

# FANGORIA

AUG.

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GIANT FOLD-OUT POSTERS INSIDE!

THE BABY RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES WAKE WOOD

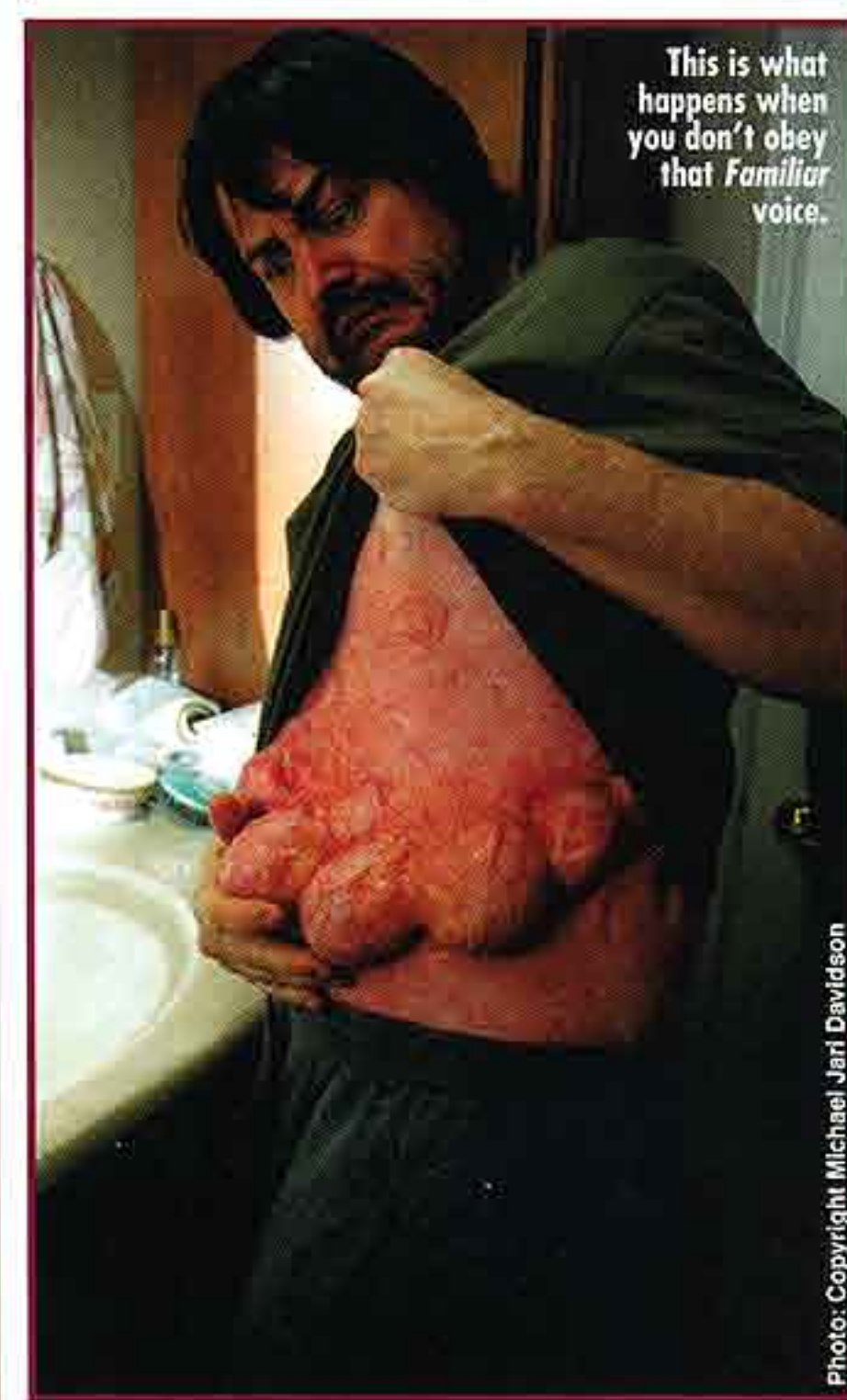
AMICUS REMEMBERED!

THE DEAD HORROR EXPRESS THE THEATRE BIZARRE

Ashley Thorpe n.



www.fangoria.com



This is what happens when you don't obey that Familiar voice.

## "FAMILIAR" Twisting the mind and body

Another example of the short horror film done right is rising Canadian filmmaker Richard Powell's *Familiar*, a psychological body-horror picture that is as freakish as it is deeply disturbing, a dark character study with graphic, stomach-churning FX courtesy of The Butcher Shop (*Death Race*, *Left for Dead*, *Resident Evil: Afterlife*).

"*Familiar* is a horror film, but my interpretation of horror is rather wide," says Powell of his chilling, carefully controlled mini-masterpiece. "It's concerned more with morality and identity than it is with blood and guts. But rest assured, we've certainly got that aspect covered as well. Gorehounds will not be disappointed."

Neither will those looking for a Roman Polanski-esque head-spinner, something along the lines of a male-oriented *Repulsion* or *The Tenant*, where paranoia and madness blur the lines of reality and fantasy. Actor Robert Nolan is magnetic as an aging, misanthropic man who hates his life and falls prey to an "inner voice," a relentless monologue that propels him to partake in the direst of deeds. When he tries to defy that voice, it manifests itself as a tumorous lump that freely patrols his body.

"It's very much a story about one man's horrific struggle with conflicting urges," says Powell, whose equally deft horror short *Worm* is currently in festival circulation. "The nature and origin of these urges suggests a broader human context and steps into the territory of allegory."

*Familiar's* budget was low but the production value is high, thanks to gorgeous cinematography by Michael Davidson and rubber-and-Karo-syrup heroics of the aforementioned Butcher Shop. "I believe in practical effects," Powell says. "And what they pulled off with minimal resources is truly amazing. There are some genuinely disgusting effects in the film, and the whole *Familiar* team can't wait until the world gets a chance to see some of the slimy, pulsing and bloody things we shot. Growths pulse, skin is sliced and blood flows, and that's only scratching the surface."

For more information on *Familiar* and Powell, visit [www.fatalpictures.com](http://www.fatalpictures.com).  
—Ben Cortman

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