

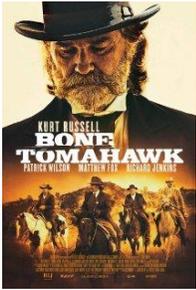
ON LOCATION IN LONE PINE

News from Behind the Scenes of Western Films and Filming.

Of Troglodytes & Cowboys

“Bone Tomahawk’s” Horror/Western Blend Blazes New Path for Cult Westerns

Dorothy Kosich 10.20.2015



LONE PINE, California—This Friday’s limited theatrical release of the new horror-western film “[Bone Tomahawk](#)”, starring Kurt Russell, could prove a turning point in the future of westerns, suggested celebrities attending this year’s 26th [Lone Pine Film Festival](#).

The blending of horror elements into what Russell told the November issue of [Cowboy and Indians](#), “is a strange hybrid between a true western story initially told in an authentic low-key way—until it’s not,” has generated enthusiasm among Lone Pine Film Festival celebrity western film aficionados, such as actor [Bruce Boxleitner](#), stunt coordinator [Diamond Farnsworth](#), and actor/writer/producer [Robert Knott](#).

During an October 10th Lone Pine Film Festival panel discussion on the future of the western, Farnsworth stressed, “We need actors that the kids will relate to,” adding that horror and action film veteran Russell “is the type of actor that will bring kids” to view ‘Bone Tomahawk’.”

Boxleitner, whose big break as an actor occurred when he was cast in the TV series “How the West Was Won” opposite Gunsmoke’s James Arness, observed, “Young people today can’t relate to the western experience” because they haven’t been introduced to it. Although Boxleitner was inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2012, he noted that his horror filmmaker sons, Sam and Lee, weren’t that enthusiastic about western films until director Quentin Tarantino produced the Academy Award nominated hit film, “[Django Unchained](#).”

Writers, directors and producers “have to find a new and interesting way to get that story” told in western films, Boxleitner suggested.

However, *Farnsworth* observed, most young movie executives have grown up without the western film experience. Therefore, “It’s tough for writers to pitch western to them,” he added.

Nonetheless, [Los Angeles Times](#) Film Critic and author [Kenneth Turan](#) suggested “the western is the most malleable of genres,” and can be adjusted to reflect the times in society in which they are made.

For example, Turan said that lately he is seeing a number of independent films that are westerns, including a western featured at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival. “Someone’s going to wake up and say westerns are growing all over the world,” he advised.

“Westerns are alive and well and they are going to be coming back,” said Knott, who wrote and produced the cult western “[Appaloosa](#).”

With an incredibly low budget of US\$1.8 million, “Bone Tomahawk”, the directing debut of novelist [S. Craig Zahler](#), is not aimed at movie theaters, although it will be in limited release in a select group of theaters movie on October 23rd. Lone Pine Film Festival celebrities said the film will also go straight to DVD and VOIP where it is hoped that the western will capture the lion’s share of its audience, including youthful viewers.

Knott is not only enthusiastic about the upcoming “Bone Tomahawk,” but expressed excitement that film megastar Leonard DiCaprio is doing “[The Revenant](#),” (a remake of the 1971 Richard Harris film “[Man in the Wilderness](#)”) which is scheduled to be released on Christmas Day.

Also slated to debut on Christmas Day is yet another Kurt Russell western, [The Hateful 8](#), helmed by Director/Writer/Producer Quentin Tarantino.

Lone Pine Film Festival Facebook contributor [Dorothy Kosich](#) - a veteran international online and print journalist, as well as a longtime western film aficionado – is based in the “real” cowboy country of Nevada.