And here we are. Our first couple of horror ladies have valiantly battled, and sadly, only one moves on. The votes have been tallied – from this site, from Facebook and from Twitter (31 votes for JoBeth Williams and 83 votes for Sigourney Weaver)… and alas, we must bid a fond farewell to Ms. JoBeth Williams. Let it be known, that she was my personal choice for the first battle – and frankly it was a very difficult decision. In the end, I looked to my all-time top 40 movie list for assistance. On this list, *Aliens* holds the #5 spot, while *Poltergeist* is #3. That clinched the Williams vote. I’m extra sad to see her go. But we move on, as does our beloved Ripley! Therefore, Ms. Weaver, please help yourself to a well-deserved nap in some well-equipped (and preferably safe) hyper-sleep chamber until we see you again in the semi-final rounds. Sweet space dreams, Ripley.

\*\* As a fun side note – Ms. JoBeth Williams *did* cast her vote on this particular battle. The question lingers, whom did she vote for? Hmmm.

And on we bloodily and merrily continue…

Our next battle takes us deep into the woods, beyond the rantings of Crazy Ralph and into the deep and bloody waters of Crystal Lake – steeped in gory history.

There are countless numbers of blondes who have graced the sharp edge of Jason Voorhees’ machete (and of course those who have successfully avoided it), but in this particular battle, we’ll be focusing on two of the best blondes – both well and able-bodied enough to be formidable matches against our favorite hockey mask-wearing killer.

Welcome voters, to the battle of “The Crystal Lake Blondes”.

First up is a beloved woman of 80s horror – Ms. Amy Steel. She got to play a final girl in two classic films in this golden age of horror known as the 80s, overcoming the fun trickery of 1986’s *April Fool’s Day,* and making a damned fool of Jason in one of the films we’ll highlight in this battle – *Friday the 13th Part 2*.

Steel plays Ginny, a no-nonsense psych major, taking the summer off to help out her hot boyfriend Paul (John Furey) train a bunch of horny college kids who want to be camp counselors (don’t you kids read the papers?) From the moment we see her, we know she’s resourceful, intelligent and has a great sense of humor. Darnit, we like her. And that’s all you need in order to empathize with her when the other counselors-in-training start dropping like flies and Jason takes over the camp.

There are a few brilliant acting moments which Steel provides. I’ll first point out the, “There’s someone in this fucking room!” line delivery. It’s a terrifying moment in the film, and Steel’s delivery is packed with gusto and genuine fear.

The obvious choice to make a case for Steel can be found in her intimate moments (good heavens, not that kind of intimate) with Jason in his ramshackle cabin – where she pretends to be Jason’s beloved mom – donning her filthy sweater and attempting to style her hair like the decapitated head on the altar before her. Steel’s just got an ease as an actor. As you watch her, you see that she doesn’t have to think about what she will do in each scene. Especially in this mother/son scene with Jason, the performance is seamless, natural and detailed. Basically, she makes it look easy. Just watch the automatic disgust as she contorts her face when the ragged sweater goes over her head.

But it won’t be these mentioned moments which will sell you on Steel’s goodness. When the gang of would-be counselors are at the bar, and Ginny is talking to them about what Jason might actually be now (“An out-of-control psychopath? A frightened retard? A child trapped in a man’s body?”), clearly trying to look at it from the perspective of her intended vocation. It’s all great line delivery, but the best moment is her half-drunken exhaustion as Paul and Ted (Stu Charno) make fun of her grave seriousness and intelligent thought process. She makes a small turn from them, obviously disappointed that they don’t see her point of view – and it’s real.

Don’t get me wrong. Ms. Steel is the genuine article. When it’s time for her to step up into scream queen territory, she embraces it and excels at it.

We’ll move on, but as is clear from these notes, *Part 2* is probably my favorite in the franchise and Ginny would make a valiant run for my all-time favorite *Friday the 13th* heroine.

Ms. Steel’s very worthy opponent in this latest match is another beautiful blonde, also making a name for herself as someone who can handle any ol’ serial killer. No big whoop! Thing is, unlike Ms. Steel, our second contestant has to deal with Mr. Voorhees in another state – and I ain’t talking about Florida. In *Friday the 13th Part 7: The New Blood*, Jason is dead. For real – dead. He’s a zombie. Can you kill what’s already dead?

Of course, we’re talking about Ms. Lar Park Lincoln, *The New Blood*’s Tina Shepard. She’s got some gnarly guilt she’s dealing with when she finds herself back at Crystal Lake, and with that comes the full unleashing of her telekinetic powers which she can wield when she’s upset – which is much of the time. What do you want? She killed her dad in the lake, yo.

Whereas Ginny’s inborn talent is smarts, Tina was born with the ability to move things with her mind.

If we were to actually put these two *characters* head-to-head, it’s pretty obvious who would triumph. Come to think of it, that would be a pretty twisted match to see. But I digress – we’re looking at Amy vs. Lar, not Ginny vs. Tina. Focus.

While it’s true that Tina has a somewhat unfair advantage over both her fellow *Friday the 13th* final girls as well as a dumbfounded Jason, she still must – during the course of the film – learn to control the powers which generally are knee-jerk reactions. We see it in Lincoln’s performance. Sure, she’s screaming and running and doing the usual thing such characters do, but those sparkling blue eyes of Lincoln convey not only fear, guilt and confusion – they also have moments of triumph and confidence.

This is perfectly illustrated when she and Jason find themselves in the basement of Tina’s lake house at the height of the climax. By this time, her mother’s dead, Nick (Kevin Blair Spirtas) is unconscious upstairs and she is alone with the creature she raised from the depths. She now must rely solely on her powers and her new-found control of these gifts. Ms. Lincoln is sweaty, tear-stained, but ready to kick-ass. It’s kind of an annoyance that Nick grabs her and drags her from the house to avoid the pending inferno. Dude, she’s got this. You’re hot and all, but back off. It would have been fascinating to see how Tina would have handled the rest of the scenario had Nick remained unconscious or even perished. Lar has fully inhabited Tina by now, and there’s even a change in physicality (I’d be curious to know at what point in shooting the climax was filmed).

If I had to choose a “best of” moment for Ms. Lincoln, I’d choose another more subtle, less “screamy” bit. Tina is back in the house with her mother and Dr. Crews (Terry Kiser) following her vision of the murdering of Michael (William Butler). Crews attempts to pass it off as a product of her various mental issues, to which Lincoln angrily retorts, “No you’re not listening to me!” through a clenched jaw, until she turns to her mother (Susan Blu) and her vocal inflection suddenly changes to that of a small, pleading child, “Momma, please – can we go back now? I don’t want to stay here anymore.” Listen carefully the next time you watch – it’s heart-breaking. This moment also perfectly captures Tina’s angst, her self-doubt and her confusion. For real, it’s a great acting moment from Lincoln.

Rest assured, these are not the only horror ladies with a day pass from Crystal Lake to fight in this hallowed arena. But they are the first in this competition. So, who is going to get your vote? Amy (Ginny) Steel or Lar (Tina) Park Lincoln?

As before, you can vote right here on the website – with the poll below, make your voice heard on our Facebook page, or head on over to Twitter, using “Ultimate Horror Lady” and then #AmySteel or #LarParkLincoln, depending on your final choice!

Have at it, voters! See you in three days! Until then, for safety’s sake, heed Crazy Ralph’s warnings, and visit Crystal Lake *only* while you’re deciding on this current battle!