

H2ZZ Productions

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Zombie film shot by physics students at CERN

A group of physics PhD students are about to release a feature-length zombie film, shot entirely on location at CERN near Geneva. Set at the Large Hadron Collider, the film centres around zombies created from exposure to the newly-discovered Higgs boson. Writer and director Luke Thompson, a Manchester University PhD student, originally conceived the idea in February 2010, after joking that the tunnels under CERN would be ideal for a zombie film. With a budget of approximately £2000 and a regular cast and crew of only 20, the team built a camera shoulder-mount from copper pipes, made fake blood from golden syrup, and scavenged props from dumpsters. It was shot on borrowed digital SLRs including the Canon 5D Mark 2, consumer cameras which have recently been used to shoot parts of movies such as Iron Man 2, Black Swan and the entire season 6 finale of TV series House. Editing and digital effects were done entirely on a desktop computer using Adobe Premier Pro and Adobe After Effects. The film has a running time of approximately 75 minutes and will premiere in Manchester before the end of November, followed by a free online release under a Creative Commons Licence (CC-BY-NC).

The film follows a small group of students (played by physicists) after a disastrous malfunction in the world's biggest particle accelerator. As they try desperately to escape from the underground maintenance tunnels, they are hunted by the remains of a maintenance team, who have become less than human. With the recent coverage of the discovery of the Higgs boson at the LHC at CERN, the film is likely to appeal to a wide-ranging, science-savvy audience, as well as to zombie enthusiasts as a new approach to the genre. Following the premiere, the film will be available free to stream or download online, and the licence allows free distribution, remixing and use in other projects in a non-commercial capacity. Creative Commons is a growing and innovative culture, and this will add to the film's appeal. CERN is the European Organisation for Nuclear Research and is the world's largest particle physics laboratory, employing around 4000 international scientists and hosting many more visiting lecturers and guests. The Higgs boson is a sub-atomic particle thought to be responsible for giving other particles mass. There is absolutely no evidence that it is harmful in any way. CERN and the LHC have been enjoying much media attention in the last few years, and physics has found itself very much in vogue thanks to popular figures such as Brian Cox.

There will be a publicity campaign via Twitter (@DecayFilm), Facebook (www.facebook.com/decayfilm) and various online science news sites. Additionally, there is a website dedicated to the film (www.decayfilm.com), featuring news, info, posters and the trailer. Any queries should go to Luke Thompson, as per the details above.

This film has not been authorized or endorsed by CERN
