Having started the film business as an editor on Victor Salva’s (“Jeepers Creepers”) as-yet-unreleased film, “Kindred Spirits”, Sean was no stranger to horror when he started his first feature, “Naked Beneath the Water” which debuted on DVD in 2008. It was a fateful interview conducted by Wes Laurie for “Naked” that eventually grew into a multi-feature collaboration between Cain’s Velvet Hammer Films and Laurie’s ArsonCuff Entertainment.

Laurie, the lead contributor for the horror-based website TerrorTube, was looking to break into the business as a screenwriter. Cain was trying to raise funding for his next picture. The two of them struck a two-picture deal. One script by Cain, the other by Laurie. Cain would direct and both of them would produce. The first result being “Silent Night, Zombie Night.”

Principal photography took place in December of 2008 over the course of 12 days during which the production had to twice contend with the Los Angeles Police Department stopping by after calls from neighbors over “men running down the streets with guns.” The first time included a police helicopter and multiple squad cars, which upon seeing the zombies, realized their mistake. The second time included the Fire Department, who stopped en masse at seeing the prop police car on set. Even though it was the wrong address they hung around to get autographs from the female members of the cast.

Although December was the perfect opportunity to utilize exterior Christmas decorations as a natural production design, there were fewer hours in the day, which created problems when the production team, led by Director of Photography Jim Wright had to falsify daylight. This created long hours and a grueling schedule, which was compounded when Tim Muskatell, playing Raccoon was, run over while riding to set on his scooter (He survived with a broken shoulder).

It was decided at the end of the initial 12 days that the final location needed, which took place at the beginning of the film, would come as a pick up day. It was then that director Cain assembled his footage and in February of 2009 the team went back for two more days getting the missing scenes as well as a lot more zombie carnage.

Casting for the film proved fairly easy, as Cain had worked with most of the actors on previous films including genre vets such as Vernon Wells (“The Road Warrior”, “Commando”), Lew Temple (“The Devil’s Rejects”, “Trailer Park of Terror”) & Felissa Rose (“Sleepaway Camp”). The only newcomer to the Velvet Hammer Films camp was co-star Andy Hopper who was chosen from a casting call. After sitting down with Hopper one day Cain learned they both grew up in the same hometown!

During post-production Cain turned to composer Mario Salvucci (“Jessicka Rabid”) to create the unique sound found on the film’s score. Salvucci currently lives in Rome and initially Cain was worried it would be difficult to work with someone so far away. However, with the help of Gmail chat the two created a workflow that was remarkably simple. In a matter of weeks Salvucci finished the score for SNZN, which was reminiscent of a young Ennio Morricone.

# Silent Night, Zombie Night | Press Kit

## **Director/Cast Bios**

### **Sean Cain** (short version)

Having studied and worked under writer-director, Victor Salva (Jeepers Creepers), Sean Cain released his first film, “Naked Beneath the Water” in 2008. Since then he’s directed two more films, “Silent Night, Zombie Night” & “Breath of Hate” in the span of less than a year which prompted Fangoria to dub him the ‘Indie Horror Specialist.’

### **Sean Cain** (long version)

Originally hailing from the San Francisco Bay Area, director Sean Cain credits his father for leading him astray down the path known as filmmaking. When he was a child the family would reenact scenes from his father's favorite television show, "Mike Hammer" on video and watch them after dinner.

It was years later that Sean officially began in the movie business as an editor on “Jeepers Creepers” writer-director Victor Salva's as-yet-unreleased "Kindred Spirits."

In 1995, Sean graduated from the film department at San Francisco State and immediately flew out to Houston, Texas where he spent the next two months working on Salva's “Powder.” Having enjoyed his time in the Lone Star State, he spent the next couple of years working in the film industry there that led to directing the short film, "South of Heaven" starring Lew Temple ("The Devil's Rejects").

Sean now resides in Los Angeles where he created Velvet Hammer Films with his long time business partner, Jim Wright. After releasing his first film, “Naked Beneath the Water” in early 2008, he went on to direct two films, “Silent Night, Zombie Night” (teaming up again with Temple) and “Breath of Hate” (which stars Jason Mewes, best known from the Kevin Smith films as the unforgettable "Jay").

Sean also served as a producer on two other projects, "Someone’s Knocking at the Door” and “Warning!!! Pedophile Released” in the span of less than a year, which prompted Fangoria to recently dub him the ‘Indie Horror Specialist.’

# Silent Night, Zombie Night | Press Kit

## **Vernon Wells**

Strong featured Australian actor born in rural Victoria in December 1945 whom initially worked in a quarry, and then as a salesman. Got himself noticed by casting agents and started to appear in Australian TV commercials, print ads, local Australian TV shows such as "Homicide" and "Matlock Police".

However, Wells is probably best known to international audiences as the homicidal biker Wez, in the big budget "Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior" where Welles portrays a psychotic, post apocalyptic gang leader who relentlessly pursues hero Mel Gibson, before meeting a spectacular death at the film's finale. Hollywood beckoned for Wells, and he spoofed his mad biker role in the popular teen comedy "Weird Science", before taking on another villainous role as the treacherous ex-soldier Bennett, who foolishly double crosses Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Commando". Once more, Wells meets a dramatic end, as he is impaled against a boiler at the film's conclusion, as big Arnold remarks, "Let off some steam, Bennett".

Wells continues to find work as a "villain" in such fare as "Innerspace", "Sunset", "Last Man Standing", "Circuitry Man", "Kick of Death", "Starforce" and more recently as the futuristic criminal Ransik in the high popular "Power Rangers."

## **Lew Temple**

Born and raised in the Bayou Country of Louisiana, Lew Temple's most recent film credits include critically acclaimed "Waitress", Rob Zombie's "Halloween" & "The Devil's Rejects", "Heavens Fall", "The Visitation", the Oscar nominated "21 Grams", "Rolling Kansas" and Tony Scott's "Domino" & upcoming "Unstoppable."

Lew began his acting career on the stage of the prestigious Alley Theatre in Houston, Texas, working alongside artists such as Vanessa Redgrave in Julius Caesar and Anthony & Cleopatra, as well as acclaimed writer/directors Michael Wilson, Terrance McNally and Edward Albee.

Prior to acting, Lew had a Minor League Baseball career with the Seattle Mariners and Houston Astros. He worked his way through the Astros system to become Assistant Director of Minor Leagues and Scouting. Lew is a graduate of Rollins College in Florida. Lew is married with a child.

# Silent Night, Zombie Night | Press Kit

## **Felissa Rose**

At the age of 13 Felissa began her horror career starring in the cult hit “Sleepaway Camp.” She was asked to reprise her role in “Sleepaway Camp 2” & 3, but turned the producers down to go to the prestigious Tisch School of the Arts in NYU, although she came back to star in 2008's “Return to Sleepaway Camp.”

Some of Felissa's other work includes; “Satan’s Playground”, the documentary “His Name Was Jason: 30 Years of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>” (with Seth Green), and the upcoming “Blood de Madam: The Fallen One’s” directed by Herschell Gordon Lewis (“Wizard of Gore”).

## **Jack Forcinito**

Jack is a veteran of stage, screen and TV having amassed a plethora of credits such as “NYPD Blue”, “The District” (with Craig T. Nelson), “Bitter Vengeance” starring Virginia Madsen and Bruce Greenwood, “As Good As Dead” (with Judge Reinhold) and “Bloodhounds” starring Corbin Bernsen.

During the late 80's and early 90's you could find Jack starring in scores of action films such as “Mutant Species” (with Powers Boothe and Wilford Brimley), “Night Trap” starring Robert Davi and Michael Ironside, “Presumed Guilty”, “The Lost Platoon”, “Demon Wind” and “Blackbelt.”

## **Andy Hopper**

Andy's film credits include the soon to be released, “Political Disasters”, as well as, “Before Turning the Gun”, “Girl on a Bed”, “Shining On”, “Carrots for Hare” (directed by Academy Award Winner Waleed Moursi), “Perfect” (directed by Fangoria fave BC Furtney) and “Licorice Stick”, which he co-wrote with Emmy nominated, Mark Segurson.

His television credits include “CSI:NY”, among others. He is co-founder/Artistic Director of the Los Angeles based theater company, REPO Division and a graduate of The California Institute of the Arts.

## **Nadine Stenovitch**

A native of Rhode Island, Nadine began her television career with a stint for the popular soap “Another World.” This led to guest starring spots in such shows as “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” and “Nash Bridges.”

Her film roles include “Beacon Hill” (with “Soprano’s” star Drea de Matteo), “Heaven”, “The Opponent” co-starring with Erika Eleniak and recently appeared in the Angelina Jolie animated film “Beowulf.”