

= Halloween II (2009 film) =

Halloween II is a 2009 American slasher film written , directed , and produced by Rob Zombie . The film is a sequel to Zombie 's 2007 remake of 1978 's Halloween , and the tenth installment of the franchise . Picking up where the 2007 film ended , and then jumping ahead one year , Halloween II follows Laurie Strode as she deals with the aftermath of the previous film 's events , Dr. Loomis who is trying to capitalize on those events by publishing a new book that chronicles everything that happened , and Michael Myers as he continues his search for Laurie so that he can reunite with his sister . The film sees the return of lead cast members Malcolm McDowell , Scout Taylor @-@ Compton , and Tyler Mane , who portray Dr. Loomis , Laurie Strode , and Michael Myers in the 2007 film , respectively .

For Halloween II , Zombie decided to focus more on the connection between Laurie and Michael , and the idea they share similar psychological problems . Zombie wanted the sequel to be more realistic and violent than its 2007 predecessor . For the characters of Halloween II , it is about change . Zombie wanted to look at how the events of the first film affected the characters . Zombie also wanted to show the connection between Laurie and Michael , and provide a glimpse into each character 's psyche . Filming primarily took place in Georgia , which provided Zombie with a tax incentive as well as the visual look the director was going for with the film . When it came time to provide a musical score , Zombie had trouble finding a place to include John Carpenter 's original Halloween theme music . Although Carpenter 's theme was used throughout Zombie 's remake , the theme was only included in the final shot of this film .

Halloween II was officially released on August 28 , 2009 in North America , and was met with a negative reception from critics . On October 30 , 2009 it was re @-@ released in North America to coincide with the Halloween holiday weekend . The original opening of the film grossed less than the 2007 remake , with approximately \$ 7 million . The film would go on to earn \$ 33 @.@ 4 million in North America , and \$ 5 @.@ 9 million in foreign countries giving the film a worldwide total of \$ 39 @.@ 3 million .

= = Plot = =

In a flashback , Deborah Myers (Sheri Moon Zombie) visits her son , a young Michael Myers (Chase Wright Vanek) , at Smith 's Grove Sanitarium . She gives him a white horse statuette as a gift . Michael says that the horse reminds him of a dream he had of Deborah 's ghost , dressed in a white gown and leading a horse down the sanitarium halls toward Michael , telling him she was going to bring him home . Fifteen years later , after having shot an adult Michael (Tyler Mane) , Laurie Strode (Scout Taylor @-@ Compton) is found wandering around in a state of shock by Sheriff Brackett (Brad Dourif) , who takes Laurie to the emergency room . Meanwhile , the paramedics pick up the Sheriff 's daughter and Laurie 's friend Annie (Danielle Harris) and Michael 's psychiatrist Dr. Loomis (Malcolm McDowell) , who are still alive after having been attacked by Michael , and take them to the hospital . Presumed dead , Michael 's body is loaded into a separate ambulance . When the driver has a traffic accident , Michael awakens and escapes the ambulance , walking toward a vision of his mother dressed in white and leading a white horse .

Michael appears at the hospital , and begins murdering everyone he comes across on his way to Laurie . Trapped in a security outpost at the gate , Laurie watches as Michael tears through the walls with an axe , but just as he tries to kill her , Laurie wakes up from the dream . It is actually one year later and Laurie is now living with the Brackets . Michael has been missing since last Halloween ? still presumed dead ? and Laurie has been having recurring nightmares about the event . While Laurie deals with her trauma through therapy , Dr. Loomis has chosen to turn the event into an opportunity to write another book . Meanwhile , Michael has been having visions of Deborah 's ghost and a younger version of himself , who instructs him that with Halloween approaching it is time to bring Laurie home ; so he sets off for Haddonfield .

As Michael travels to Haddonfield , Laurie begins having hallucinations that mirror Michael 's , which involve a ghostly image of Deborah and a young Michael in a clown costume . In addition ,

her hallucinations also begin to include her acting out Michael 's murders , like envisioning herself taping Annie to a chair and slitting her throat while dressed in a clown outfit ? similar to how a young Michael murdered Ronnie White . While Laurie struggles with her dreams , Loomis has been going on tour to promote his new book , only to be greeted with criticism from people who blame him for Michael 's actions and for exploiting the deaths of Michael 's victims . When his book is released , Laurie discovers that she is really Angel Myers , Michael 's long lost sister . With the truth out , she decides to go to a party with Mya (Brea Grant) and Harley (Angela Trimbur) to escape how she is feeling . Michael appears at the party and kills Harley , then makes his way over to the Brackett house and stabs Annie repeatedly . When Laurie and Mya arrive they find Annie bloodied and dying . Michael kills Mya and then comes after Laurie , who manages to escape the house . While Laurie manages to flag down a passing motorist , Sheriff Brackett arrives home and finds his daughter dead . Laurie gets into the motorist 's car , but before they can escape Michael kills the driver and flips the car over with Laurie still in it . Michael takes the unconscious Laurie to an abandoned shed he has been camping out in . Laurie awakens to a vision of Deborah , and a young Michael , ordering her to say " I love you , mommy " .

The police discover Michael 's location and surround the shed . Loomis arrives and goes into the shed to try to reason Michael into letting Laurie go . Inside , he has to inform Laurie , who believes that the younger Michael is holding her down , that no one is restraining her and that she must maintain her sanity . Just then , Deborah instructs the older Michael that it is time to go home , and Michael grabs Loomis and kills him by slashing his face and stabbing him in the chest . Stepping in front of a window while holding Loomis 's body , Michael is shot twice by Sheriff Brackett and falls into the spikes of some farming equipment . Apparently released from the visions , Laurie walks over and tells Michael she loves him , then stabs him repeatedly in the chest and finally in the face . The shed door opens and Laurie walks out , wearing Michael 's mask . As she pulls the mask off , the scene transitions to Laurie in isolation in a psychiatric ward , grinning as a vision of Deborah dressed in white stands with a white horse at the end of her room .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

In 2008 , at the 30 Years of Terror Convention , Halloween producer Malek Akkad confirmed that a sequel to Rob Zombie 's 2007 film was in the works . French filmmakers Julien Maury and Alexandre Bustillo were in negotiations to direct the sequel in November 2008 , but on December 15 , 2008 Variety reported that Rob Zombie had officially signed on to write and direct the Halloween sequel . In an interview , Zombie expressed how the exhaustion of creating the first Halloween made him not want to come back for a sequel , but after a year of cooling down he was more open to the idea . The writer / director explained that with the sequel he was no longer bound by a sense of needing to retain any " John Carpenter @-@ ness " , as he " felt free to do whatever " . Producer Malek Akkad said the original intention , when they believed Zombie was not returning , was to create a " normal sequel " . Akkad and his Trancus producing company hired various writers to come up with drafts for a new film , but none worked . Akkad and the Weinstein brothers then turned to Bustillo and Muary , whose film Inside had recently been bought for distribution by the Weinstein Company . According to Akkad , the producers really wanted Zombie to return , as Akkad felt that there was something " lost in the translation " when the French filmmakers took over the project . After his work on the 2007 remake , Zombie had earned the trust of Akkad , who told him to ignore any rules they had set for him on the previous film . Akkad said that he wanted Zombie to move the franchise away from some of its established rules .

= = = Characters = = =

For the sequel , Mane , McDowell , Taylor @-@ Compton , Harris , Moon Zombie , and Dourif

returned to the roles of Michael Myers , Dr. Loomis , Laurie Strode , Annie Brackett , Deborah Myers , and Sheriff Brackett , respectively . Daeg Faerch , who portrayed a young Michael Myers in the 2007 remake , was set to reprise his role for Halloween II . By the time production was getting started for the sequel Faerch had grown too big for the part . Zombie had to recast the role , much to his own dismay , because Faerch 's physical maturity did not fit what was in the script . Although Faerch is not in the sequel , the first trailer for Halloween II contained images of Faerch . Zombie pointed out that those images were test shots done and were not intended to be in either the trailer or the film .

Taylor @-@ Compton described her character as having " these bipolar moments " , where her emotions are spontaneously changing from points of happiness to agitation . The actress stated that Zombie wanted to see Laurie Strode travel into " these really dark places " . Taylor @-@ Compton clarified that when the film starts Laurie is still not aware that Michael is her older brother , and as the film progresses more and more pieces of information are given to her and she does not know how to deal with them . The actress explained that the darkness brewing inside Laurie is manifested externally , generally through her physical appearance and the clothes she chooses to wear ? Zombie characterized the look as " grungy " .

Zombie further described Laurie as a " wreck " , who continually sinks lower as the film moves forward . Even Sheriff Brackett goes through changes . Brackett , who receives more screen time in this film , allows Laurie to move in with him and his daughter after the events of the first film . Zombie explained , " He 's old , he 's worn out , he 's just this beat @-@ down guy with these two girls he can 't deal with . " Zombie characterized Loomis in the sequel as more of a " sellout " , who exploits the memories of those who were killed by Michael in the 2007 film . Zombie explained that he tried to channel Vincent Bugliosi , a lawyer who prosecuted Charles Manson and then wrote a book about it , into Loomis 's character for the sequel ; noting that he wanted Loomis to seem more " ridiculous " this time . As for Michael Myers , the character is given almost an entirely new look for the film , which is being used , according to Taylor @-@ Compton , to illustrate a new emotion for the character as he spends much of his time trying to hide himself . Zombie said that of all of the characters that return in the sequel , Michael is the only one that does not change : " All the other characters are very different . Laurie ; Loomis ; they 're having all kinds of problems in their life , but Michael just moves along . Michael is no different ; he 's exactly the same as he was ten years old and he killed everybody [...] He has no concept of the world around him , so he can never be affected by it . "

== = Filming == =

With a \$ 15 million budget , production began on February 23 , 2009 in Atlanta , Georgia . Zombie acknowledged that filming in Georgia provided certain tax breaks for the company , but the real reason he chose that location was because the other locations he was planning to use were still experiencing snowy weather . For him , Georgia 's landscapes and locations provided the look that he wanted for his film . During production , Zombie described the sequel as being " Ultra gritty , ultra intense and very real " and said that he was trying to create almost the exact opposite of what people would expect . Known for filming multiple sequences during production of his films , Zombie filmed an alternate ending to Halloween II . In the alternate ending , Loomis and Michael crash through the shed the police have surrounded , and out into the open air . As Loomis grasps at Michael 's mask , and pleads for him to stop , Michael stabs him in the stomach , telling him to " Die ! " .

== = Music == =

For the sequel , Zombie only used Carpenter 's original theme music in the final scene of the film , though the director admits that he and music composer Tyler Bates tried to find other places to include it . According to Zombie , Carpenter 's music did not fit with what was happening in the film ; whenever he or Bates would insert it into a scene it " just wouldn 't feel right " to the director .

Zombie also used popular culture songs throughout the film , with " Nights in White Satin " appearing the most prominently . Zombie chose songs that he liked , and that would enhance a given scene within the film . An official soundtrack for the film was released on August 25 , 2009 . In addition , an album featuring the music of psychobilly band Captain Clegg and the Night Creatures was released in conjunction with Halloween II on August 28 , 2009 . Captain Clegg and the Night Creatures is a fictional band that appears in Halloween II . Nan Vernon , who recorded a new version of the song " Mr. Sandman " for the end credits of the 2007 remake , recorded a cover of " Love Hurts " for Halloween II .

= = Release = =

Dimension Films released Halloween II in North America on August 28 , 2009 to 3 @, @ 025 theaters . Following that , the film was released in the United Kingdom on October 9 , 2009 . Dimension re @-@ released Halloween II in North America on October 30 , 2009 to coincide with the Halloween holiday , across 1 @, @ 083 theaters . The film was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray on January 12 , 2010 ; the theatrical cut and an unrated director 's cut , which Zombie says is " very different from the theatrical version , " are available .

= = = Box office = = =

On its opening day , the film grossed an estimated \$ 7 @, @ 640 @, @ 000 , which is less than the \$ 10 @, @ 896 @, @ 610 Zombie 's 2007 remake pulled in during the same weekend of August . By the end of its opening weekend , Halloween II had grossed \$ 16 @, @ 349 @, @ 565 . That weekend earned more than the entire box office performances of Halloween 5 : The Revenge of Michael Myers (\$ 11 @, @ 642 @, @ 254) , Halloween III : Season of the Witch (\$ 14 @, @ 400 @, @ 000) , and Halloween : The Curse of Michael Myers (\$ 15 @, @ 116 @, @ 634) , in unadjusted dollars . The film dropped 64 @. @ 9 % in its second weekend , only grossing \$ 5 @, @ 745 @, @ 206 and slipping from third to sixth place . Grossing just \$ 2 @, @ 114 @, @ 486 in its third weekend , Halloween II dropped out of the box office top ten to fourteenth place . The re @-@ release of the film was intended to take advantage of the Halloween holiday , but the film only brought in approximately \$ 475 @, @ 000 . By the end of his theatrical run , Halloween II grossed a total of \$ 33 @, @ 392 @, @ 973 in North America , and an additional \$ 5 @, @ 925 @, @ 616 overseas for a worldwide total of \$ 39 @, @ 318 @, @ 589 . Compared to the other Halloween films , the 2009 sequel sits in fourth place , just behind the original Halloween .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Based on 73 reviews collected by Rotten Tomatoes , Halloween II has an overall 19 % approval rating from critics , with an average score of 3 @. @ 7 out of 10 , with the general consensus reading " Zombie shows flashes of vision in the follow @-@ up to his Halloween reboot , but they 're smothered by mountains of gore and hackneyed , brutal violence . " Rob Nelson , of Variety , felt the use of Deborah and the white horse was nothing more than " silly " , and he disagreed with Zombie 's choice to film Halloween II in 16mm film , as opposed to wider format of 35mm that he used on his 2007 remake . Nelson also stated that the hospital scene was nothing more than a " butcher " -version of Carpenter 's 1981 sequel , with the rest of the film feeling like it was rushed and " slapped together " at the last minute . In contrast , Time Out believed the hospital scene at the start of the film " [bested the 1981 sequel] in just about every respect " . Time Out stated that Compton 's portrayal of Laurie Strode showed an " intense , nontrivializing dedication to the role " that kept interest , while the storyline of Dr. Loomis 's egocentricity hinders the overall storyline . Time Out also said that Zombie hurt the film by trying to show how " violence lingers with , and perverts , all who are touched by it " , but then undercutting himself with " carnivalesque " violence . Although the New York Post 's Kyle Smith did not believe the character of Laurie Strode was a balance for Michael Myers or Dr. Loomis , he agreed the ghostly images of Deborah Myers were a " relief from

the blood @-@ streaked brutality " of Michael 's murders .

The Boston Globe 's Tom Russo had varied reactions to the film . Russo pointed out that Zombie attempted to be more inventive with Halloween II , but only achieved mixed results for his efforts . Russo referred to the dream sequences of Deborah Myers and the white horse as " pretentiously silly " , but agreed that the scenes did help to break up the standard genre violence and even went so far as to compare the sensation created by those scenes to " Tim Burton doing straight horror " . In the end , Russo claimed that " only the most hardcore fans " would want the film series to continue . Joe Neumaier , of the Daily News , stated that Zombie has found himself with Halloween II . Neumaier describes the film as a successful " ' character @-@ based ' monster @-@ flick " . Zombie 's use of music from the 1970s , like The Moody Blues ' " Nights in White Satin " and 10cc 's " The Things We Do for Love " , is " terrifically odd " throughout the film . Neumaier also said that the imagery of Deborah Myers and the " ethereal white horse " were a " nice visual relief " from Michael 's violent attacks .