



IMTA ALUM ELIJAH WOOD CATCHES COOTIES

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Cooties opens in select theatres and VOD on Friday, September 18

“We were nervous because we had a lot of kids, and a very short amount of time and limited budget to make the movie. It’s nerve-wracking – it could go either way with kids. But they were super-professional and really wonderful. We worked really fast and had a blast.” – Elijah Wood

Getting cooties from another kid at school is absolutely one of the worst things that can happen. Cooties are usually thought to be something imaginary boys can get when a girl touches them...or vice versa. But the word cooties is derived from the Malay word “kutu” that refers to body lice, and to literally catch cooties is grounds for being sent home from school. Unfortunately for the students at Fort Chicken Elementary School, the *Cooties* they get turn them into raving, flesh-eating zombies. Talk about a bad day at school.

IMTA alum Elijah Wood stars in the long-awaited horror comedy *Cooties* in which a group of misfit teachers band together to escape the playground carnage of killer zombie children. Allison Pill, Rainn Wilson, Jack McBrayer, Nasim Pedrad and Jorge Garcia also star alongside co-writers Leigh Whannell and Ian Brennan. Wood also serves as a producer of the film through his production company, SpectreVision.



“I play a substitute teacher that has been living in New York and comes back to this small town where he grew up,” said Wood about his character. “He used to go to this school, so he comes back to work as a substitute, because he’s trying to earn money to write a book. And the whole thing takes place in the course of a day. It’s his first day back and this virus breaks out. And very quickly things start to spiral out of control and the teachers realize that they’re in danger, so a group of them lock themselves into the school to avoid being eaten by these children. And it gets insane.”



Wood also said that *Cooties* was a lot of fun to make. “Leigh Whannell and Ian Brennan wrote a really hilarious and incredible script for us and to sort of see that through to fruition was really exciting and gratifying.” Co-producer Noah Wall added, “*Cooties* — which is quite silly — has, we hope, some provocative themes in it about teachers being underpaid and underappreciated, the processed food being given to our children in schools, [and] overmedicating kids...I just made it sound like Al Gore’s new documentary!”

Wood will next be seen in the fantasy *The Last Witch Hunter* alongside Vin Diesel, Rose Leslie, Ólafur Darri Ólafsson, Julie Engelbrecht and Michael Caine. The film follows Kaulder (Diesel) as his secret order — The Axe and Cross — leads the intense battle against the most horrifying witches in history. Wood plays Dolan the 37th, a priest tasked with assisting Kaulder during his mission to take down the Queen Witch once and for all. *The Last Witch Hunter* opens October 23.

Wood also recently filmed *The Trust* in which he and Nicholas Cage play a pair of corrupt cops who are stuck working the evidence room of the Las Vegas Police Department. After one of them learns about a vault full of cash in the back of a convenience store, they team up to try to steal the money. No release date has been announced.