

*An Open Letter to Paul Haggis and Entertainment Weekly*  
By  
*Lloyd Kaufman*

This letter is in response to the September 14th article "The Great Divider" in which Paul Haggis is quoted as saying:

One reason so many people bashed *Crash* may be that it aced out *Brokeback Mountain* for Best Picture. "I think people were shocked," Haggis says, "because if you look back, after the Oscars the dogs were let loose. Everyone wanted to say why it was a bad film — or why it was the worst film of all time. Well," he laughs, "I'd argue that I've probably seen a couple that are worse. Some Troma films might qualify." *Poultrygeist Night of the Chicken Dead*, maybe?

I know everyone says we (Troma Entertainment) suck and all, and that's fine, but honestly, why on earth is Paul Haggis calling us out? As you can see by the picture, Paul and I are not enemies and I doubt he has even seen *Poultrygeist Night of the Chicken Dead*. If he had, then he and many of our critics would see the film is simply not a schlocky B-movie, but a film with social commentary on every topic from the fast food industry to terrorism, and it's a musical! Haggis may think Troma is the lowest common denominator in film, but at least we have respect for our fellow filmmakers and understand that even if someone's film is not their cup of tea, it probably is for a few million others, for over 40 years...

Sure *Poultrygeist* will never win an Academy award, or the praise and love of the Hollywood foreign press (BECAUSE HARVEY DIDNT PAY A BILLION BUCKS FOR SAID AWARDS), that some other trite-preachy-borderline-bullshit-beat-you-over-the-head-with-their-after-school-special-attempt at tackling racial tension in LA with wanna-be Altmanesque scenarios, but end up making the equally bullshit "Grand Canyon" look like the "magnificent Ambersons." Yet, Hollywood and Paul Haggis still see Troma (the oldest independent film studio in New York) as a punching bag, toilet and an easy target for hotshot wannabe Paddy Chayefskys who use us as an easy out in interviews.

Example:

*EW: So, Mr. Hotshot screenwriter of the second, what do you think of Ang Lee's new film?*



***Best buds, Lloyd Kaufman and Paul Haggis.***

*HOTSHOT: Well it blows balls, but it's not as bad as (INSERT TROMA TITLE HERE).*

If "industry professionals" need to bash on Troma for good press or lack of confidence in their own work fine... but remember, Troma has endured and survived for almost 40 years and we will continue to endure and survive for another 40 years!

Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lloyd Kaufman".

Lloyd Kaufman  
President, Troma Ent.