

MONSTERS INVASION

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The FANGORIA Fright File of up-to-the-minute newsbreaks
and other horrible happenings!



Fright Photos: Tony Frickkin

The Fearless Vampire Killer Brigade (Traci Lin, William Ragsdale and Roddy McDowall) prepare for battle.

"FRIGHT NIGHT—PART 2": Bloodletting is better the second time around, an idea whose time has finally come in the long anticipated sequel to *Fright Night*.

Fright Night—Part 2, directed by Tommy (Halloween III) Lee Wallace, once again teams those two unlikely vampire fighters, confused student Charley Brewster (William Ragsdale) and TV horror show host Peter Vincent (Roddy McDowall). The story picks up three years after *Fright Night* ended. Brewster, now in college, lives a relatively normal life until up pops the devil in the guise of Regine (Julie Carmen), the undead sister of the first film's Jerry Dandrige. She is hell-

bent on doing a number on Charley for offing her big brother. With the aid of Vincent, Brewster goes into nightmarish battle against the sexy Regine and a whole new supporting cast of ghouls and nasties.

Fright Night—Part 2, shot in 45 days in and around Los Angeles, is an FX-heavy film, courtesy of such latex and optical stalwarts as Gene Warren Jr., Rick Josephson, Bart Mixon, Brian Wade, Greg Cannom and others.

"This is definitely a 'now' kind of movie," enthuses vampireess Carmen. "There's a real new wave, '80s feel to both my character and the production values. This is definitely a horror film, and I feel the

horror is even more believable because of the modern setting."

Integral to the success of a *Fright Night* sequel was convincing McDowall and Ragsdale to come back for more. McDowall sees no real mystery in his agreeing to reprise his Vincent role. "I liked the story," says the British genre veteran.

Ragsdale agrees with those points. "It's not like I was going to be playing a clone of the part I played in the first film," reasons the younger actor. "They've made Charley more mature. There's a lot of emotion and emotionally they've given Charley a whole lot to do."

Director Wallace predicts the inherent problems of a sequel and the inevitable comparisons to the original, but he is quick to defend his film as a legitimate piece of work.

"The story is the thing," argues Wallace. "There was a definite framework I knew I would have to work within when I agreed to do this film: I knew Charley and Peter would be back, and I knew we would be dealing with vampires again. But I also knew if there was a very real, very scary and very sexy story to tell that the movie would stand on its own."

A *Fright Night* follow-up has been an ongoing rumor since the success of the original in 1985. Unfortunately, a shakeup at Columbia Pictures resulted in a number of projects, including the proposed sequel, getting shelved. Producer Herb Jaffe, who helmed the first film, bought back the sequel rights last year and found a willing company in Vista. *Fright Night—Part 2* opens in August.

—Marc Shapiro



Now it's the guys' turn to ogle as *Fright Night—Part 2* presents the sexy vampire Regine (Julie Carmen).