

THREE TIMES A ZOMBIE!

Actor ALAN DOSHNA discusses his role(s) in the film

Empire State of the Dead

Interview by Joseph Stephens



Photo by Ron Bonk

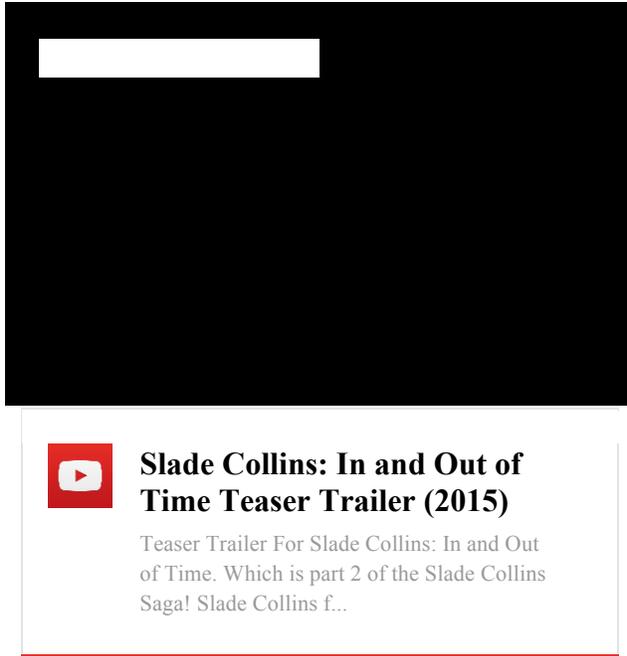
Alan Doshna is an actor/film historian in the Syracuse NY area. His most recent film project is Empire State of the Dead, where he plays THREE zombies, certainly something for the Guinness Book of World Records. Al tells us here a little bit about his involvement with the film.

Q: How did your role(s) for ESOTD come about?

AD: I had just finished a great little role in the film Slade Collins: In and Out of Time, where I played a hermit fortune teller who tries to warn the title hero about possible danger. It's the second film in a series centered on an Indiana Jones-type character, directed by Matthew A. Peters and starring Ryan Santiago in the title role.

I played my role as an homage to Bela Lugosi and the features he did for Monogram Studios back in the 1940's.

[Slade Collins: In and Out of Time Teaser Trailer \(2015\)](#)



Q: Is that how you met Matthew Peters?

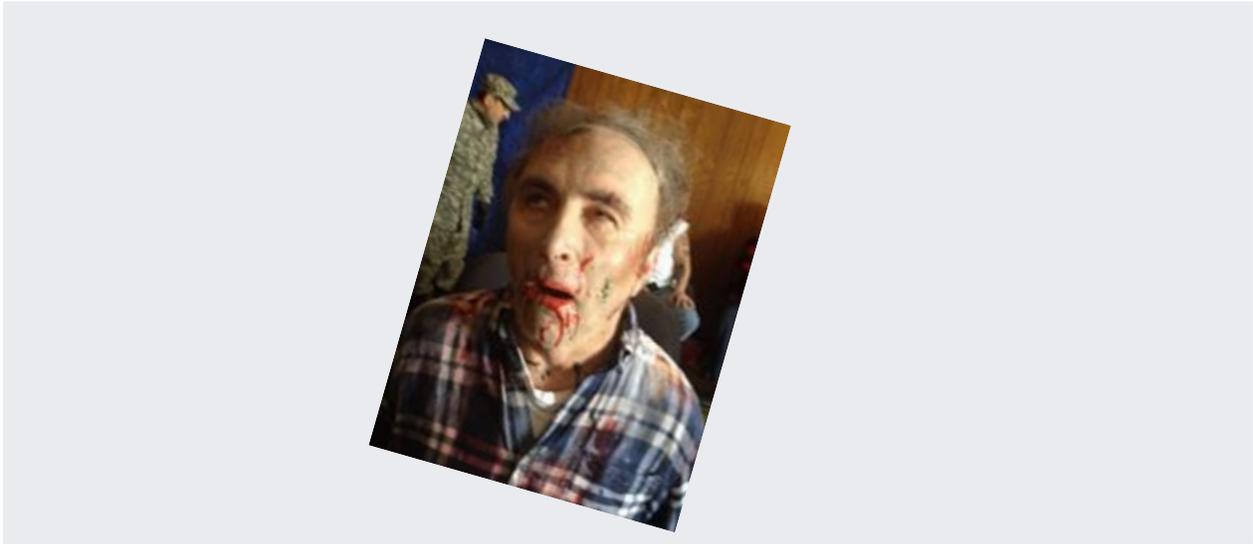
AD: Yes. So not too long after that, Matt, being a prolific director had an open call for zombies for a short horror film he was directing called Blessed Are the Meek. Well, he also cast me in that which for us was a one day shoot.

Q: What happened with that film?

AD: It was screened at the Scare-A-Thon convention at the Turningstone Casino in Verona, NY at a short film competition. It was announced that all of the films screened at the festival would be released on one DVD. Somewhere along the line it was decided that a wraparound storyline connecting the films would be shot for the DVD release.

Q: How did you become involved with that one?

AD: Ron Bonk, a noted Central New York filmmaker who runs Sub Rosa Studios also had an open casting call for zombies for the story frame. So I ended up working for two days on that.



Q: Tell us about your experience there.

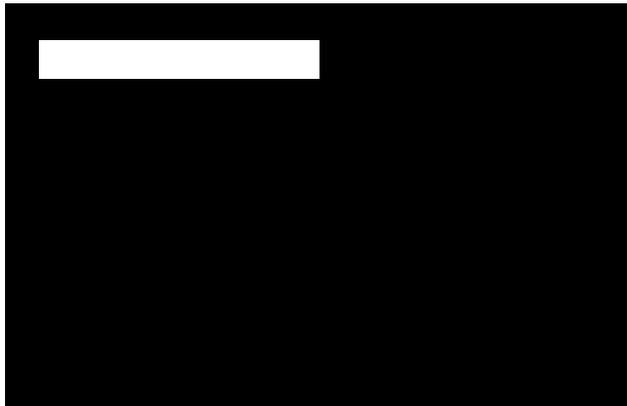
AD: The most notable thing was that I played a different zombie on each day. So I ended up playing three zombies within the entire film, which I hope is a record that will be officially recognized and announced someday (laughs).

The funny thing is that I unconsciously wore the same flannel shirt on one day that I wore in Blessed Are the Meek. So it's like the zombie transcended and crossed over the barrier between separate, unrelated films somehow. I know that I'm probably ruining the audience's suspension of disbelief with this, but I am counting on Ron's forgiveness (crosses fingers).

Q: What was it like working on the film?

AD: I was very impressed by the creativity and professionalism of Ron Bonk. It became extremely cold one day and unexpectedly began to snow, so there is this eerie, atmospheric sequence with the zombies advancing on the military in the falling snow.

[Empire State of Dead Trailer Walking Dead in New York](#)



**Empire State of Dead Trailer
Walking Dead in New York**

The recently deceased rise, feasting upon the living as a zombie outbreak spreads across the globe. In Central N...

Q: What are your feelings about the film?

AD: I am very proud to be a part of it. I have always been fascinated by anthology films like the classics Dead of Night and Dr. Terror's House of Horrors and cult favorites such as Night Train To Terror and Dr. Terror's Gallery of Horrors.

Q: What was it like playing a zombie?

AD: It's really no different from playing any other role. I played them with kind of an epileptic aspect as though their condition affected their motor controls, which also had a humanizing effect. One of the other actors approached me after one scene and complimented me on the character's movements which was a pleasant surprise.

*"Empire State of the Dead", an anthology that chronicles the early days of a zombie virus break out in New York State, begins limited edition Blu-Ray and DVD pre-sales Sunday night May 8th at 7pm EST. Copies are expected to start shipping right around **the movie's premiere** on Saturday May 28th at the Palace Theater in Syracuse, NY. Leftover copies, if any, will be available for sale at the premiere*

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