

# BLOOD IN THE SNOW

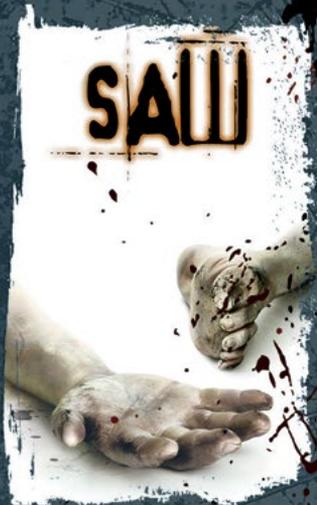
FILM FESTIVAL + DEADLY EXPOSURE

presented by SUPER CHANNEL



**SUPER CHANNEL: OCT 29-31, 2021**

**ROYAL CINEMA: NOV 18-23, 2021**



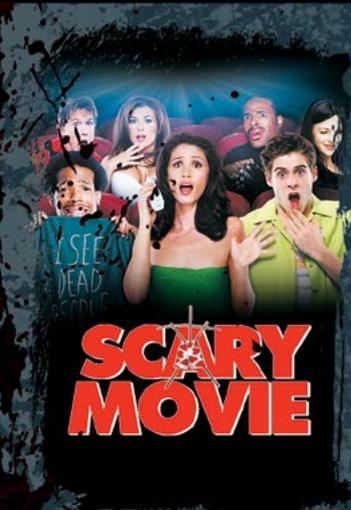
SAW 1-7  
SCREAM 1-4



THE EVIL DEAD 1 & 2  
SCARY MOVIE 1-5



SCREAM



SCARY MOVIE

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## A QUICK BIT FROM KELLY MICHAEL STEWART



In many ways I think horror fans were ready for the “apocalypse” better than anyone. I think most of us thought that we’d be roaming around in these armed caravans but the reality of this pandemic was not what anyone expected.

But here we are, together again and I am happy to say that Blood in the Snow is back and stronger than ever thanks to Super Channel stepping in to broadcast us nationally across Canada to over 400,000 homes. It was so successful that we are now thrilled to have the best of both worlds this year with our first ever hybrid festival airing both on Super Channel and in-person again at the Royal Cinema.

We also didn’t let the pandemic slow down our mandate or slow down the growth of the festival. This year we are so thrilled to have our new Horror Development Lab which couldn’t have happened without a generous commitment from Telefilm Canada. I hope you are thrilled to be here with us again for our 10th incredible year and we hope you can join us for many more. Welcome back.

*Kelly Michael Stewart*

Kelly Michael Stewart, Festival Director and Founder  
Blood in the Snow Film Festival + Deadly Exposure

## Message from the Executive Director, Telefilm Canada

A celebration of artistry in film, festivals provide an important venue to showcase Canadian creativity across the country and beyond. That is why we are proud to support The Blood in The Snow Film Festival!

This past year more than ever, Canada has shown the many innovative and resourceful ways in which we make our audiovisual sector thrive. We have given the world many reasons to take notice of Canada and why we continue to be a Partner of Choice!

Our mission to foster and elevate authentic storytelling from Canadians of all backgrounds, especially those of underrepresented communities, is more pressing than ever before. At Telefilm, our priority to create a more representative screen-based industry continues as our efforts across all our initiatives, including our funding programs, increase.

Stronger together, I want to thank and congratulate The Blood in The Snow Film Festival for continuing its work of uplifting a diversity of voices through films and celebrating the brilliance of Canadian content at home and around the world.

As always, continue to watch Canadian films wherever they are available and tell others to do the same!



*Christa Dickenson*

Christa Dickenson  
Executive Director, Telefilm Canada

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## Message from President and CEO, Super Channel

We are very proud to partner for the second year with the incredible team at Blood in the Snow to bring audiences across the country access to this unique film festival celebrating the best in contemporary Canadian horror film.

The ongoing pandemic has challenged us to find new and innovative ways to do things and we believe it's important, now more than ever, to support Canadian filmmakers and provide a platform to showcase Canadian creators and content, as well as elevate the many voices and stories from culturally diverse backgrounds.

The virtual edition of BITS is a great way to introduce these independent genre films from a wide range of fresh voices to Super Channel's national audience and we are sure horror fans are going to be excited to discover what the 2021 edition has in store for them.

Perfectly timed for Halloween weekend, we invite you to get comfortable, grab some popcorn and settle in to experience this exceptional collection of shorts and feature films from BITS. For the full festival experience, don't forget to stay for the Q&As with talent and creators following the feature film presentations. Enjoy and prepare to be scared!



*Don McDonald*

Don McDonald  
President and CEO, Super Channel

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## **SUPER CHANNEL**

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29**

9:00 pm - DON'T SAY IT'S NAME  
11:00 pm - MOURNFUL MEDIUMS  
1:00 am - DON'T SAY IT'S NAME (R)  
3:00 am - MOURNFUL MEDIUMS (R)

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**

7:00 pm - A SERIES OF WEB BITES  
9:05 pm - MOTHERLY  
11:05 pm - THE RIGHTEOUS  
1:05 am - MOTHERLY (R)  
3:05 am - THE RIGHTEOUS (R)

## **ROYAL CINEMA**

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

8:00 pm - VICIOUS FUN  
\*OPEN CAPTION SCREENING

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

6:45 pm - FUNNY FRIGHTS  
9:30 pm - PEPPERGRASS

### **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20**

6:45 pm - DARK VISIONS  
9:30 pm - THE CHAMBER OF TERROR

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

6:45 pm - EMERGING SCREAMS  
9:30 pm - FLEE THE LIGHT

### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

8:00 pm - WOODLAND GREY

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

8:00 pm - THE FAMILY

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31**

9:00 pm - FUNHOUSE  
11:30 pm - TIN CAN  
2:00 am - FUNHOUSE (R)  
4:30 am - TIN CAN (R)

## **ONLINE**

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

9am to 5pm - Horror Development Lab

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

9am to 5pm - Horror Development Lab

### **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20**

9am to 5pm - Horror Development Lab

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

12pm to 3pm - Deadly Exposure

### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

11am to 4pm - Deadly Exposure

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

11am to 4pm - Deadly Exposure

The Blood in the Snow Film Festival is committed to providing a safe and inclusive space for all its employees and visitors free from harassment, discrimination, sexism and threatening or disrespectful behaviour. We reserve the right to revoke, without notice or refund, credentials or access to BITS screenings and events for those who engage in such conduct.

If at any moment you feel unsafe or would like to report any inappropriate behaviour, please contact the nearest BITS staff member.

CANADIAN

# BLOOD IN THE SNOW

OCT  
28 - 31,  
2021

FILM FESTIVAL + DEADLY EXPOSURE

PRESENTED BY SUPER CHANNEL

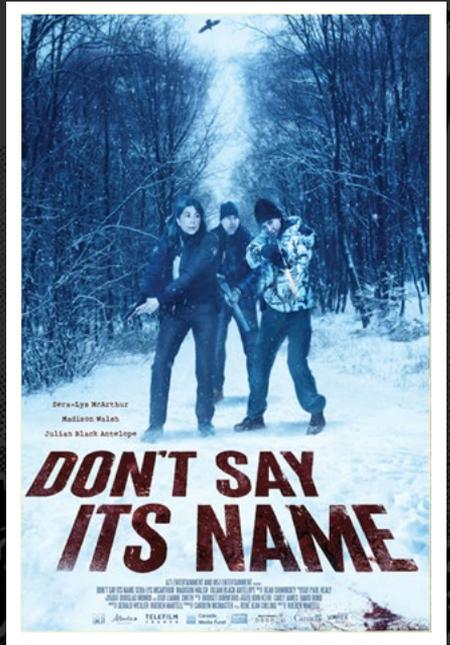


# DON'T SAY ITS NAME

- dir. Rueben Martell

FRIDAY OCTOBER 29 · 9:00 PM

What happens when a reservation, set to be the location for a mining company, is also the hunting ground for an unseen entity? In *DON'T SAY ITS NAME*, local law enforcement Mary Stonechild (Madison Walsh) is dedicated to keeping her quiet Indigenous community safe. Kharis (Keena Shaine) is a resident and activist, and she's 100% against the mining company setting up shop on their land. When she's run down on a deserted snowy road, Mary is driven to look for answers and those responsible for her death. There's also a bloodthirsty menace attacking people, and it's up to Mary and Park Ranger and military veteran Stacey (Sera-Lys McArthur) to figure out who, or what, this menace is before the people closest to them are hurt.



Indigenous Director Rueben Martell takes real-life experience, the themes of tradition vs. capitalism and Indigenous issues—and blends them with a classic slasher film to keep audiences on the edge of their seats. With tons of action, great female leads and just enough horror movie splatter for the gore fans, *DON'T SAY ITS NAME* transforms a wintery town into the backdrop for a First Nations environmental horror.

CAROLYN MAURICETTE, PROGRAMMER



WITH THE SHORT FILM **GIANT BEAR**

- dirs. Neil Christopher, Daniel Gies (11:30 mins)

A timeless Inuit legend about a solitary man, a giant bear and their daunting foes: each other. Animated in a painterly, hybrid 2D and 3D style, this adaptation of a traditional Inuit legend explores the power, beauty and frightening perils of nature.

# MOURNFUL MEDIUMS

## BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 29 · 11:00 PM**

A collection of premieres of Canadian medium length genre shorts.

**ELLA** (dir. Grant McNair) 17:53 mins

After being sent to live with her Aunt for unexplained reasons, Emma, a troubled eight-year old girl, struggles to relate to her new caretaker. After increasingly common episodes in which she loses touch with reality, Emma starts to believe that her malicious "sister", Ella, has returned to haunt her.

**THE DOOR** (dir. Reem Morsi) 19:31 mins

THE DOOR follows a Syrian refugee family who moves to Canada after suffering a terrible loss.

**ESCAPE: A GHOST STORY** (dir. Robin Careless) 17:27 mins

A group of escape room employees must face their fears and overcome a series of murderous puzzles set by a malicious ghost who haunts the building, or face dire consequences.

**THE DEATH DOULA** (dirs. Amanda Parris, Lucius Dechausay) 17:52 mins

In a near future world where the date of one's death is predicted by an app, a death doula is tasked with helping his first love reach her final hour.

**WATERSHED** (dir. Maxime Beauchamp) 14:26 mins

While scavenging around an empty city after a water-borne virus has killed off most of the Earth's population, a lone survivor finds a sliver of hope when she encounters a young Mandarin girl who may be able to chemically manufacture clean water.

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# A SERIES OF WEB BITES BITS WEB PROGRAM

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 30 · 7:00 PM**

A special feature length program of some of the best genre web series and digital content in Canada.

**CREEPY BITS · CHAPTER 1 · "BABY FACE** (dir. David J. Fernandes) 2:59 mins  
Zara, a tired new mom, contends with a baby monitor showing her things in the room that shouldn't be there.

**IT'S MY HALLOWEEN PARTY** (dir. Justin Snikkar) 3:56 mins  
In the tradition of the classic Monster Mash, Dr. Snik Presents a Halloween party song that crosses genres. featuring Mitch Markowitz (The Hilarious House of Frightenstein).

**NARCOLEAP: S2** (dir. Kate Green) 15:00 mins  
When college student Kelsey Atkins unexpectedly begins to leap into the bodies of other people during her bouts of narcolepsy, she becomes a target in the deadly world of military espionage.

**MIDNIGHT LUNCH BREAK** (dir. Émilie Poirier) 5:00 mins  
After wrapping up the Halloween edition of her radio show, Becka realizes she may have pissed off the wrong listener as an assassin rampages through her office after hours.

**THE REVENGE OF THE SNOWFLAKES** (dir. Carlos Soriano) 15:00 mins  
Antonia only wants to celebrate her new project with her boyfriend Hubert when she becomes the victim of a bullying campaign by baby-boomers on social media.

**GHOST · A PRIMITIVE EVOLUTION** (dir. Terra Joy McNerthney) 7:13 mins  
In a desolate post-apocalyptic dreamscape, two lone survivors search for connection. Radio waves call to them, but what will they find at the source of the signal?

**FOLLOW YOUR SHADOW** (dir. Steven Cerritos) 20:00 mins  
Autumn has begun to have nightmares and dark visions of a mysterious entity. She thinks it might be remnants of her recent breakup. Her psychiatrist thinks there may be more to what meets the eye. Together, they'll discover ancient archetypes dwelling in the unconscious region of her mind.

**CONERENCE** (dir. Patrick Scopick) 26:00 mins  
A musical odyssey inside a strange world torn apart by psychedelic incoherence, where music alters reality.

## MOTHERLY

- dir. Craig David Wallace

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 30 · 9:05 PM**

Kate (Lora Burke) and her daughter Beth (Tessa Kozma) are keeping a low profile in a secluded farmhouse. Their only visitor, local cop Hal (Colin Paradine), drops by when he can, serving as emotional support for Kate while trying—without success—to be a male voice in Beth's life. Kates' worst nightmares are realized when the perimeter of their sanctuary is breached by invading interlopers demanding the truth of the tragic event that led mother and daughter to the picturesque setting. With Beth's well-being in the balance and Kate sensing that troubling elements from the past have come back to haunt them, her motherly instincts kick in, making her willing and able to go to any lengths to protect Beth.



BITS regulars Lora Burke, Nick Smyth and Colin Paradine, are back in this riveting Craig David Wallace's feature that's filled with mystery and psychological terror. Burke is a powerhouse who continues to flex her physical acting chops as she leads the cast, and Kozma holds her ground as the hard to impress contrarian tween daughter. You'll be glued to the screen as Motherly ramps up the tension and intrigue.

**· NORM MCGLASHAN, PROGRAMMER**

### WITH THE SHORT FILM **THE CHILD WITH NO NAME**

- dir. Chad Costen (8:50 mins)

11,000 BCE. A lonesome child left alone by her tribe discovers a mysterious wand that gives her the power and insight to create the friend she's always dreamed about only to release a creature as old as time itself.

### AND **WE ALL DREAM**

- dir. Daniel Stark (7:14 mins)

"We All Dream" is a melancholy horror short film about a sleepwalking girl, a midnight mission for ice cream, and the uneasiness of growing up in a jaded world.

# THE RIGHTEOUS

- dir. Mark O'Brien

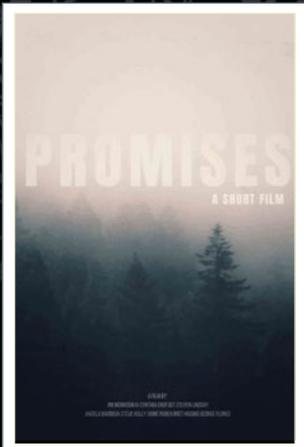
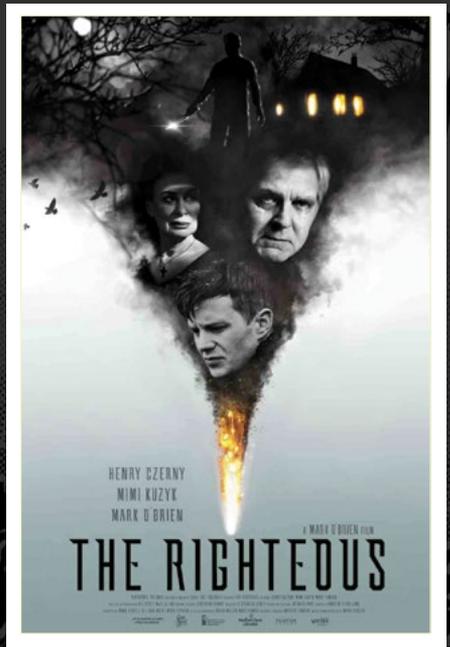
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 30 - 11.05 PM**

Sin, grief and secrets take center stage in THE RIGHTEOUS.

Frederic (Henry Czerny, *The Boys of St. Vincent*, *READY OR NOT*), a former priest and his wife Ethel (Mimi Kuzyk, *HILL ST. BLUES*, *WORKIN' MOMS*) are awash with grief after the death of their daughter. He grapples with his faith as they live life in the hollow space after a loss until a mysterious young man named Aaron (Mark O'Brien, *REPUBLIC OF DOYLE*, *READY OR NOT*) happens upon their secluded property. Injured, dishevelled, and desperate, he begs for assistance from Frederic, who reluctantly grants him some respite. As the days go by, Aaron charms Ethel, but Frederic becomes more uneasy with the young man's presence. Is he a blessing, a menace or a reckoning? As the tension rises, a test of epic proportions presents itself in this waking nightmare.

With stark black and white cinematography, THE RIGHTEOUS takes audiences to a place between life, death, and grief, where good and evil vie for the emptiness in this mourning couple's life, and secrets come to light to blur the lines of what's right and wrong. The performances of veteran stage and screen actors Czerny, Kuzyk and Nigel Bennet are masterclasses as they bring life to compelling characters in this haunting story. For a debut feature, the film's star O'Brien wrote and directed this gripping dark tale of morality, firmly placing his name on the Canadian cinematic map.

**CAROLYN MAURICETTE, PROGRAMMER**



WITH THE SHORT FILM **PROMISES**

- dir. Jim Morrison IV (3:34 mins)

A woman believes she is going on a romantic date, what happens instead comes as a complete surprise. Promises is a simple and powerful tale of intrigue and revenge.

# FUNHOUSE

- dir. Jason William Lee

SUNDAY OCTOBER 31 - 9:00 PM

Take one part Netflix's THE CIRCLE, mixed with a dash of CBS's BIG BROTHER, but top it off with the sadistic games of Saw and you have a pretty good expectation as to what to expect out of Jason William Lee's FUNHOUSE. 8 strangers/social media stars are lured onto a 'game show'-Furcas' House of Fun- promising to pay the winner a 5 million dollar prize, only to discover they've all been trapped in a bunker that will reward those contestants who please their online audience. But fall to last in the rankings and you're forced to participate in some very deadly contests for the audience's amusement. All the while they are guarded by armed men in strange panda masks, being egged on by Furcas- a digital Panda himself.

Lee's apparent disdain for pandas aside he delivers a fun and bloody film, with obvious reflections about our society and social media infatuation included, that should appease the audience out there looking for a gory good time. But perhaps the biggest strength lies in the casting with Valter Skarsgard (the OTHER acting Skarsgard brother, known mainly for his previous turn in LORDS OF CHAOS) leads a cast that also includes strong performances from BITS alumni director/star (and close amiga) Gigi Saul Guerrero, Mathias Retamal (star of BITS best short in 2018 BESTIA), and Christopher Gerard almost steals the entire film as MMA fighter Headstone Malone.

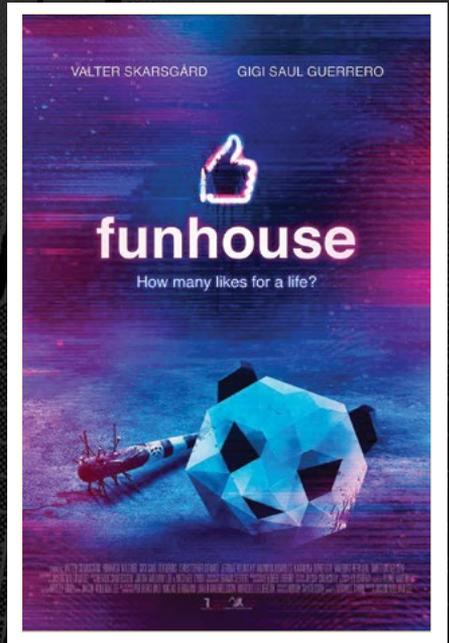
A bloody fun time with some timely commentary, Funhouse will be a gory treat, with some tricks added in, on Halloween.

**KIRK HAVILAND, PROGRAMMER**

WITH THE SHORT FILM **THAT HALLOWEEN**

- dir. Mike Hickey (13:00 mins)

On October 31, 1955, June & Frank Marsters met their grisly end when an escaped killer known as the Willow Woods Wolfman broke into their home. In the decades since the night has grown to be the stuff of local legend, but what really happened THAT HALLOWEEN?



## TIN CAN

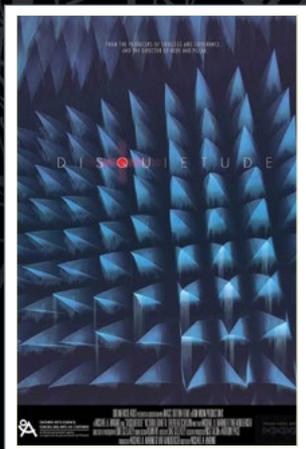
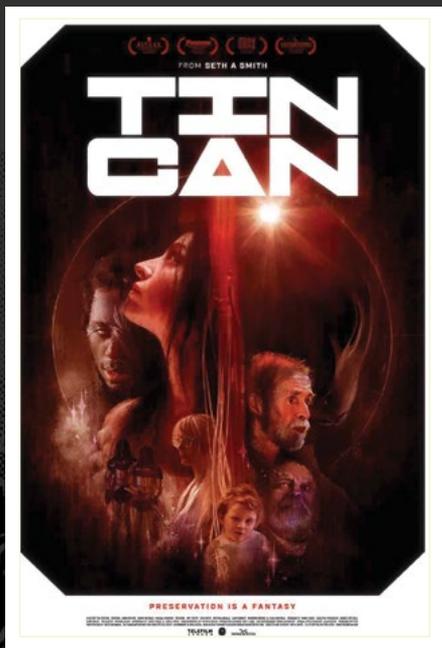
- dir. Seth A. Smith

SUNDAY OCTOBER 31 · 11:30 PM

East Coast auteur Seth A. Smith, who brought us the haunting *THE CRESCENT* and the Lynchian nightmare *LOWLIFE*, creates a new vision of isolation horror in *TIN CAN*. Amid a fast-spreading fungal outbreak, Fret (Anna Hopkins) is a scientist who works with her partner John (Simon Mutabazi). Together they work on a breakthrough with treatment for the highly contagious and debilitating fungus, but Fret is attacked at a crucial moment and wakes up in a dark, tiny tank. When she calls out, she hears other voices, and together they try to figure out how they all ended up in these metal cells. Through flashbacks, we learn of the path that leads Fret to this tiny prison and the fate that awaits them all.

*TIN CAN* employs paranoia and stark visuals to highlight a visceral nightmare of isolation, the unknown and the evils of hidden agendas. Written by Smith and Darcy Spidle, and with a stellar cast including genre standouts Michael Ironside (*TOTAL RECALL*, *TURBO KID*, *BLOODTHIRSTY*) and Hopkins (*THE EXPANSE*, *DARK MATTER*, *V/H/S 94*), *TIN CAN* takes you on a claustrophobic and timely journey of revenge, love and a futuristic commentary on automation and humanity's existential struggle.

· CAROLYN MAURICETTE, PROGRAMMER



## WITH THE SHORT FILM DISQUIETUDE

- dir. Michael Marino (10:00 mins)

A young musician struggles to escape when suddenly stuck in an anechoic chamber, known as the quietest place on Earth, causing her to lose her sense of reality from the sensory deprivation. Artistic self-doubt and isolation come together in this hallucinatory tale reminiscent of *Berberian Sound Studio*.

## Blood in the Snow 2021 Horror Development Lab

This year, BITS launched the first Horror Development Lab, designed to facilitate business and production opportunities for genre (horror, sci-fi, action, thriller) scripted projects and shorts films by traditionally underrepresented BIPOC, women, and LGBTQ+ Canadian filmmakers and content creators. The Lab propels short-form film concepts or web series-in-development to a feature film or digital web/TV series.

Response to the Lab was fantastic, with creators from across Canada showing talent and enthusiasm to be a part of the Canadian film market. Our esteemed jury diligently selected the most diverse, compelling, and camera-ready projects to present to our Industry Leaders—primed to take pitches to the big screen. We are proud to introduce our 2021 Horror Lab participants:



**Suri Parmar** T: @SOTefilms I: @scumoftheearthfilms

Suri Parmar is a writer, filmmaker, producer, and professor who is an alumna of the Canadian Film Centre's Writers' Lab and whose media work has screened at film festivals around the world, including Canadian Film Fest and Kansas International Film Festival.



**Javier Badillo & Nat Marshik** spitshineflicks.com

Originally from Venezuela, Javier started directing films in 2008. After a dozen short films, he debuted his crowdfunded war drama Roads of Ithriyah in 2021. An animator by trade, Javier has received awards for his work on and off screen.



**Lovina Yavari & Lance Fernandes** I: @lovinayavari @lancevfx

Lovina is a Canadian Actor, Award winning Director, Artist, Fashion Designer, and Internationally published model in Toronto, ON. She can be seen in DC's Shazam, Polar, and The Boys. Lance is a graduate of the Toronto Film School, is a commercial director, editor, and visual-effects artist.



**Reem Morsi** F: @reem.morsi T: @ramorsi I: @reemmorsi\_director

Writer/director Reem Morsi is an alumna of Talent labs at Berlinale TIFF, Cannes, CFC & others. Her award winning films screened at international festivals including "TIFF". She's finishing her second feature & has directed TV series including CBC Gem's "Virgins".



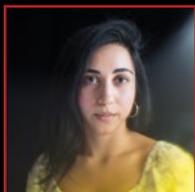
**Christine Rodriguez** F: @Fuegoashortfilm T: @chichimontreal I: @chichimontreal

Award-winning Montreal playwright Christine Rodriguez is of mixed-race, Afro-Trinidadian heritage. She's currently part of the WarnerMedia Access x Canadian Academy Writers Program, while her feature screenplay Maya Rising earned Second Rounder status at the 2021 Austin Film Festival Script Competition.



**Richard B. Pierre** F: @richard.pierre T: @RichardBPierre I: @afroflix

Richard B. Pierre is an award-winning multiracial Black filmmaker whose films have been broadcast and screened at festivals worldwide. His newest fiction short, 'An Uninvited Guest' won BEST THRILLER at the 2020 HollyShorts Film Festival.



**Bitajoudaki** @bitajoudaki

Bitajoudaki is an Iranian-Canadian comedian and filmmaker. She recently co-wrote and co-directed an episode of The Slowest Show, a comedy series streaming on CBC GEM. Her films have screened across North America at LA Web Fest, where she was nominated for Best Comedic Actress, and at the National Screen Institute.



**Adrian Bobb** adrianbobb.com I: @cabobb

Adrian Bobb is a writer, director, and VFX artist with over 15 years of experience, an undying love for all things science and science fiction, and a personal interest in characters that defy and challenge all definitions and expectations.



**Kelly Paoli & Aaron Yeung** kellypaoli.com

Kelly Paoli is a Toronto based, award-winning director whose focus is telling stories through diverse gazes. With an affinity for poignant visual comedy and queer-driven narratives, Kelly's work has been featured on CanalPlay, Amazon Prime, Bell FibeTV1 and Smokebomb Entertainment's KindaTV.



**Rahul Chaturvedi** @TheReelRahul

Rahul is an Indian-Canadian filmmaker and a graduate of the prestigious CFC Writers' Lab. His award-winning short film FORBIDDEN TIKKA MASALA has more than 200K views online. CHAI TEA, a web series he co-created, is in development with CBC Gem.



**Roger Boyer** @kojbfilms

Roger Boyer is an Indigenous filmmaker based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He recently finished filming his dramatic short film "The Fire". Roger is currently working on his Feature Film Coffee Express, along with his feature film script "Our Blood Runs Deep".



**Sid Zanforlin** sidzanforlin.com

Sid Zanforlin is a Chilean Canadian from Montreal who has deep roots in three different languages and cultures. He has a background as an IATSE cameraman, theatre director, writer/director of many shorts, and countless eps of docu-drama shows.

# DEADLY EXPOSURE

BITS FILM INDUSTRY EVENTS

NOVEMBER 18-23, 2021

During the daytime of the festival join us online for industry panels and power round tables with key industry professionals. This event has been financially assisted by Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates and the Independent Production Fund. For more details go to [deadlyexposure.ca](http://deadlyexposure.ca).

## Sunday November 21

### 12pm to 1pm: Panel 1 - Meet the Distributors

Where does your film go after the festival circuit? With streaming services at an all-time high, the distribution of a movie can bring new opportunities and challenges. Get the latest in distribution strategies with our esteemed guests: Vice President- Acquisitions & Sales at Photon Films (formerly Pacific Northwest Pictures) **Sardé Hardie**, Canadian Distribution Coordinator, **Anelle Dehghani** of Raven Banner Entertainment, and Vortex Media Vice President of Acquisitions and Strategy, **Matt Orenstein**—moderated by **Carolyn Mauricette**.

### 2pm to 3pm: Panel 2 - Meet the Directors

From the organic to the technically specific, every director has their own approach and brings their own experience to tell a story. Join directing team **Amanda Parris & Lucius Dechausay** (The Death Doula), **Danishka Esterhazy** (Slumber Party Massacre, Level 16), **Benjamin Ross Hayden** (Parallel Minds), and **Ruben Martell** (Don't Say Its Name) to find out how these creative minds translate a script to the big screen—moderated by **Alison Lang**.

## Monday November 22

### 11am to 12pm: Panel 3 - Meet the Screenwriters

How does an idea become a screenplay? What makes for a good script? How can you infuse your lived experience, culture or background into something artistic and filmable? Hear **Thirza Cuthand** (kwēskosiw (she whistles)), **Lee Paula Springer/Chris Bavota** (Dead Dicks), **Ophira Calof** (Generally Hospital), and **Andrew Hamilton** (Duppy) discuss their writing and development process—moderated by **Mariam Bastani**

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## Monday November 22 (continued)

### 1:00pm to 4:00pm - Power Round Table Part I

In this two part event, participants will have the opportunity to meet with some of Canada's industry leaders to discuss their experience in the fields of financing, sales, distribution and resources. Day one is an opportunity to meet with some of the key funders, organizations and distributors that are available in Canada.

Guests (subject to change) include:

Canadian Film Centre (CFC) | **Dena Razapoor**, Assistant Manager, Programs & Content  
Bell Media | **Mitch Geddes**, Coordinator, Original Programming, Drama & Comedy  
Canada Media Fund (CMF) | **Jill Samson**, Deputy Director, Portfolio Management  
Raven Banner Entertainment | **Anelle Dehghani**, Canadian Distribution Coordinator  
McCam Insurance | **Rorie McIntosh**, President  
McCam Insurance | **Stephanie Herrera**, Head of Entertainment  
National Screen Institute - Canada (NSI) | **Chris Vajcner**, Director, Partner Support  
Telefilm Canada | **Adriana Chartrand**, Indigenous Initiatives and Content Analyst  
Telefilm Canada | **Barbara Chirinos**, Project Leader National Promotion - Western Region, Ontario and Nunavut  
Vortex Words + Pictures | **Matt Orenstein**, Vice President, Acquisitions and Strategy  
Vortex Words + Pictures | **Courtney McAllister**, Head of Development + Co-productions  
William F. White (Whites) | **Greg Jeffs**, Client Services Coordinator, Emerging Filmmakers/Digital Content

## Monday November 23

### 11am to 12pm: Panel 4 - Meet the Actors

Bringing a character to life is a skill—some might say a calling—and can give us unforgettable performances.

How each actor approaches a role and the story they take part in is as unique as a fingerprint. Learn how

**Lora Burke** (Motherly/Lifechanger), **Sera-Lys McArthur** (Don't Say Its Name / she whistles), and **Cynthia Preston**

(Mute / Pin / Whale Music) take the words off a page and create a personality for an audience—moderated

by **Heidy Morales**.

### 1:00pm to 4:00pm: Power Round Table Part II

In this two part event, participants will have the opportunity to meet with some of Canada's industry leaders to discuss their experience in the fields of financing, sales, and distribution. Day two is an opportunity to meet with some of the key funders, broadcasters and distributors that are available in Canada.

Guests (subject to change) include:

Black Fawn Distribution | **CF Benner**, Sales Manager  
CBC | **Micah Kernan**, Development Manager and Canadian Reflections Programmer  
Factory Film Studio | **Dru Viergever**, Director of Acquisitions  
Hollywood Suite | **Sharon Stevens**, Vice-President, Programming  
IndieCan Entertainment | **Avi Federgreen**, President  
Independent Production Fund (IPF) | **Mark Shapland**, Communications & Program Coordinator  
Photon Films | **Sardé Hardie**, Vice President- Acquisitions & Sales at Photon Filmsr  
Syndicado | **Greg Rubidge**, President & Founder

CANADIAN

# BLOOD

NOV  
18 - 23,  
2021

## IN THE SNOW

FILM FESTIVAL + DEADLY EXPOSURE

PRESENTED BY SUPER CHANNEL  
AT THE ROYAL CINEMA - TORONTO



# VICIOUS FUN

- dir. Cody Calahan (Toronto Theatrical Premiere)

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18 · 8:00 PM**

It's 1983, and horror journalist Joel (Evan Marsh, SHAZAM) is secretly in love with his roommate, Sarah (Alexa Rose Steele, LEVEL 16). She's oblivious to Joel's crush and has a slick new boyfriend, Bob (Ari Millen, ORPHAN BLACK). Driven by jealousy and suspicion, Joel follows Bob to an out-of-the-way bar and strikes up a conversation with him under the guise of a fellow hard drinker. After Bob leaves with another woman and Joel with the tab, Joel drinks until he blacks out, crushed by Bob's nasty comments and upset that he has no chance with Sarah. Waking up hours later, he stumbles upon an eclectic group of serial killers using the bar for an after-hours meeting. These professionals come from all walks of life and are responsible for 12% of all unsolved murders in North America.



Carrie (Amber Goldfarb, BAD BLOOD), Fritz (Julian Richings, ANYTHING FOR JACKSON), Mike (Robert Maillet, 300), Zachary (David Koechner, ANCHORMAN), and Hideo (Sean Baek, THE EXPANSE) specialize in their particular brands of gruesome. They are there for support, to learn about the art of killing, and exchange ideas. Joel's continued bad luck throws him into this killer's support meeting since they think he's part of the group. Using his skills as a horror writer, Joel creates a killer persona to blend in, but his cover is about to be blown when to his surprise, Bob is part of the group too. For Joel and a mysterious ally, things are about to get crazy, dangerous and totally vicious.

Directed by Cody Calahan, who wrote LET HER OUT, VICIOUS FUN embraces the feel of the 80s with a darkly humorous vein and tons of gory fun. With a stellar Canadian cast that includes Richings, a BITS alumnus and winner of the 2014 and 2020 Bloodies awards for Best Actor, and Millen—plus Koechner's brilliant cameo—you'll cringe, laugh and cheer for the unlikeliest of heroes.

• **MELANIE TURNER, PROGRAMMER**

## WITH THE SHORT FILMS **THE CALL OF CABLELUHU**

- dir. Ryan Couldrey (5:18 mins)

Do you really need MORE cables when the pile of old ones in the storage boxes are starting to gain sentience?

## AND **THE MONSTER UPSTAIRS**

- dir. Ryan Couldrey (2:07 mins)

\*STOMP STOMP STOMP\* goes the "little monster" upstairs at 2 in the morning.

# 15 SECOND THEATRE MICRO SHORTS PROGRAM

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19 · 6:45 PM

NEW FOR 2021. Blink and you will miss it! These filmmakers can tell a story in 15 seconds! This 4 minute block of 15 second frights will play in front of the "FUNNY FRIGHTS" program.

**SEE YOU TOMORROW!** dir. Andrew Simpson

**THE CREEPY PASTA CREEPY PASTA** dir. Sean Patrick Kelly

**MOTHER** dir. Kevin McGuinness

**CLEAN FREAK** dir. Garbo Kwan

**PLAY WITH ME** dir. Garbo Kwan

**REMAIN CALM** dir. Naomi Silver-Vézina

**HERE ALONE** dir. Trish Rainone

**SHORTBREAD** dir. Mike Trebilcock

**SHOWTIME** dir. Ian Johnston

**BREAKFAST** dir. Jamie Francis

**BABY FOOD** dir. Kyle Dunbar

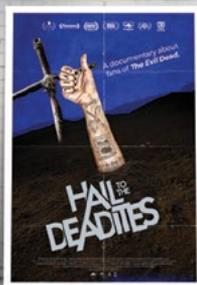
**KNIFE P.O.V.** dir. Pasquale Marco Veltri

**BABYSITTING** dir. Octavian Kaul

**BOTULISM** dir. Rich Johnson

**EUREKA!** dir. David Creighton

**LITTLE RED** dir. Savanna Oliver



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# FUNNY FRIGHTS

## BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19 · 6:50 PM**

A collection of premieres of Canadian genre shorts that look on the "lighter" side of horror.

**THE SNOW BALL** (dir. Rick MacDonald) 4:44 mins

An over-imaginative kid crashes a sophisticated snowman party. When he receives a cold reception, things heat up!

**DANCE DANCE KILL** (dir. J.K. Robinson) 7:39 mins

A ten-foot tall Canadian goose kills a gang of spandex dance artists.

**HELL IN A HANDBASKET** (dir. Lee Chambers) 5:00 mins

Dale, a lonely research scientist in the Arctic struggles to maintain his solitary existence. With the world failing from a global pandemic, all hopes fall on Dale's shoulders as he represents the last stand for humanity.

**THE PHONE INTERVIEW** (dir. Kassy Gascho, Melissa Jones) 7:27 mins

After being rejected from her dream sorority, a determined girl kidnaps a local cashier in hopes of achieving community by working at a boutique grocery store.

**LUNACHICKS** (dir. Jess Joy) 12:32 mins

Reclusive Marla Strange longs for a friend, but her infamous father has other ideas.

**WOLF IN DUDE'S CLOTHING** (dir. Solmund MacPherson) 12:57 mins

A starving wolf finds a suit of human skin, crawls inside, and becomes a man.

**FRUIT** (dir. Ivan Li) 3:25 mins

An in-depth technical analysis on Fruit.

**HEART ATTACK MAN** (dirs. Taye Alvis, Jamie Rogers) 8:42 mins

Roommates Nick and Dave are attacked by a masked, hulking figure that has broken into their house. You'd think that'd be the worst of their problems, right? Yeah. You'd think.

**EXTRACTION** (dir. Zac Fudge) 8:00 mins

A special ops agent has a bad day when he is called in to work on his day off.

**PERFORMANCE ANXIETY** (dir. Trey Anderson) 15:40 mins

An aspiring rapper travels through the Palm Springs desert with her DJ and manager after receiving a suspicious request to perform at a secret Coachella afterparty.

# PEPPERGRASS

- dirs. Steven Garbas, Chantelle Han  
(Canadian Premiere)

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19 - 9:30 PM**

Eula (Chantelle Han, who also co-directs the film) needs truffles to save her grandfather's restaurant. With a plan to steal the rare fungi from Captain Ruben Lom (Michael Copeman), a war veteran supplier her late grandfather used to frequent, she packs up a car with a stolen battery and her bartender Morris (Charles Boyland) during the pandemic. They head off on the road to his forest hideaway, but they've been forewarned by a local that Ruben doesn't take kindly to strangers. As they near the destination, they make a wrong turn and are stuck in the middle of a densely wooded area, only to be found by the man himself. Equipped with an enormous pig and a rifle, Rueben becomes an obstacle Eula and Morris didn't count on, and stakes that include Eula's early pregnancy skyrocket to dangerous heights as the heist goes awry.

Taking the road trip to a less-travelled route, PEPPERGRASS builds tension and presents amoral characters bumbling through a less-than-airtight plan. Their desperation leaves them vulnerable, played with relatability by Han and Boyland. Topped with a creeping score by Todor Kobakov (TRICKSTER, CARDINAL), first-time directors Han and Steven Garbas create an economical and unexpected crime thriller that will stay with viewers long after the credits roll.

**CAROLYN MAURICETTE, PROGRAMMER**

## WITH THE SHORT FILMS **SLEEP WITHOUT A DREAM**

- dirs. Benji Robert Irwin, Prudence Wangu (7:45 mins)

Young Mirri narrowly escaped death when her campsite was attacked by a large animal, her boyfriend getting left behind. Frantically searching for help, Mirri finds Vic alone in the woods. Relieved to find help she collapses at Vic's campsite, only to discover she may have crossed paths with a darker evil.

## AND **SELF-ACTUALIZATION OF THE WEREWOLF WOMAN**

- dir. Conall Pendergast (4:00 mins)

A werewolf thinks she has her life figured out until a late night chance encounter changes her mind.



# Dark Visions

## BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20 · 6:45 PM**

A collection of the darkest, scariest, moodiest and the most intense Canadian short films playing this year.

**SMILE** (dir. Joanna Teanis) 6:35 mins

When a young woman struggles to smile, her depression becomes something truly monstrous.

**AN UNINVITED GUEST** (dir. Richard B. Pierre) 3:22 mins

Three White people and one Black man wordlessly enjoy dinner while in the front yard a dishevelled Black man is brutally assaulted by police.

**BREAK ANY SPELL** (dir. Anton Jøsef) 12:56 mins

When April sets off for a quest in the world of live-action-role-playing, her mother's early-onset Alzheimer's reaches a breaking point.

**I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU** (dir. Caitlyn Sponheimer) 4:58 mins

Two women fall into a cycle of changing their appearance in order to find happiness.

**HUNTER'S CABIN** (dir. N'cee van Heerden) 15:58 mins

A young father withdraws to a remote cabin to face his curse alone, but he's not the only one with a dark past in the woods tonight.

**ANNIE'S LAMP** (dir. Denman Hatch) 3:37 mins

A psychological thriller about a woman, her lamp, and all the horrible memories that come with it.

**HAUNTED BLIZZARD** (dir. Aviaq Johnston) 10:37 mins

A teenage girl walks home in a burgeoning blizzard ignoring an Elder's warning about the terror the blizzard holds.

**IT'SY BITSY SPIDER** (dir. Brodi-jo Scalise) 16:04 mins

A man struggling to maintain his sanity after discovering a menacing spider in his boyfriend's apartment.

**LA VEILLÉE** (dir. Kerrin Rafuse) 6:00 mins

A young boy wanders out into the night in search of otherworldly adventure, as his Grandmother recounts the story of her own father's encounter with the Fairies.

**HE COMES AT NIGHT** (dir. Joseph Covello) 9:56 mins

On a stormy night, an anxious eight-year-old from a fractured home wakes up to the terrifying realization that the monster under her bed may be real.

**KWĒSKOSIW (SHE WHISTLES)** (dir. Thirza Cuthand) 12:16 mins

En route to her girlfriend's place on a night when the Northern Lights are out, a 2-Spirit nêhiyaw woman is assaulted by her cab driver and discovers a deadly supernatural power.

# THE CHAMBER OF TERROR

- dir. Michael Pereira (World Premiere)

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20 · 9:30 PM**

Russell Ackerman (Robert Nolan) is a notorious crime lord with a heart of stone. His family—son Tyler (Seth O'Shea) and daughter Ava (Jessica Vano)—help run the business of well, crime, and mysterious loner Nash Caruthers (Timothy Paul McCarthy) is out for revenge. Nash gets to Tyler and does him in, but the Ackerman henchmen kidnap him before he can carry on with his plan, and he's brought to their headquarters, home to the storied "Chamber of Terror," where information is extracted in the most painful ways. They want to know what happened to Tyler, and when he tells them, Ava wounds Nash in a fit of rage, setting off a gruesome set of events full of gore and the undead. With Ava forced to step in as the "underboss," she'll be immersed in a revenge plot that gets weirder—and bloodier—by the minute.

With the vigour of grindhouse cinema, deadpan performances and buckets of blood, Mike Pereira continues the saga of Nash Caruthers, first seen in the 2015 short DEATHBOX (BITS 2015). He's an anti-hero with a potty mouth in a treacherous world of the supernatural and super-nasty. You'll see the familiar faces of Ry Barrett (THE DEMOLISHER, THE HOARD), Vano (ART OF OBSESSION), and Derek Gilroy (EVIL FEED, SUPERNATURAL); and revel in the special effects of Hamilton's own The Butcher Shop. THE CHAMBER OF TERROR is a gross-out tour de force you won't want to miss!

**CAROLYN NAURICETTE, PROGRAMMER**

## WITH THE SHORT FILMS **THEY'RE HERE**

- dir. Sid Zanforlin (12:00 mins)

Unable to cope with the death of her grandmother, Sam becomes convinced that her body is harboring an alien being that must be removed. There is just one problem, nobody believes her, and instead suspect Sam of trying to murder her grandma.

## **AND BEHIND YOU**

- dir. Graham M. Sheppard (2:19 mins)

While walking home alone Lucy feels that someone or something is behind her.



# EMERGING SCREAMS

## BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21 - 6:45 PM**

A collection of short films from brilliant first time directors and the most promising student filmmakers in Canadian horror.

**THE WRAITH OF RUSTICO VALE** (dir. Justin O'Hanley) 13:42 mins

A ghost story enthusiast investigates a supposedly haunted abandoned community in the country, and soon finds herself in very real, very mortal danger.

**THE BACKWARDS GAME** (dir. Zaki Farow) 5:24 mins

When a mysterious stranger appears in a young couple's home, they must play his game in order to survive.

**RED STRING OF FATE** (dirs. Lovina Yavari, Lance Fernandes) 10:00 mins

In the year 2090, a robotics engineer tries to bring her fallen lover back to life.

**GOOD MORNING** (dir. Ethan Cabral) 6:16 mins

"Good Morning" takes place in the psyche of a compartmentalized hitman. We sit in as he explores his mind through the eyes of god. His love of death and hatred of himself spreads like cracks in ice until he breaks through, sheds his cocoon, and is born anew.

**THE SCRITCHING HOUR** (dir. Karlee Morse) 5:11 mins

In a nightly ritual, a small dog sneaks away from his sleeping master - but where does he go, and what is he hiding?

**BREATHE** (dir. Sandra Foisy) 5:48 mins

A woman is drawn to a lake by an unforeseeable force that keeps her there.

**MUTE** (dir. Constance Hilton) 16:41 mins

Mute follows a middle aged woman as she unloads the details of her husband's infidelity on a deaf hitchhiker. What starts as just a ride becomes something much more sinister.

**THE YOUNG WIFE** (dir. Cleo Brown) 12:02 mins

In the wilderness of northern Ontario in the early 20th century, the neglected young wife of an unscrupulous fur trapper is visited by a handsome stranger with suspicious motives.

**MOORE'S VOID** (dir. Brad Bangsboll) 15:53 mins

A grieving mother attempts to speak with her deceased son.

**SARAH'S SONG** (dir. Arturo LeDuc) 12:56 mins

Sarah, a teenage girl living in a post-apocalyptic world must overcome her fears and past trauma to help her only ally Wade, survive a life-threatening injury.

# FLEE THE LIGHT

- dir. Alexandra Senza (Toronto Premiere)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21 - 9:30 PM

Delfi (Ariana Marquis) has a history of being haunted, but these strange occurrences manifest as delusions or hallucinations. After she finds some relief from these visions as they lay dormant for a few years, they return in a public display in front of her protective older sister Andra (Annie Tuma), who vows to do whatever it takes to make her younger sister whole. Andra is led to a spiritualist who warns that Delfi may not be the only one at risk to the ancient spirit influencing her. The sisters must confront a powerful presence looking for a sacrifice to save one of their souls.

Mythic Trips Entertainment, led by Jennifer Mancini and Alexia Kranis, live up to their mission statement to "create productions that make your heart race and send shivers down your spine" with FLEE THE LIGHT. Directed by Alexandra Senza, the company's first feature is based on Mancini's real-life experience in a Barcelona goth bar. The rural setting serves as a central character for the piece—first appearing as warm and welcoming and soon revealing itself as foreboding and dangerous. Look for iconic Canadian singer/songwriter Jane Siberry playing a key role in this soul-stealing psychological horror.

**NORM MCCLASHAN, PROGRAMMER**



## WITH THE SHORT FILM **DUPPY**

- dir. Andrew Hamilton (29:09 mins)

Pulled from Jamaican folklore, **DUPPY** is a horror-driven meditation on the displacement of diaspora written and directed by Andrew Hamilton. When a disturbing occurrence befalls a young man packing up a shuttered bookstore on Eglinton West, or as it's better known to the people of Toronto, the neighborhood of Little Jamaica, he comes face to face with a terror greater than anything he could ever imagine.

# WOODLAND GREY

- dir. Adam Reider (World Premiere)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 22 · 8:00 PM

From the production team behind BITS 2020 award winner HALL comes a new half psychological, half supernatural thriller WOODLAND GREY. Starring KIM'S CONVENIENCE/DESIGNATED SURVIVOR vet Jenny Raven, Nurses star Ryan Blakely, and Canadian screen icon Art Hindle, WOODLAND GREY sees a man who lives a solitary life, deep in the woods where no one has disturbed him for ages, stumble across an unconscious woman. After recovering, thanks to William's (Blakely) help, Emily (Raven) finds a make-shift shed harbouring a dangerous secret that she unwittingly unleashes upon the both of them.

A truly indie film at its core, WOODLAND GREY had a small cast and crew trek to a small outdoor set and battle inclement weather conditions just to finish shooting the film. Those conditions only help serve more authenticity, as the surroundings become an integral background character for the film. Rooted by some great performances, the film puts its audience into the troubled minds of its leads and should leave many of them wondering what's real or not. As the past year and a half has taught us all, sometimes isolation does funny things to people.

One of a few films this year at BITS to utilize a remote location setting, WOODLAND GREY strips back almost all faculties and amenities to deliver a raw and barren final product.

- KIRK HAVILAND, PROGRAMMER

## WITH THE SHORT FILMS **IN THESE PARTS**

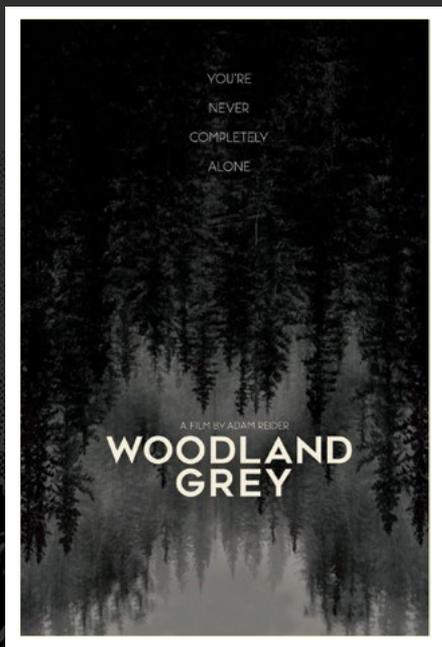
- dir. Gavin Michael Booth (7:34 mins)

A man struggles to get the woman he loves off his mind.

## AND **PRO RE NATA**

- dir. Julie Bruns (4:12 mins)

A woman struggling with dementia is forced by her daughter to revisit her past - but sometimes memories are better left forgotten.



# THE FAMILY

- dir. Dan Slater (North American Premiere)

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 23 · 8:00 PM**

Starring veteran Canadian actor Nigel Bennett (FOREVER KNIGHT, SHAPE OF WATER, and other BITS 2021 selection THE RIGHTEOUS), Toni Ellwand and a small troop of young, up and coming actors, THE FAMILY wears its inspirations on its sleeve. The film uses its rural pre-1900's farmhouse setting as a means of control, as the parental figures use religion and fear to keep their flock under a harsh and steady hand, demanding devotion and obedience at every step. Having been told they are the last survivors and there is no one else, confined by barriers, religion, and superstition to not investigate for themselves, the children are thrown when a new female arrives - apparently a bride for the oldest son Caleb from the all mighty. But the patriarch has other plans for her, and his death grip upon his children is slowly slipping away.

THE FAMILY is relentless and intense. Led by Bennett's excellent performance as the domineering father figure, the rest of the cast (Keana Lyn, Yasmin MacKay, Jenna Warren, and Benjamin Charles Watson in his first role) also outdo themselves, turning the entire piece into an acting tour de force. The film feels very much in tune with THE WITCH and THE VILLAGE, using the theme of religion as a form of control, while the isolated setting helps reinforce the hopelessness of those being manipulated.

All the way up to its fiery final act, THE FAMILY is sure to keep the BITS audience on the edge of their seats.



**- KIRK HAVILAND, PROGRAMMER**



## WITH THE SHORT FILM **MUMMERING LEGENDS**

- dir. Shane Mills (13:10 mins)

An elderly woman recounts the disturbing history of Mummering in 1920's Newfoundland. Eve witnesses a murder; her only escape is into the woods. Mysterious pursuers, untamed forest and terror press her journey as a darker truth comes to light.

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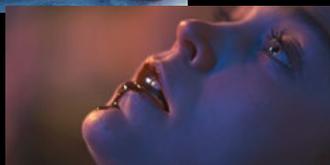
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From top: *Flee the Light*, *Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City*, *Kicking Blood*

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# BLOOD IN THE SNOW TEAM 2021

## **BITS STAFF**

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**Web, Ticketing & Festival Administrator:** Sarah Lauren Parrish

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**Scheduling and Programming Advisor:** Kelly Michael Stewart

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**Development Lab Industry Leads:** Anelle Dehghani, Sardé Hardie, Courtney McAllister

**Francophone Advisors:** Zefred Ansaldo, Joanne Belluco, Simon Laperrière, Steve Villeneuve

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Natalia Lopez

**Board of Directors:** Cindy Hinds, Sarah Lauren Parrish, Carolyn Mauricette, Jen Gorman, Mariam Bastani, Allison Lang

**Insurance:** Marquee Insurance

**Bookkeeping:** Mason Miller Accounting & Taxation Inc. | **Accounting:** Rumley Holmes LLP

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## **MEDIA AND GRAPHICS TEAM**

**BITS Radio & Q&A host for Super Channel Screenings:** Robert Bellamy

**Production Designer:** Bethany McLeod

**Poster Illustration:** Andrew Barr

**Bumper Animation:** Lance Fernandes

**DCP & Theatre Traffic:** Stephane Allard

**Booklet Layout & Art Direction:** Kelly Michael Stewart

**Printing:** Dominic Chan | **Volunteer Shirts:** Twisted T's

**Social Media:** Sarah Lauren Parrish

**Photography:** Anais Are

**...AND EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

As we gather together at The Blood in the Snow Film Festival, we acknowledge this sacred land on which the Royal Cinema operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

RJ  
MITTE

ARI  
MILLEN

MARTIN  
ROACH

NICHOLAS  
CAMPBELL

DAVID  
FERRY AND

PETER  
OUTERBRIDGE

"DELICIOUSLY  
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- THE HOLLYWOOD NEWS



"EFFECTIVELY  
HORRIFYING"  
- STARBURST MAGAZINE



"EXACTLY THE MOVIE  
YOU'RE MEANT TO  
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