

= Zombi 2 =

Zombi 2 is a 1979 zombie film directed by Lucio Fulci . The film was adapted from an original screenplay by Dardano Sacchetti to serve as a sequel to George A. Romero 's Dawn of the Dead , released in Italy as Zombi . It stars Tisa Farrow , Ian McCulloch and Richard Johnson , and featured a score by frequent Fulci collaborator Fabio Frizzi .

The film tells the story of a Caribbean island cursed by voodoo , whose dead residents rise as zombies to attack the living . A scientist 's daughter journeys to the island after her father 's boat turns up abandoned in New York City . Intended as a return to " classic zombie tales " by its writer , Zombi 2 was filmed in Italy , with further location shooting in New York and Santa Domingo .

Produced on a small budget of ? 410 million , the film earned several times its production costs back in international gross . It attracted controversy upon its United Kingdom release , becoming listed as a " video nasty " ; however , later years have seen a greater appreciation for the film from critics . Frizzi 's score has also been released independently of the film , as well as being performed live on tour by the composer .

= = Plot = =

Investigating an abandoned boat in a New York harbour , a patrolman is killed by a zombie before his partner chases it overboard . The dead patrolman 's body is taken to the morgue . Anne Bowles ( Tisa Farrow ) is questioned by police , as the boat belonged to her father . She claims he is conducting research on Matul , a Caribbean island . A newspaper reporter , Peter West ( Ian McCulloch ) , is investigating the story . He and Bowles learn that Bowles ' father is suffering from a strange illness on the island . They hire a boat and two guides ? Brian Hull ( Al Cliver ) and his wife Susan Barrett ( Aurette Gay ) ? to reach Matul .

Meanwhile , on Matul , Dr. David Menard ( Richard Johnson ) , and his wife Paola ( Olga Karlatos ) have been researching the phenomenon of zombie reanimation . Paola wishes to flee the island but Menard insists on staying . That night , Paola is alone in the house when a zombie tries to enter . She pushes the door shut but it breaks through with one arm . Paola is dragged through the hole and killed , with her eye being gouged out by splintered wood .

Approaching Matul , Barrett dives in the ocean around the boat . She encounters a shark and flees behind a reef , only to be accosted by a submerged zombie . Surfacing , she reaches the boat while the shark and zombie attack each other . Eventually , the boat docks at Matul .

Menard is alarmed to find that one of his colleagues has died of the zombie infection ; he waits for the body to reanimate before shooting it in the head . While digging a grave for the body , he hears gunfire and follows it to discover the boat group . Menard takes them back to his mansion , discovering Paola 's corpse being eaten by zombies . The group fend off an attack and escapes in a jeep , with West suffering an ankle injury when the vehicle veers off @-@ road . Resting in a jungle clearing , the group realise they have encountered a Conquistador @-@ era graveyard ; Barrett is killed when one of the corpses rises from the earth and bites out her throat .

As more corpses reanimate , the group flees to a hospital , where Menard explains that the dead are rising as a result of a voodoo curse which he has been trying to stop . The hospital is besieged by zombies , and Menard is killed by one of his former staff . As the zombies attempt to enter , those being treated for infection inside the hospital also reanimate , killing several hospital staff who have stayed behind . As the dead outside breach the door , Bowles sets the building on fire . The undead Barrett attacks Hull but is shot in the head by West . Bowles , West and Hull escape to the boat and leave the island .

At sea , Hull dies of his infection , and his body is locked in a cabin to be used as evidence of what has happened . However , as the boat approaches New York again , a radio broadcast reports that the city is under attack from zombies ? the result of the initial attack in the harbour .

= = Production = =

== Pre @-@ production ==

Zombi 2 serves as a sequel to Zombi , a re @-@ edited Italian release of George A. Romero 's 1978 film Dawn of the Dead ; Zombi had been edited by Dario Argento and given a new score by the Italian band Goblin , and proved successful upon its release in Italy . As Italian copyright law allows any film to be marketed as a sequel to another work , the film was quickly greenlit and financed by producer Fabrizio De Angelis . Enzo G. Castellari was offered to direct Zombi 2 , but turned it down as he didn 't feel he would be the right director for a horror film . Director Lucio Fulci was De Angelis ' second choice for the project , and was hired based on his handling of violent scenes in his previous films Sette note in nero and Non si sevizia un paperino .

Screenwriter Dardano Sacchetti had already worked with Fulci on Sette note in nero . Sacchetti has since stated that his initial script for Zombi 2 ? originally written under the title Nightmare Island ? had been influenced by The Island of Doctor Moreau and had been intended to return to " classic zombie tales " such as I Walked with a Zombie , The Walking Dead or Voodoo Island . Sacchetti began work on this script in July 1978 , before it was optioned by Angelis ' company Variety Films that December and re @-@ tooled as Zombi 2 . Lead star McCulloch was cast primarily on the success in Italy of the 1975 BBC television series Survivors , which had impressed producer Ugo Tucci .

== Filming ==

Production occurred during June and July 1979 . Filming took place in Latina , Italy , as well as in New York City and Santo Domingo . Several of the actors ' contracts had specified being provided with trailers for the duration of production ; however , none were present when filming started and only Johnson was able to convince the producers to provide one . McCulloch and Johnson had known each other for many years by the time they collaborated on Zombi 2 , having first met while they were members of the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1962 , with the younger McCulloch coming to idolise Johnson 's work .

== Music ==

The score to Zombi 2 was composed by Fabio Frizzi , who frequently scored Fulci 's works , including Sette note in nero , I quattro dell 'apocalisse and Sella d 'argento previously . Zombi 2 marked the first time the two had worked together on a straight horror movie as opposed to their previous spaghetti western and giallo thriller work ; Frizzi would go on to compose for many more horror films with and without Fulci .

Frizzi 's work on Zombi 2 ? particularly " Seq . 6 " , the sequence composed for the eye @-@ gouging scene ? was inspired by the melody of The Beatles ' 1967 song " A Day in the Life " . Elsewhere in the score , Frizzi included Caribbean musical cues , which he noted were intended to " pleasantly deceive " the audience . A medley of the score was later included as part of Frizzi 's 2013 Fulci 2 Frizzi live tour , including the 2014 live album release Fulci 2 Frizzi : Live at Union Chapel . The score itself was released on vinyl by Death Waltz Records in 2015 , with new artwork by Tom Beauvais .

== Track listing ==

All songs written and composed by Fabio Frizzi .

== Release ==

Zombi 2 was first released in September 1979 in Italy , before being released in English @-@ speaking markets in 1980 . The film would go on to gross over ? 3 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 @,@ 000

worldwide , significantly higher than its ? 410 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 budget . Zombi 2 has also been released under the titles Sanguella , The Island of the Living Dead , Zombie Flesh Eaters , Zombie , Zombie The Dead Walk Among Us , Gli Ultimi Zombi , Woodoo , L 'Enfer de Zombies , Zombie 2 : The Dead Are Among Us and Nightmare Island .

Upon its release in the United Kingdom on 2 January 1980 , the British Board of Film Classification required a total of one minute and forty @-@ six seconds of material to be cut in order to obtain an X rating ; its most recent home release on 1 August 2005 passed for an 18 rating with no cuts required . However , the 1980 release found itself classified as a " video nasty " , having been considered a breach of the Obscene Publications Act . This classification , and the de facto " ban " it involved , has subsequently been used for publicity when advertising future home releases

Zombi 2 has been released several times on home video , beginning with a 1981 VHS version by VIPCO following the theatrical cuts directed by the BBFC . VIPCO produced an uncut release , marketed as the " strong uncut version " , on VHS the following year ; this is the release which was widely confiscated as a " video nasty " . Further VHS releases followed in 1991 and 1994 , with the latter being edited for widescreen viewing . The film was first released on DVD by VIPCO in 2004 , with minor cuts , and uncut by Anchor Bay Entertainment in 2005 . Other DVD releases include a 2004 version by Cornerstone Media , and a 2012 DVD and Blu @-@ ray version by Arrow Films .

= = Reception = =

Zombi 2 grossed higher in the domestic Italian box office than its predecessor , leading to future sequels ? Fulci began directed Zombi 3 before illness forced him to hand over the reigns to Bruno Mattei and Claudio Fragasso , the latter of whom would also direct Zombi 4 .

In a contemporary review , Tom Milne reviewed a 89 @-@ minute English @-@ language dub in the Monthly Film Bulletin and compared the film to Dawn of the Dead . While noting that the cast was competent and the film featured " sometimes effective make @-@ up work " , Milne opined that the film " lacks @-@ for all weaknesses of Romero 's film ? even a tenth of the minatory charge harboured by Zombies . " The review noted that the censorship trimmed a " promisingly gruesome sequence " with a corpse undergoing an autopsy . In Italy , La Stampa described the film as " pedestrian " , as well finding it hard to bear Olga Karlatos ' character 's death scene .

In a 2012 review for The Guardian , Phelim O 'Neill described the film as " the ultimate undead movie " , praising its commitment to gory scenes and convincing effects . O 'Neill felt that the film stood the passage of time well , and explained that this was " because it delivers , plain and simple " . He also highlighted Frizzi 's work on the score , and summed the film up as " a real influence on what followed " . Anne Billson , writing for The Daily Telegraph in 2013 , included Zombi 2 in her list of the top ten zombie films , describing its opening scenes as " sublimely creepy " and the eye @-@ gouging scene as " memorably nasty " . Writing for the Daily Mirror , James Kloda praised Fulci 's directing , finding that he consistently made evocative use of particular shots to accentuate the film 's action or horror . Kloda felt that the film " can often blind with its shock violence but is well worth the look " .

Writing for AllMovie , Robert Firsching described Zombi 2 as a " relatively well made shocker " which " led to the zombie @-@ gore film becoming the dominant motif of 1980s Italian horror " . Firsching rated the film three stars out of five . Empire 's Kim Newman awarded the film two stars out of five , chalking up much of its " video nasty " reputation to the " eye gouging " scene , comparing this unfavourably to similar material in 1929 's Un Chien Andalou . Newman did compliment several sequences as interesting , particularly one underwater scene depicting a zombie attacking a shark , but found that overall the film did no " keep up the pace or plausability sufficiently " .