

COMBAT FILM/OPINION



By Phil Hobden

<http://combatfilm.blogspot.com>



High Kicking the Credit Crunch

Companies are closing left and right. The banks aren't lending. Interest rates are falling and we are looming on the brink of a global depression. Times are officially rather tough.

But don't fear, Combat Film is here to help. Through our hard work and dedicated research (read: walking up and down the high street on our lunch breaks) we've managed to find the Holy Grail for action fans, a Mecca of well priced entertainment. Ladies and gentlemen may I introduce... Poundland.

What? Stop laughing. I'm serious. See for the discerning film fan out there Poundland has a lot to offer, especially in these toughest of tough times. All at credit crunch busting price of just £1. Still don't believe me... okay how about George A Romero's classic NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD, or Christian Bale & Michael Ironside in THE MACHINIST? The critically acclaimed CHOPPER or WHAT'S ESATING GILBERT GRAPE? How about SUPERSIZE ME, currently retailing at over £10 on Amazon and Play?

Ah so NOW I have your attention. Dig deeper and I can almost guarantee that they'll be something for pretty much even the hardest to please action fan.

To star how about the 1989 Van Damme classic KICK-BOXER? JCVD starred as Karl Sloane, a ringman for Champion Kickboxer and brother Eric. After the vicious Tong Po paralyzes Eric in the ring during a fight, Karl vows to defeat Tong Po. Cue training sequences, buffed men taking off their shirts and a bucket load of homo-erotic action sequences. All for the bargain basement price of just £1.

One of the most high profile release to grace the halloved shelves of Poundland is the McG 'classic' CHARLIES ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE. Okay so I may be over selling that one a little but trust me the second Charlie's Angels film is a lot better than you remember it and is at worst occasionally entertaining. And for a pound you could do far worse!

MCBAIN (1991) stars Michael Ironside, Christopher Walken and Maria Conchita Alonso. The fact that Michael Ironside co-stars seals the deal for me but having a tagline like "Taking on the drug lords is impossible. Taking on a country is insane" didn't hurt either.

For fans of Richard Harrison (think: low rent Chuck Norris), the porn haired 70's & 80's action star, Poundland has on offer a veritable feast of his and Godfrey Ho's special brand of low budget action films. NINJA TERMINATOR, NINJA DRAGON, NINJA THE PROTECTOR and NINJA DESTROYER are amongst the "better ones" but only in the same way that getting run over is only slightly

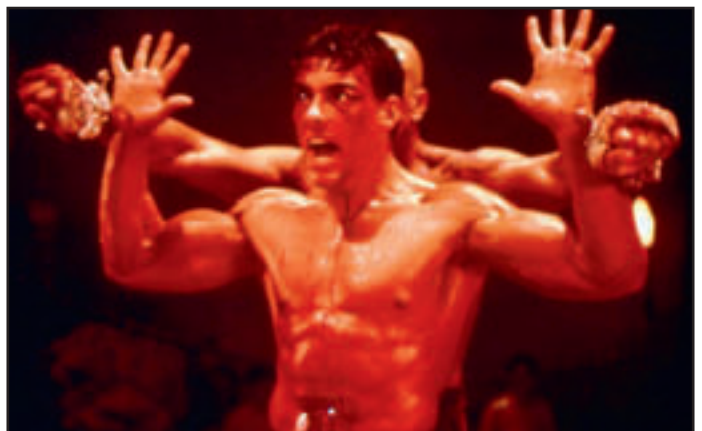
better than being crushed by a tank. That said a few beers down these are hysterically fun and never less than entertaining. For those that doesn't know direct Ho is considered somewhat of a master of B-movie Hong Kong actioners and pioneered a 'cut & paste' technique with his movies often filming scenes with an actor and using them over two or three movies, mixing it with unreleased Asian and Thia films and never worrying too much about a story or plot. Think Power Rangers without money. Oh and if your lucky some Poundland's even have Ninja two packs. Two Ninja Movies for a pound! How could you possibly resist?

Some people might jest that Poundland is just the right place (and price) for the still born sequel Keanu Reeves starring MATRIX RELOADED. Maybe it's improved with age? Probably not but it could be worse... it could be Matrix Revolutions!

For those of you yet to make the jump to DVD or who are just those desperately clinging to their VHS collection in vein hope that one day they will be collectors items (they wont) can swell their shelves with such recentish titles as STAR WARS: ATTACK OF THE CLONES, ENEMY AT THE GATES and the rather very good Colin Farrell starring PHONE BOOTH. But really you should be looking at DVD's now. This isn't the 90's anymore...

Poundland even caters for the horror fan with their Hardgore range including such titles as AQUANOIDS, TURKEY SHOOT and VAMPIRE KILLER BARBYS.

Finally if you want to see just how bad a movie can be, head over to the new range of Shaolin releases. DRESSED TO FIGHT, HEROES OF SHAOLIN, FATAL



NEEDLES VS. FATAL FISTS, THE MASK OF VENGEANCE, THE GUY WITH SECRET KUNG FU, BLACK BELT JONES 2, RED LOTUS VS. LAMA and DEADLY SILVER SPEAR are available to name but a few. And yes they are all real films (check out the IMDB if you don't believe me!). All presented in glorious Full Screen and looking like they were mastered on toilet paper.

That's over 25 films for the cost of just one new shiny Blu Ray disk. So if your looking for a cheap present, a film to watch on an easy night in or just a bargain way to swell your DVD collection Poundland really could be the shop for you. How can you go wrong?

Phil Hobden
Editor - Combat Film

Phil Hobden is an independent filmmaker and freelance writer. His second film TEN DEAD MEN is now available to buy in the UK and he is currently developing his third feature film through his company Modern Life?. In addition he also writes for his own review site Phil's Quick Capsule Review as well as for various websites and magazines including Impact Magazine and fareastfilms.com. For more on Phil Hobden check out www.philhobden.co.uk or www.mod-life.net



Never Surrender (18) *Review by Phil Hobden*

Never Surrender is probably the worlds first ultra soft core porn crossed MMA film. Sadly it wont really please fans of either genres. Whether you like this ego trip film by writer-director-producer-star and probably tea boy Hector Echavarria will depend on whether you own films like Kickboxer, Bloodsport 2-4 and American Ninjas 2-4 because, whether it meant it or not, and I'm guessing not, this badly directed, produced and choreographed actioner is a throw back to the good/bad (depending on who you are) days of DTV action films. For me, well at least it made me laugh (unintentionally) with its soft lighting sex scenes and OTT acting by DTV star Patrick Kilpatrick and brought back memories of me, 12 sitting at home late night watching my brothers action film collection. Oh and a warning to MMA fans... don't be impressed by names like Georges St Pierre or Quentin 'Rampage' Jackson high up in the billing - most are there for a max of two scenes and do very little. Hard to hate but be warned this is as poorly acted, directed and put together a film as your likely to see this year. Set your expectations low and you MIGHT see something you enjoy... MIGHT.

ACTION 2/5 FILM 2/5

If you liked this try: Karate Kid (7/10); Kickboxer (6/10); Never Back Down (5/10)





Kambakkht Ishq (12A) *Review by Richard Hawes*

Akshay Kumar has always been the Bollywood star with one eye on the mainstream. In his movies he's sung with Snoop Dogg and fought American wrestler The Undertaker and Chinese kung fu icon Gordon Liu. Now he's gone to Hollywood to share the screen with stars of the caliber of Sylvester Stallone.

Set in Hollywood, Kambakkht Ishq (Incredible Love) is a remake of a 2002 Tamil language film called Pammal K. Sambandam. A romantic comedy that stars Kumar as a Hollywood stuntman and Kareena Kapoor as his model/surgeon love interest. Aside from the pairing of Kumar and Kapoor, co-stars in many films, including last year's hugely disappointing Tashan, the presence of iconic Hollywood stars is undoubtedly the major selling point for this movie. But thankfully these extended cameos (the actors do a couple of scenes each) are not the only thing that make the stylish directorial debut of Sabir Khan stand out. It's extremely entertaining from start to finish. Kumar's an effortlessly charming lead, even when being brutish, the songs are catchy and the sheer absurdity of the whole thing cannot help but win audiences over.

If you've never seen a Bollywood film and the presence of stars such as Stallone, recent Superman Brandon Routh and the glamorous Denise Richards are enough to entice you, I highly recommend you check out this summer comedy and discover India's distinctive style of pop cinema.

For more about the film visit the official website: <http://kambakkhtishq.erosentertainment.com/>

ACTION 4/5 FILM 3/5

If you liked this try *Dhoom 2*, *Krrish*, *Chandni Chowk to China*

COMPETITIONS

To coincide with the DVD & BluRay release of *Eagles Over London* we have three copies of the film to give away.

To win this great prize all you have to do is answer the following question:

Quentin Tarantino features on the DVD for Eagles Over London.

Which of these films did he NOT direct?

a) From Dusk Till Dawn b) Pulp Fiction c) Jackie Brown

Email your name, address and answer to eagles@martialartsinprint.com

To coincide with the DVD release of *THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS*

we have copies of the film to give away, courtesy of our friends at Odeon Entertainment.

Which of these is NOT a war movie?

a) Platoon b) Karate Kid c) Rambo

Email your name, address and answer to algiers@martialartsinprint.com

To coincide with the DVD release of *FAR CRY* we have copies of the film to give away, courtesy of our friends at High Fliers.

Which of these computer games has NOT been made into a film?

a) Alien Vs Predator b) Paper Boy c) Doom

Email your name, address and answer to farcry@martialartsinprint.com

To coincide with the DVD & BluRay release of *ART OF WAR 3*

we have FIVE copies of the film to give away.

To win this great prize all you have to do is answer the following question:

Which actor/martial artist features in the original ART OF WAR film?

a) Wesley Snipes b) Jason Statham c) Samuel L Jackson

Email your name, address and answer to artofwar3@martialartsinprint.com

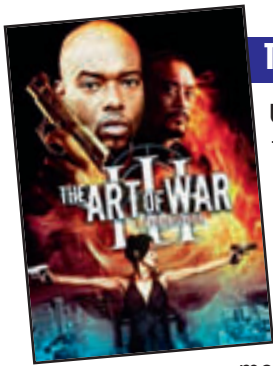


MUST SEE ACTION FILM

Each Month Richard Hawes suggests a must see action film for your viewing pleasure. This month:

Krrish (2006)

India is not noted for producing great action movies, but amid a number of laughable Hollywood imitations Krrish stands out. A superhero tale influenced by the likes of Richard Donner's Superman, Jet Li's Black Mask and John Woo's Paycheck, this sequel to Koi... Mil Gaya stars the muscular Hrithik Roshan (Dhoom 2) and the glamorous Priyanka Chopra (Don). Filmed largely in Singapore and boasting great action choreography by Tony Ching Siu-Tung. With a running time just shy of three hours and a number of musical sequences, Rakesh Roshan's film is a hugely entertaining epic and a perfect introductory Bollywood experience. Unlike any other superhero movie you'll ever see.



The Art of War III: Retribution (18) *(15) Review by Richard Badley*

United Nations superspy Neil Shaw is now played by second-rate rapper Treach (taking over from Wesley Snipes) who gets caught up in a convoluted plot about North Korea trying to disrupt peace talks with the South. Early on he picks-up a hot chick, Sung Hi Lee, to try and get answers from. I've no idea where 'retribution' comes into it. Treach earnestly pouts his way through trying to act the tough guy but with the charisma of a plastic action figure. He regurgitates Sun Tzu's ancient Art of War rules but spectacularly fails to practice what he preaches - he also must have skipped the part were Tzu said great strategists don't think with their dick.

The first movie was so-so, how's it gotten this far is simply beyond a joke. There's little to recommend here, not even to laugh at the mistimed headbutts or the U-rated 'sex' scene, it's all just rather sad.

ACTION 1/5 FILM 1/5

If you liked this try: Taxi 3, Behind Enemy Lines 3, then probably therapy



Bodyguard: A New Beginning (18) *Review by Richard Hawes*

Director Chee Keong Cheung's strengths and weaknesses as a filmmaker are as evident in Bodyguard: A New Beginning (2008) as they were in his debut Underground (2007). Both are ambitious, ensemble films blending melodrama and martial arts action, as lavishly filmed as their budgets allowed. Cheung clearly has the best eye of all the directors of independent British action films but has yet to master his craft. While the characterisation and plotting are more coherent than in Underground, a lack of focus is still apparent. Vincent Sze is ostensibly the lead, but he's largely silent and fails to make much of an impression. He's not presented as the next Jet Li as you expect him to be. Instead it is experienced co-star Richard Ng who

effortlessly emerges as the real star. Shot partly in Hong Kong and featuring Hollywood villain Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa, who made The Perfect Weapon, Kickboxer 2 and Showdown in Little Tokyo all 1991 as well as many other great action films, Bodyguard is a distinctive if not wholly successful film that's well worth seeking out.

ACTION 3/5 FILM 3/5

If you liked this try Underground, Displaced, The Purifiers



Far Cry (15) *Review by Mike Parkin*

Based on the best-selling video game, Far Cry sees Til Schweiger as Jack Carver, an ex-special forces soldier hired by a plucky reporter to take her to a clandestine meeting with her uncle, who's trying to blow the whistle on a covert military experiment to create zombified super-soldiers.

I think I'm becoming something of an Uwe Boll apologist because I quite enjoyed this for the most part. The movie is completely devoid of tension as it explains everything that's going on in the opening scenes, and there are a lot of clunky moments. However, a lot of the action is well handled - a nice mix of big set-pieces, hand-to-hand fighting and parkour acrobatics. The

cast is pretty solid, with the likes of the always watchable Ralf Moeller and Udo Kier, while Til Schweiger turns out to be a likeable lead and Chris Coppolla, as the comedy relief, actually manages to be funny. The only real problem is the noise the machineguns make - they sound like they're from Toys R Us...

ACTION 2/5 FILM 3/5

If you like this, try Commando, Universal Soldier, American Ninja



Streets of Blood (15) *Review by Andrew Skeats*

Val Kilmer is a Cajun cop trying to find the killer of his partner in a Hurricane ravaged New Orleans. Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson is his new partner who aids him in the investigation which uncovers all kinds of foul play, corrupt cops and even good old Michael Biehn. While it tries hard, Streets of Blood just can't find the right balance between gritty cop thriller and urban action film and ultimately fails at both. As a slice of B-movie cop hokum with a few famous faces (including Sharon Stone) it's not too bad despite all the herky-jerky camerawork (presumably attempting to imitate gritty TV cop shows) and perhaps the most inept policemen put to celluloid (seriously, how are these guys actually employed as law enforcers?). Streets of Blood gets by on its own trashy terms, 50 Cent isn't actually that bad and Kilmer brings a certain pulpy charm.

ACTION 2/5 FILM 2/5

If you liked this, try: Righteous Kill, Hero Wanted, Kill Switch



Outlander (15) *Review by Rich Badley*

With big budget films like *The 13th Warrior* and *Pathfinder* failing to find audiences you can understand why producers are wary of tackling the dreaded 'Viking' movie. Perhaps it's because they stick to the rigid formula of hero-hunting-beast that the epic poem *Beowulf* perfected centuries ago. With *Outlander*, director Howard McCain attempts to break away from the stuffy textbook approach to give audiences something new.

Essentially, McCain's film is *The 13th Warrior* but with a big alien instead of cannibals. Yep, it's a sci-fi film people, Vikings versus Aliens, it doesn't get much more high concept than that.

The *Outlander* of the title is Kainan (Jim Caviezel) who crashes his spaceship onto Earth circa 709AD and brings with him a deadly Moorwen which starts terrorising the local Viking tribes. John Hurt is the wise leader, Jack Huston is his hotheaded heir, Sophia Myles is the feisty love interest... and so forth.

You can probably guess the rest - no-one believes there's a monster until it starts ripping people apart and they quickly turn to Kainan, despite his sensible haircut, for some much needed advice. Soon Kainan is forging swords from bits of his ship and McCain has plenty of fun making a splattery adventure as the beast - looking like one of those luminescent deep sea fish crossed with whatever the hell that thing was in *The Relic* - tears off heads and piles up bodies in its lair which resembles a Hieronymus Bosch painting.

The action itself is let down slightly by the fact that the Moorwen is a CG creation and gives away the film's modest budget by having to lurk constantly in the shadows. But it's the Vikings who are even more clunky when the various sub-plots get superseded by the gratuitous action. As the only female character, Myles quickly gets lumbered with tending wounds and being the damsel in distress while Huston is the dullest Viking put to film - there's zero tension between him and supposed rival Kainan. Luckily Ron Perlman cameos in all his gruff glory to show them how it's supposed to be done.

McCain, borrowing heavily from the *Alien* and *Predator* movies, tries to stamp *Outlander* with his own personal touch by making his hero not quite as angelic as you might first think. It's a brave move bringing in Caviezel over a macho Vin Diesel type but he holds the film together in some emotional scenes as the backstory about his race and the Moorwen's is revealed. Sadly, Kainan's guilt is swept aside for the predictable showdown in some conveniently dark caves.

Outlander has a nice *Pitch Black* feel to it. The set-up is simple and it delivers enough sword and tentacle action to live up to its bold concept. There probably isn't going to be any *Chronicles of Kainan* but McCain shows a lot of potential in the dramatic use of the Nova Scotia shooting location and his attempts to wrangle some fresh ideas into what is essentially a by the book monster mash-up.

ACTION 3/5 FILM 3/5

If you liked this try: *Predator*, *Alien 3*, *Pitch Black*





IMPORT CORNER

Taxi 4 Review by Rich Badley

For nearly 10 years Luc Besson's Taxi series has soldiered on. Like a first car, it's been cherished, kept around for familiarities' sake by an owner refusing to trade it in for a better model. But after witnessing the stalled mess that is Taxi 4 - an experience slightly more annoying than waiting for a taxi that never comes - you'll be ready to take Besson to one side and break the bad news that it's time to visit the scrapyard. It starts off promisingly, with taxi driver Danny (Samy Naceri) and inept copper Emilien (Frederic Diefenthal) delivering the slightly perplexed footballer Djibril Cissé to a big match. Following on from the third film they're both now Dads whose kids play footy together so it looks like we've got a theme going... but no. The kids are quickly nudged to one side and even Danny himself is left on the backseat. This is about the 'comedy' that occurs at the police station when Commissaire Gibert - the buffoonish Bernard Farcy - takes delivery of a Belgian criminal mastermind. After an endless stream of gags about tranquilizer darts and hitting people with phone books the criminal finally escapes. You'd be thinking that then there must be some car chases but director Gérard Krawczyk is far too busy continuing the nonsense farce right up until the half-arsed Scarface finale - the only action scene in the whole thing and where's Danny? Sat in the taxi outside. It's easy to see why Marion Cotillard gave-up after 3.

ACTION 1/5 FILM 2/5

If you liked this try: **Taxi, Taxi 2, Taxi 3, Getting a New Taste in Movies**

Taxi 4 is available from Amazon.com priced from \$17.99

Reviews in Brief

Phil Hobden gives a round up of this months other DVD releases.

LEON: THE DIRECTORS CUT (5/5) adds 20 minutes of footage and makes an excellent and essential film even better. This has been out in the states for YEARS and now finally arrives back in the UK. A true must see.

DEAD SNOW (3/5) isn't an action film but is well worth watching by all accounts, with some awesome festival press.

CRANK 2 (4/5) is an adrenaline rush of a movie and honestly an action film unlike anything you have ever seen. Check out our review next month.

FAST & FURIOUS (3/5) is another okay entry into the fast cars/hot chicks franchise. Back comes Vin Diesel and the entire original cast. Out goes logic, story telling and good acting. But if you like this kinda thing there are far worse films to rent...

THE BATTLE OF ALGTERS (£19.99/15 cert) is an award winning and highly acclaimed masterpiece by director Gillo Pontecorvo, a film regarded by many as one of modern cinemas finest achievements.

KUNG FU DUNK is out now. Haven't been sent a screener so could be good. Could be bad.

MMA CORNER: PAIN & GLORY (£19.99/ E cert) is released this month featuring 240 minutes & 18 +matches of action across MMA, K1, Muay Thai and Kickboxing from the famed Seni Martial Arts show. **PRIDE 31 (£17.99)** is also out now featuring an 11 fight card with legends such as Shogun Rua, Rampage Jackson and Antonio "Minatauro" Nogueira. **UFC 94 St. Pierre vs. Penn 2** comes out 24th August and features yet another dominating display by the legend that is GSP. The under card includes Nat Diaz vs Clay Guida and soon to be Light heavy-weight Champion Lyoto Machida vs. Thiago Silva.

NEWS AND RUMOURS

Jon Favreau announced via Twitter than **IRON MAN 2** has officially wrapped...

RYAN REYNOLDS has been cast as **The Green Lantern** as Hollywood continues to plunder every comic book going...

STEPHEN CHOW has left **THE GREEN HORNET** in what is being described as a "mutual and amicable decision by both sides to move on". Hmmm...

Action/ Sci-Fi film **DISTRICT 9** is looking like being the sleeper hit of the year... You are not alone, even Transformers 2 star **MEGAN FOX** hated the film.

She recently rubbished the sequel in a series of interviews...

PREDATORS has a director. Nimrod Antal (director of Vacancy) steps in after UK director Neil Marshall was rumoured to have bagged the film.

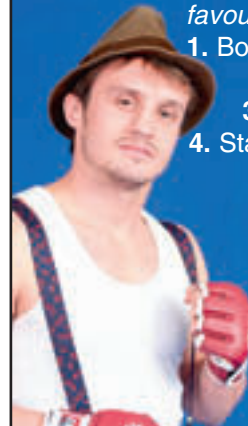
Isaac Florentine's fans rejoice. **NINJA** and **UNDISPUTED 3** both arrive at some point this year...

Officially all this year's big films were pretty average. **HARRY POTTER**, **TRANSFORMERS 2**, **WOLVERINE** were all major disappointments. If you really want to see a good movie can I suggest non action films **THE HANG-OVER & BRUNO**.

TOP FIVE...

This month: UK MMA Fighter Brad 'One Punch' Pickett presents his 5 favourite action films

1. Boon Dock Saints
2. Gladiator
3. Transformers
4. Starship Troopers
5. Tombstone



Channing Tatum

Fighting

STEP UP star Channing Tatum gives up dance shoes but not his fast-moving feet for this action-filled film. Shawn MacArthur (Tatum) finds New York City is an unfriendly place when he moves to the metropolis from a small town, but conman Harvey Boarden (IRON MAN's Terrence Howard) sees Shawn's potential to be a great street fighter. Shawn battles big names and brutal brawlers on his way to the top, but he soon realizes the world of New York street fighting may be impossible to escape. COMBAT FILM caught up with Tatum to find out about his FIGHTING credentials...

Is it true that you suggested the idea for this film?

CHANNING TATUM: I suggested the idea of fighting. Robert Munic brought a great script to us but it was about basketball and I just didn't want to play basketball. I suck at basketball. While we were filming this movie we did a scene on a basketball court, and I shot and I missed the entire goal. I looked over and said: "Thank god we didn't do a basketball film."

(Director) Dito (Montiel) had read the script, and he saw the opportunity to bring two characters to the screen that we haven't seen in commercial films for awhile - like Midnight Cowboy with Ratso and Joe Buck.

Could you relate to the fighting like this?

CHANNING TATUM: I'm from the south, Alabama and I've been an athlete playing football so I've been in my fair share of scrapes. Look I'm not a fighter at all. I would probably run more these days, but I do like watching fighting like Strike Force though.

But this is like fighting to the death

CHANNING TATUM: This could get really bad. There is an understanding with fighters - I don't want to kill you. I

just want to win, but in street fighting it could go all the way, so that's what is really scary nowadays. People don't know when to stop.

How real is that whole underground fighting world?

CHANNING TATUM: It's very real. I don't think it's as glamorous as it's portrayed. So many people are betting. You can get all of this information online. There's Felony Fights on YouTube. There is a lot of underground type of fighting going on and some of it is not safe, it's pretty brutal. But it's absolutely fascinating.

You are physical actor, and coming from acting, was it hard to be accepted as a serious actor?

CHANNING TATUM: It was a very hard. I came from the modeling world and I would go to movie castings and they would say they don't want any past models. You know I won the lottery. My parents had great genes. It's not a big hurdle because it probably works more for you then against you by leaps and bounds. I'm very happy to be working.

Did you do much stunt work in Fighting?

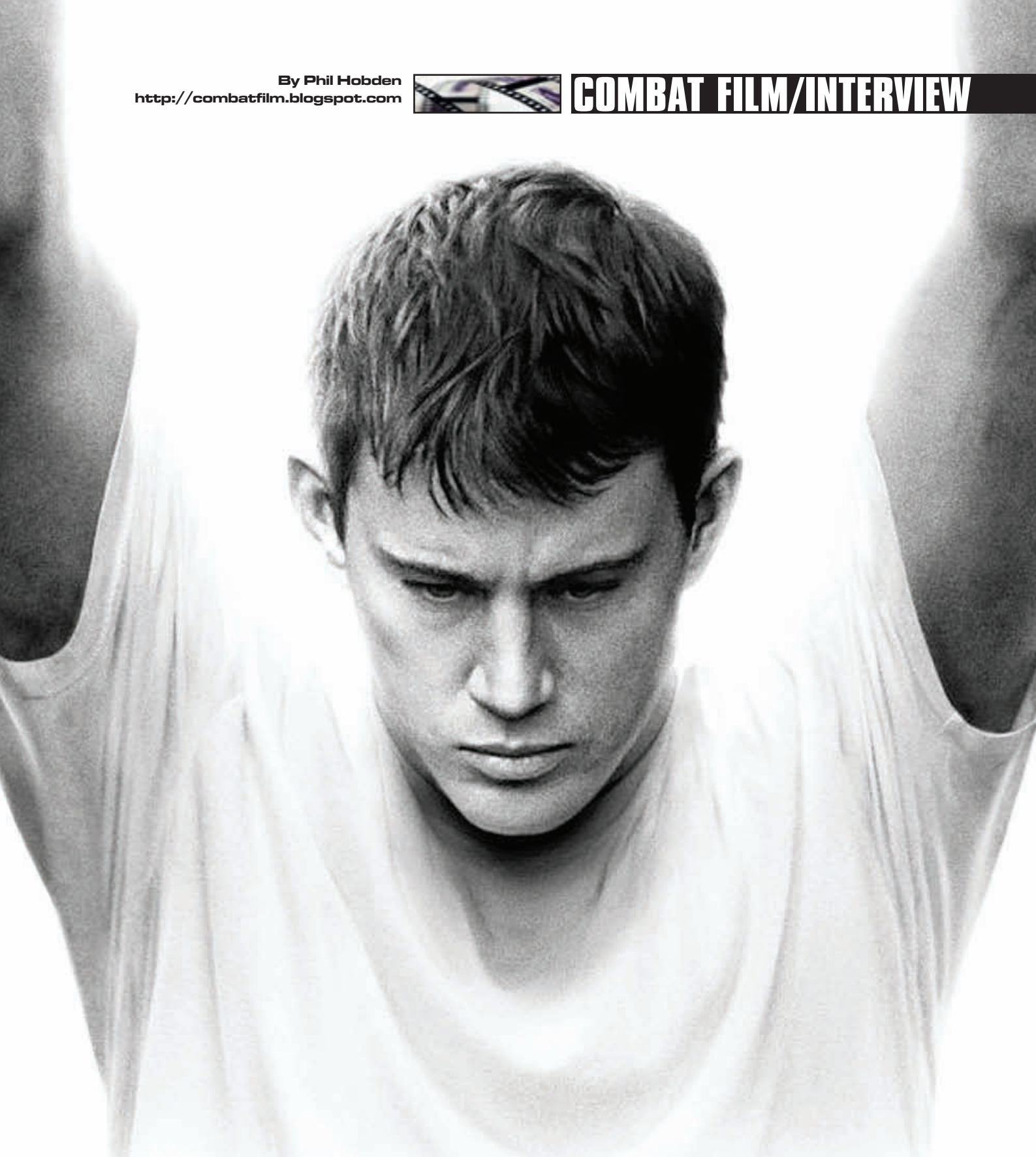
CHANNING TATUM: Yeah, in Fighting there's not a frame that I'm not in. That was very important to me. I wasn't going to do the movie unless I could actually do those physical scenes - fighting, dancing, flipping, anything physical, I can do that. In my mind I could probably do that better than the stunt.

Did you get hurt?

CHANNING TATUM: Yeah I busted my nose up a little bit. I had bruises everywhere by the end of it.

You have two huge movies, GI Joe and Public Enemies coming out. Your name is around Hollywood, on billboards and on magazine covers. You're the next Hollywood 'big thing'...how does that feel?





CHANNING TATUM: It's a bit of a bubble right now, it hasn't popped. I don't know exactly. Every once in a while I'll feel it like if I'm walking through an airport and there's a (laughs) a high school field trip or something, then that can get a little crazy.

You seem very grounded - is that from your family?

CHANNING TATUM: I'm from the south, from a little town in Alabama. My family are just good normal people. My family and friends keep me grounded

Have you ever been so angry in your own life that you've just hit someone?

CHANNING TATUM: (Laughs) I've been in my fair share of scrapes, but I'm not a fighter. I'm not a tough guy at all. I walk away from fights now.

FIGHTING is out on the 28th September priced from £12.99. Look out for a review in next month's Combat Film.

The Action Interview

with Rebecca Neuenswander

by Mike Parkin

Last month we reviewed the rather good FIGHT NIGHT starring up and coming actress Rebecca Neuenswander. Combat Film thought it was only polite to pick up a phone and give this up and coming action star a call to find out just how she became a Bare Knuckle underground fighter.

How did you get involved in starring in Fight Night?

REBECCA NEUENSWANDER: My agent informed me of the audition and I happened to be in the area that day so I stopped by. I really had no intention of actually getting the part. In fact, when Jonathan told me I was clueless!

What sort of training did you undertake? How did boxing compare to competitive Tae Kwan Do?

REBECCA NEUENSWANDER: When we started training for the role, I only weighed 117 pounds. I knew I needed to gain weight to be believable as Katherine. The training itself actually wasn't too bad. I lifted weights a lot and did choreography but compared to Taekwondo, it was pretty easy. Before the film, I was training for up to 4 hours a day. The main difference between boxing and Taekwondo was the fact that I couldn't hit anyone. It is something we work on all the time in Martial Arts - being able to pull punches. It is another story when you are in the ring and can't make contact.

A lot of the film's impact relies on the audience believing in Katherine defeating guys twice her size - did this add any pressure to the role?

REBECCA NEUENSWANDER: I never really thought about that. When I started martial arts over 12 years ago, I was the only girl in class. I fought guys all the



time because it was the only option I had. It forced me to learn how to defend myself in every situation. After I gained 20 pounds, I felt really strong and never thought about being believable as a fighter.

What other challenges did you face in taking this role?

REBECCA NEUENSWANDER: This was my first major role in a film. Every day was a learning process. Also, being on set for crazy hours was challenging because I had The HALO Foundation going on at the same time. I also was injured during one of the fight scenes and we had to delay filming for a 6 month period. I then had to regain the weight I had lost for our second round of filming.

Katherine spends a lot of the movie battered, bruised and scarred - the very realistic spoils of her fights. How difficult was it to act with so much make-up?

REBECCA NEUENSWANDER: I felt grungy during the film which is how I believe Katherine would be most of the time. It's a real thing for fighters to be injured somehow all the time. It showed how willing Katherine was to get the job done. I did like running in to a gas station with my make-up on at the end of the day and seeing the look on people's faces.

There is some great on-screen chemistry in the rocky relationship between Katherine and Dublin, played by Chad Ortis. How helpful was it working closely with a more seasoned actor?

REBECCA NEUENSWANDER: Chad is great. He brought a lot to the table in terms of acting. We also developed a friendship off-set that was very similar to the Kat-Dublin relationship. We were forced to be together every day all day so we were constantly joking, getting on each others' nerves - acting like brother and sister. I think it made our chemistry strong on-set as well.

Are you happy with the way things turn out for Katherine?

REBECCA NEUENSWANDER: I am. I think (Kat) and Dublin end up finding family in each other which is the great part of the story.



Do you have any plans to be involved in movies in the future?

REBECCA NEUENSWANDER: Yes - I have a few things in my back pocket. I want to be involved in projects I am passionate about. I am lucky to have a life where I am part of things I believe in and I want the same thing for my acting career.

You have founded a charity, called HALO - would you like to tell us what it is about?

REBECCA NEUENSWANDER: HALO has been my passion for many years. It was started 5 years ago after I came in contact with street children living in Latin America. I came back to the U.S. knowing I had to share my experience and hope to gather others to make a difference. The HALO Foundation has now grown to support 3 orphanages in Kenya, 4 in Uganda, 1 in India, and educational programs for orphans in Mexico and Nicaragua. We provide food, water, shelter, clothing, education, and art therapy for children living in the homes. Our goal is to get the cycle of poverty to break. To read more about it, you can visit www.haloworldwide.org

Finally, what movie would you recommend for our readers?

REBECCA NEUENSWANDER: Seven Pounds was a good one. Sad, but good.

FIGHT NIGHT is out now and available to buy from £9.99 at all good stockists.

