

"A step above most Bigfoot films"
ALL THINGS HORROR

"A whole lot of fun"
AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

"Smart, well made and witty"
HICKEY'S HOUSE OF HORRORS



STOMPING GROUND

BEWARE WHAT YOU GO SEARCHING FOR.

YOU JUST MIGHT FIND IT.

CALIFORNIA PICTURES IN ASSOCIATION WITH IRRATIONAL FILMS AND ANVIL ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS "STOMPING GROUND"
JOHN BOBEK TARAH DESPAIN JERAMY BLACKFORD JUSTIN GIDDINGS AND A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY THERESA TILLY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALEXANDER SABLON
EDITED BY NICOLE WEST ORIGINAL MUSIC BY TED SPEAKER MAKEUP & DIZZWORK DESIGNS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVEN ISTOCK JUSTIN FINNEY DELBERT SHOOPMAN
PRODUCED BY BRAD LAVERY AND MIKE DE TRANA WRITTEN BY DAN RIESSER AND ANDREW GENSER DIRECTED BY DAN RIESSER

TAGLINE:

Beware what you go searching for. You might find it.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

A young couple on a weekend trip in the American south embark on an impromptu "Bigfoot hunt" that threatens both their relationship and their lives.

LONG SYNOPSIS:

Ben & Annie are a young couple living in Chicago, on a weekend trip to Annie's small North Carolina hometown. At the local bar they run into Paul, a charming old friend of Annie's, and Ben learns something he never knew about his girlfriend: She believes in Bigfoot. In fact, she and her friends used to "hunt" for the creature when they were kids. Before Ben knows it, he's off on an impromptu Squatchin' trip deep in the Carolina backwoods. Amidst the Squatch calls, campfire stories and beers, Ben quickly realizes that Paul may have an ulterior motive in bringing Annie to the woods. And something else out here seems to be after her as well. Everyone but Ben thinks its Bigfoot. But it can't be, can it? After all, Bigfoot isn't real...

TECHNICAL SPECS:

TRT: 80 Minutes

Language: English

Country: USA

Video: 2.35:1, Color

Audio: Stereo, Dolby 5.1

Shooting Format: RED Epic

Genre: Horror, Comedy

WEBSITES:

stompinggroundfilm.com

facebook.com/stompgroundfilm

twitter.com/stompgroundfilm

FILMMAKER BIOS:

Dan Riesser – Director, Co-Writer, Executive Producer

Dan is an Emmy nominated producer & filmmaker based in Los Angeles, CA. His award-winning 2010 short film *Night of the Punks* played over 30 festivals worldwide including “Screamfest LA.” It has been called “insanely enjoyable” (Bloody-Disgusting.com), “a splatfest of awesome” (Ain't It Cool News) and “a hell of a good movie” (Film School Rejects). From 2005 to 2015 his producing and directing could be seen weekly on E! Entertainment's pop culture show *The Soup* starring Joel McHale. Dan is an indie filmmaker who specializes in genre films with a smart blend of horror, thriller and dark comedy. *Stomping Ground* is his first feature film. For more info and work samples, visit danriesser.com.

Andrew Genser – Co-Writer

Andrew is a screenwriter/television writer, formerly writing for *The Soup* with Joel McHale.

Mike De Trana – Producer

Mike is a manager with Anvil Entertainment, as well as a film and television producer. His credits include *Kiss Before the Slaughter*, UCB's “Tournament of Nerds” and Nerdist's “Dork Fork.”

Brad Lavery – Producer

Brad has produced & directed content for organizations such as Stanford Medical University, the Ride Janie Ride Foundation and Animal Plant's "Shark Week," as well as award winning shorts, features and web content.

Alexander Sablow – Director of Photography

Alexander was born outside of New York City and raised between the US and Iceland. He is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts, School of Filmmaking. His films have screened at various festivals including SXSW, LAFF, AFI FEST, Locarno, Slamdance, and more.

Ted Speaker – Music

Ted is a film composer, producer and editor. Ted has scored, produced and edited features, shorts, documentaries, commercials and corporate campaigns. His credits include *Humpday* and *Prairie Love*, both of which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

PRINCIPAL CAST BIOS:



John Bobek – Ben

As an actor, John has been seen in major films, television, and on the stage. As a musician, his album “Out of Place” was released to great reception, and his new album is forthcoming. *Stomping Ground* marks his third collaboration with director Dan Riesser.



Tarah DeSpain – Annie

Tarah was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. She attended college at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts for Drama. Upon finishing school, she moved to New York City for several years performing in Theatre, and is now a native of Los Angeles working as an Actress in Film.



Jeramy Blackford – Paul

Jeramy Blackford is a North Carolina based actor and singer songwriter who makes one hell of an old fashioned.



Justin Giddings – Jed

Justin is a longtime stage, film, television and voice over actor best known for his role as the star of the hit zombie-comedy series "Bite Me."



Theresa Tilly – Mrs. Matthews

Theresa continues to make international appearances for her role in Sam Raimi's iconic cult horror film *The Evil Dead*. She can be seen in the Starz series *Ash VS Evil Dead* this Fall. See her in supporting roles as Morena Bicaran's mother in the feature film *Old Days* and in *Oz the Great and the Powerful* with James Franco.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

Stomping Ground is my first feature film, and even though it's a movie about a big hairy mythical beast, it's still a very personal film for me. Making a movie about the south and filming in my home state of North Carolina was important. Telling an authentic character-driven story that doesn't paint everything in southern stereotypes was crucial. And spending a month "back home" surrounded by old friends and family to bring my first feature film to life was an absolute dream come true. I hope everyone who watches it becomes a believer.

-Dan Riesser

FILM FESTIVALS:

Dances With Films – Hollywood, CA
Sidewalk Film Festival – Birmingham, AL
FilmDayton Festival – Dayton, OH
South Alabama Film Festival – Mobile, AL
Thriller Chiller Film Festival – Grand Rapids, MI
Frels Fright Fest – Victoria, TX
Indie Memphis Film Festival – Memphis, TN
Razor Reel Flanders Film Festival – Bruges, Belgium
Cucalorus Film Festival – Wilmington, NC
Oxford Film Festival – Oxford, MS
Ozark Foothills Film Festival – Batesville, AR
The Alhambra Theatre Film Festival – Evansville, IL
Virginia Independent Horror Film Festival – Winchester, VA

AWARDS:

Special Jury Award: The Soul of Southern Film
Indie Memphis Film Festival (2014)

Best of 2014
FilmBizarro.com

Best Festival Genre Films of 2014
All Things Horror

PRESS REVIEWS:

“Now, I’m not one for rom coms, but writer/director Dan Riesser and writer Andrew Genser really did a great job of capturing the uncomfortable feeling one has when finding out that your significant other actually had a life before meeting you. Sure it’s a selfish thing, but when you’re dating a girl, you don’t want to know your girl was a heavy drinking wild child and you certainly don’t want to meet any of her exes. Sure, *Scott Pilgrim* made it all seem trendy and cool, but really, it just leads to discomfort. And this story, played out by these talented actors does a great job of making this feel real, but not forgetting to add the comedic elements. The comedy, though, doesn’t necessarily come from any sitcom antics, but from the familiarity of the situation and the brutal honesty the two leads convey to one another.

But I could see those attracted to this film for its rom-com-aciousness be somewhat put off by the late in the game switcheroo to horror in the final act. Sure the threat of a Bigfoot is always there from pretty much the beginning, but while this film warmed my heart for most of the time, it startled me at how full on horror it gets. Personally, I liked this surprise turn of events, but I bet not everyone will.

For me, *Stomping Ground* is a highly successful relational drama with some Bigfoot horror sprinkled in for good measure. I must admit that it is a bit uneven as the switch to horror comes a bit late in the game, but the quality of the relationship stuff from writing to acting to directing made me stick with it all the way and it only built my investment in getting out of this Squatchy situation alive. Successful in warming the heart and chilling the bones, *Stomping Ground* was a whole lot of fun to watch.”

Mark Millar – *Ain't It Cool News*

“The cast are all great, each one exceptionally well-written, and the high calibre of writing continues into the storyline. The central mystery about what is going on deep in the woods is compelling, especially with regards to the enigmatic Boojum. This is all heightened by Riesser's assured direction. He managed to juggle the character and comedy aspects with a building tension.

Then, when the shit finally hits the fan during the fast-moving climax, Riesser shows that he can handle the more thrilling scenes every bit as well as the character driven ones that precede it. The final siege and rescue mission move at a cracking pace and have a real sense of frenetic urgency to them. This is some very good work from a very talented filmmaker.”

Hickey's House of Horrors

"I was impressed with "Stomping Ground" as a debut feature since, not only was it a good movie, but because the writing and performances gave me something that felt real. The different parts of the movie all come from an emotional element that I think anyone could relate to, in terms of intimate relationships. It's not easy to find a creature-feature where the characters are as relatable and believable as they are in "Stomping Ground". Even if you don't necessarily find yourself invested in that aspect of the movie, there's still that slow-boiling tension and atmosphere about something lurking in the woods that should appease the rest of the audience."

FilmBizarro.com

"Stomping Ground puts much larger emphasis on its characters and the humor that arises from Ben being so far out of his comfort zone. Over the course of the weekend Ben finds out he doesn't know his girlfriend as well as he believed, and this coupled with his natural anxiety over dating someone he believes to be so far out of his league turns him into a neurotic ball of nerves. Of greater interest is the growing rivalry between Ben and Paul over Annie. Paul exploits Ben's insecurities, along with his built in home court advantage, going so far as to warn Ben to his face that he plans of stealing Annie from him. The classic piece of storytelling Stomping Ground reminded me of times was Washington Irving's The Legend of Sleepy Hollow with Blackford channeling the brash Brom Bones and Bobek in the hapless Ichabod Crane role. Stomping Ground is at its best when it runs with the idea that Paul is just doing anything he can to mindfuck Ben and keeps Bigfoot's reality in question.

Though he doesn't make an appearance until late in the film, Bigfoot does show up all full of piss and vinegar. Riesser embraces his film's B-movie roots, and give us a fairly schlocky man-in-a-suit presentation of Sasquatch. I could be mistaken here, but I'm 99% certain there were stink lines emanating from its mouth, indicating the horrid dental hygiene habits of the monster. The violence and the effect work in the last act are no doubt cartoonish, but they're also used judiciously. If Stomping Ground was filled from pillar to post with low budget FX, it would have gotten boring fast. Instead, Riesser delivers brief, but fun, does of Velveeta that finds Bigfoot wreaking havoc.

With a cast that delivers better performances than one would expect from low budget fare, and terrific use of the natural settings, *Stomping Ground* looks and feels a hell of a lot better than you'd expect from a B film. It's a step above most of the Bigfoot themed films we've received of late, and most of all, it never forgets to be fun."

Mike Snoonian – All Things Horror

CREDITS:

Directed by	Dan Riesser
Written by	Dan Riesser Andrew Genser
Creature Design & Makeup FX by Creature Performed by	Dizzwork Designs Kurt Carley
Line Producer	Alexandra Dimopoulos
Assistant Director	Cody Cundiff
Director of Photography	Alexander Sablow
Edited by	Nicole West
Original Music by	Ted Speaker
Banjo Arrangements by	Ben Riesser
Sound Editor & Re-Recording Mixer	Paul Hollman
Produced by	Brad Lavery Mike De Trana
Executive Producers	Dan Riesser Andrew Genser Delbert Shoopman Steven Istock Justin Finney
Ben	John Bobek
Annie	Tarah DeSpain
Paul	Jeremy Blackford
Jed	Justin Giddings
Mrs. Matthews	Theresa Tilly
Max	Huntington Daly
Marcy	Sarah Simmons Turner
Stan	Michael Kimel
Moonshine Guy	Thad Bateman
Hunter #1	Gabe Wood
Hunter #2	Joseph Allen Cavin
Boojum	Kurt Carley