

# BETTER OFF ZED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## BUTCHER BIRD STUDIOS' *BETTER OFF ZED* RELEASES SEPTEMBER 4TH

LOS ANGELES – Butcher Bird Studios' *Better Off Zed* will be distributed through **SP Releasing** on Amazon, Walmart and other outlets throughout the US.

Helmed by award-winning director **Travis Stevens** (*Linked*; *Shelf Life*) and with a script penned by 2015 Nicholl Fellowship-winner **Amy Tofte**, *Better Off Zed* stars **Christine Woods** (HBO's *Hello Ladies*; *The Walking Dead*; *About a Boy*) and **Graham Sibley** (*Sully*; *Jane the Virgin*; *Acquarius*). The film is executive produced by **Linda Morel** (*Key & Peele*; *Heathers*, *Teachers*).

**STORY SUMMARY:** For the last decade, Guy (Sibley) has worked a mentally and physically demanding 60-hour week, a soul-crushing daily grind that has frayed his nerves; while his wife Paige (Woods), a free spirit with multiple fine arts degrees to her name, has spent their marriage chasing creative inspiration. When the zombie apocalypse arrives, Guy is ecstatic: no more grueling work, no more monotony, no more hopeless future. He spends his days in idyllic splendor, living life in the moment... while Paige snaps into survival mode and takes on the role of pragmatist, figuring out how to secure their perimeter and stretch out their food supply, while following news reports for any glimmer of hope that they might be able to escape. The couple—in essence—has switched places. And in this new dynamic, all of the small fissures pressured beneath the surface of their relationship finally crack open, forcing them to deal not only with Armageddon, but with a potentially far more horrifying reality... each other.

**BETTER OFF ZED** serves as a metaphor for the claustrophobia of modern living and modern relationships, as well as the struggle for the inner artist in all of us. It also explores the question, are you with the right partner to face the end with?

### CAST AND CREW:

**Butcher Bird Studios** is a creative studio and production company founded by director-producers Steven Calcote, Jason Milligan, Luis Reyes, Michael Shlain and Travis Stevens. ***BETTER OFF ZED*** is the company's first feature film. The release of the film coincides with the September 27<sup>th</sup> airing of their first television series, ***ORBITAL REDUX***, a live streamed science fiction offering starring Yuri Lowenthal and Yasmine Al-Bustami and streaming on Legendary's new digital platform Project Alpha. The studio has also recently collaborated with comedian/musician **Reggie Watts** on ***CROWE'S NEST***, a fully-improvised live-stream sit-com also starring **Rory Scovel** and

**Kate Berlant**; and the creative team behind TV Land's hit *Teachers*. Butcher Bird Studios has also worked on many pilots, including a sketch comedy series with comedian **Brian Regan**, a sit com with the creators of *The Nanny*, among others. Butcher Bird Studios creates cutting-edge branded and narrative content across film, television, digital media, interactive, and virtual reality mediums.

**Travis Stevens** is an award-winning director and writer (Slamdance, NYCIFF) working in Hollywood, CA. Travis is the managing partner at **Butcher Bird Studios** and splits his time between that and directing for clients like **Viacom** and **Brian Regan**. His hands on approach to things has led experience with, and a deeper appreciation of, all aspects of filmmaking, from gripping and set construction to editorial. **BETTER OFF ZED** is his second feature film.

**Amy Tofte** won a 2015 Nicholl Fellowship for her feature script *Addis Abeka*. A graduate of the prestigious CalArts MFA writing program, her films and plays have garnered accolades across the country and internationally. Her short film *Other Side* won Best Independent Short at the 2016 IFS Film Festival in Los Angeles. And, most recently, her play *FleshEatingTiger* premiered in Melbourne, Australia.

**Graham Sibley** began his career starring in the highly-lauded cult classic *Zombie Honeymoon*, executive produced by John Landis. From there, he appeared in the Emmy-Award winning film *Nanking*, directed by two-time Academy Award Winner Bill Guttentag and starring Woody Harrelson. Other credits include television roles on *Fear The Walking Dead*, *The Affair*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Aquarius*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, *The Newsroom*, *Jane the Virgin* and the most recent season of *G.L.O.W.*; as well Debra Eisenstadt's *Before the Sun Explodes* and her upcoming *Imaginary Order*, both starring alongside fellow *Better Off Zed* co-star Christine Woods; Clint Eastwood's *Sully*, starring Tom Hanks and most recently *The Honor List*, executive produced by Zoe Saldana for Lionsgate. Graham is also a co-founder of the prestigious Los Angeles-based IAMA Theater Company.

**Christine Woods** starred opposite Stephen Merchant on HBO's *Hello Ladies*, as well as in an impressive array of television shows and films, such as *Man with a Plan*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Walking Dead*, *About a Boy*, and *Perfect Couples*; and she has appeared in the Netflix film *Handsome* with Jeff Garlin, Natasha Lyonne and Amy Sedaris; and the Macon Blair helmed Sundance Grand Jury Prize winning film *I Don't Feel At Home In This World Anymore* starring Elijah Wood and Melanie Lynskey. She has also garnered accolades for her stage roles. As a member of the prestigious IAMA Theater Company, Christine earned a Stage Raw Award nomination for her role in *A Dog's House*. Other credits include the television shows *Flash Forward* and *Go On*, and the films *Dean*—from writer/director Demetri Martin and winner of the Tribeca Film Festival; and *Wild Man*, where she stars alongside Mike Vogel and Kate Upton.

**Linda Morel** is a producer who won an Emmy for her work on the celebrated *Key & Peele*. She has also produced shows such as TV Land's *Teachers*, the controversial *Heathers*, and USA's *Playing House*. Currently Linda is an Executive Producer on

Jordan Peele's *Weird City*, a thriller anthology series for YouTube. She began her career in the music industry with Warner Music as an International Artist Development Manager for artists such as The Deftones, Bette Midler and Chaka Khan. Morel made the leap into television as the Production Coordinator on Nickelodeon's *The Brothers Garcia*. Since then she has worked in production for outlets such as USA, Comedy Central, TV Land, and NBC, as well as working on several critically-acclaimed films.

#### **DETAILS**

**Title:** *Better Off Zed*

**Director:** Travis Stevens

**Producer:** Linda Morel and Butcher Bird Studios

**Distribution:** SP Releasing

**Sales:** Fabrication Films

For more information visit [betteroffzedmovie.com](http://betteroffzedmovie.com) or contact Luis Reyes at [luis@butcherbirdstudios.com](mailto:luis@butcherbirdstudios.com).