



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Arik Ben Treston
Tel: 323-656-8959
Cell Phone: 818-618-0982
Email: arik@standingroompictures.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT A LARGE GAY CANON YOU HAVE

The queer vampire flick **Scab** joins the growing ranks of made-by-gay, made-for-gay movies that explores a “scary” side of gay culture.

February 23, 2005, Hollywood, CA - On Friday, March 11th the queer vampire flick **Scab** will have its first, invite-only screening in Hollywood. The makers of **Scab** offer up the flick as an adjunct to recent mainstreamed gay fare. **Scab** follows Ajay, a club-boy who is bitten and vampirized by a one-night stand. Not content to squander his immortality alone, Ajay is intent on making his geek-friend Teague a bloodsucker, too. Or kill him trying.

“Sweet and innocent is cute,” Writer/director Thomas Jason Davis says. “But screwed-up is much more fun. Screwed-up gives the actors and myself so many more places to go. And this is why those movies made by queers, for queers are so much fun. They’re not politically correct. They’re not slick and sanitized. They’re real and raw and unexpected.” **Scab** producer Arik Ben Treston adds, “It’s definitely reminiscent of 70s cinema, before music-video editing and gratuitous CGI. It’s storytelling. Sometimes it’s sick and twisted, but it’s good nonetheless.” Davis comments, “**Scab** doesn’t sugar-coat. It doesn’t pander—too much. **Scab**’s a smart, fun, and pointed flick. Not that there’s anything wrong with fluff. I’m simply looking for a balance.” Who knew there was an *imbalance*?

Recently, in fact, the sound-bites have weighed in gay culture’s favor. SpongeBob might or might not be gay. Buster Bunny is a Sapphic-sympathizer. Patty on *The Simpson’s* is a dyke. But this has happened before. 1999, Jerry Falwell outs Tinky Winky. 1996, Ross’ lesbian wife takes a bride. 1994, Roseanne locks lips with Mariel Hemingway. The list continues. Be they good or questionable, each is a milestone. Each headline took gay culture a step closer to the mainstream. This may also be the drawback, however. Each headline took gay culture a step closer to the *mainstreamed*: the sanitized, the gentrified, the white-bread and middle-American.

“It’s not just these blips on the radar,” notes Treston. “Gay culture institutions are mainstreamed. *Will & Grace*, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, and the *Ellen DeGeneres Show* read like any other hetero-show. The queers are neutered, sexless. Which is not to say these shows are bad. At least they get us out there on middle-America’s TVs. But the gay community has never been complacent. These toothless shows won’t be the only addition to the gay literary canon.”

“Shows like *Queer as Folk* and *The L Word* help balance things out,” says **Scab** producer Randall Walk. “These are familiar—albeit exaggerated—representations of our community, our culture. This is entertainment for queers, by queers. And films like *Bear Cub*, *Brother to Brother*, *The Raspberry Reich*, and *Hellbent* give further voice to the niches and subcultures within the gay community.”

Before the late 90s gay culture had no explicit mainstream presence, but the gay community had a cinematic voice. Before the last several years, however, a majority of queer movies functioned almost exclusively to explain and justify queer culture. These were the equivalent of the “Sally Has a Special Visitor” films from middle school: they educated the uninformed and validated the afflicted. “These are great movies,” Davis says. “*Beautiful Thing. Edge of Seventeen. But I’m a Cheerleader.* These movies mark a very specific time in the maturation of gay culture. Now many queer filmmakers have moved beyond justifying and have started exploring. This is where I’m coming from and it’s exciting. And this excitement infects **Scab**.”

Scab is currently primed for the queer film festival circuit. In addition to early distributor interest, **Scab** has been mentioned in Fangoria Magazine, San Diego Gay and Lesbian Times, Mega Scene Newspaper, Q Vegas Magazine, and In Magazine.

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If you’d like to receive a full press kit for the film “Scab” or information about Standing Room Pictures, please contact Arik Ben Treston at 818-618-0982 or at arik@standingroompictures.com

About Standing Room Pictures:

Standing Room Pictures, LLC., was founded in 2004 in Los Angeles, CA, by Thomas Jason Davis and home entertainment industry veteran Arik Ben Treston. The production company was formed to produce high-concept projects with an eye towards a fresh perspective.

Current projects include the alternative vampire feature "Scab" and development on feature films, “Scary Mary” and “Wading in Silverlake”, and an episodic series. On the web at: www.standingroompictures.com