

BLOOD IN THE SNOW

FILM FESTIVAL + DEADLY EXPOSURE

presented by



Entertainment Network

NOVEMBER 18 - 23, 2024

Isabel Bader Theatre - Toronto, ON



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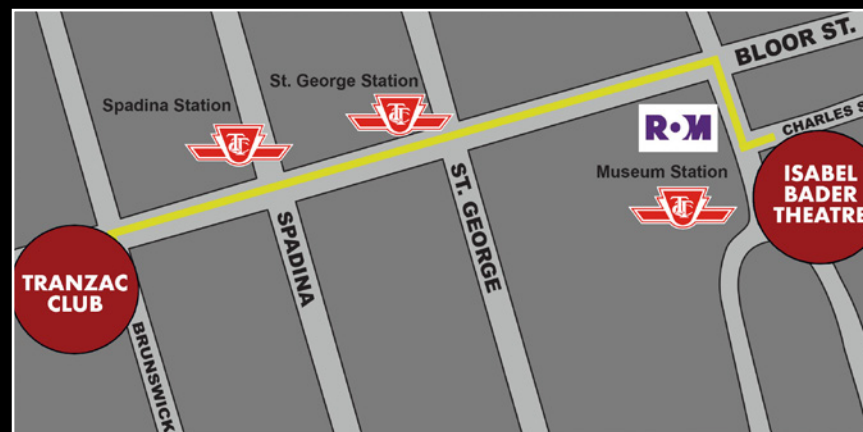
ISABEL BADER THEATRE

93 Charles St. W, Toronto, ON
Evening Screenings

TRANZAC CLUB

292 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON
After parties - 10pm to 2am

DJ each night. Admission to the after parties are FREE with any ticket or pass to the festival!



Message from the Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada

Telefilm Canada is proud to promote and celebrate stories that reflect the diversity of voices and communities of our country. That is why we are happy to partner with Blood in the Snow Film Festival to champion Canadian and Indigenous creators and their work!



Investing in films and reinforcing the importance of cinema is at the center of our mission. Festivals such as Blood in the Snow Film Festival play an invaluable role in boosting the visibility of Canadian and Indigenous films, supporting the growth of the audiovisual sector so that Canadian stories continue to touch hearts and help bring us closer together.

We thank you for encouraging our storytellers and we invite you to watch Canadian and Indigenous films in festivals, in theatres or on your screens.

Julie Roy
Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada

Message from President and CEO, Super Channel

Super Channel is pleased to once again assume the role of Presenting Sponsor for the Blood in the Snow Film Festival. As we celebrate the fifth anniversary of our partnership, we are delighted to continue our unwavering support for this esteemed independent festival that showcases the finest contemporary Canadian horror, genre, and science fiction filmmaking.



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the exceptional filmmakers whose remarkable work has been selected for exhibition at BITS. We are confident that Kelly and his team have curated an exceptional program featuring a diverse range of features and shorts that will cater to every cinematic enthusiast.

Furthermore, we extend our sincere appreciation to Kelly and the entire BITS team for their unwavering commitment to amplifying the voices of diverse filmmakers and providing a platform for the celebration of Canadian genre content.

We eagerly anticipate your attendance at this remarkable festival.
Sincerely,

Don McDonald
President and CEO, Super Channel

Investing in the Canadian
and Indigenous audiovisual
industry to make it
shine brightly
on every screen.

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As we gather together at The Blood in the Snow Film Festival, we acknowledge this sacred land on which this theatre 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.

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 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 Isabel Bader or BITS staff member.



As a part of the 2024 Deadly Exposure Industry Market, the Blood in the Snow Horror Development Lab has been created to boost BIPOC, LGBTQ+, women and other underrepresented creators in genre film across Canada. With this program, the festival facilitates the advancement of filmmakers from these communities in the filmmaking process to ensure their projects are taken from script to screen with the help of industry professionals. Here are this year's 12 incredible filmmaking projects that will be pitching and meeting with industry leaders November 18 to 20, 2024.



Stacy's Mom
(Marushka Almeida)



Hell is a Teenage Girl
(Stephen Sawchuk,
Elysia Rotaru)



Black Magic
(Marilyn Cooke,
Eric Lafalaise)



PractiKill
(Lisa Ovies)



Devour
(Erica Orofino,
Olivia Loccisano)



The Saint and the Bear
(Dallas Soonias,
Monique Barrie)



R U Alone?
(Anthony Filangeri,
Francis Luta)



Voices of the Dead
(Kathy Thomas,
Patricia Gomez Zlatar)



The Beautiful Beast
(Tina Kardan, Het Desai)



Be Kind, F*ck Off!
(Onyeka Oduh,
Goldbloom Micomonaco)



Rendezvous
(Jordan Waunch)



Karak
(Ian Tan, Joshua Lam)



Here are the **NOMINEES**
for this year's
Blood in the Snow Awards:
"The Bloodies."

**Winners will receive their
awards during the festival.**

Best Picture

Hunting Matthew Nichols
Scared Shitless
The Silent Planet

Best Short Film

Defile
The Living Room
The Sorrow

Best Lead Acting Performance in a Feature Film

Chelsea Clark (Pins and Needles)
Ayisha Issa (Dark Match)
Miranda MacDougall
(Hunting Matthew Nichols)

Best Supporting Acting Performance in a Feature Film

Daniel Doheny (Scared Shitless)
Elias Koteas (The Silent Planet)
Steven Ogg (Dark Match)

Performance in a Short Film

Celestine Caravaggio (Apnea)
Nhi Do (The Sorrow)
Corrine Koslo (Shiva)

Best Director

Joslyn Rogers (The Living Room)
Jeffrey St. Jules (The Silent Planet)
Markian Tarasiuk (Hunting Matthew Nichols)

Best Screenplay

Monica La Vella (Invited)
Joslyn Rogers (The Living Room)
Jeffrey St. Jules (The Silent Planet)

Best Cinematography

Karim Hussain (Dark Match)
Nigel Markham (Bedlamers)
Kaayla Whachell (The Sorrow)

Best Editing

Tiffany Beaudin & Jeffrey St. Jules
(The Silent Planet)
Vincent Ruel-Côté (Mean Ends)
Arielle Skolnik (How to Stay Awake)

Best Special FX (makeup)

Dungeon of Death
Night Lab
Scared Shitless

Best Music Score

David Arcus, Terry Benn, Michelle Osis &
Stew Kirkwood (Dark Match)
Vincenzo Nappi (Oh...Canada)
Benjamin Hackman & Anthony William Wallace
(Out of the Hands of the Wicked)

Best Sound Design

Pins and Needles
How To Stay Awake
Tales from the Void: "Whistle in the Woods"

BLOOD IN THE SNOW



DEADLY EXPOSURE

BITS FILM INDUSTRY MARKET
November 21-23, 2024

Deadly Exposure is our three-day industry conference taking place at the Tranzac Club. See below for pass requirements. This event has been financially assisted by Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates and the Independent Production Fund. The full list of round tables guests are available at deadlyexposure.ca

Thursday, November 21

(A full *Deadly Exposure* Pass is required for the Thursday and Friday morning round tables)

9:15 am to 9:45 am - coffee meet and greet

Complimentary coffee and tea from Coffin Creek Coffee.

9:45 am to 12:15 pm: Power Round Tables: Session I

In this three-part event held over two days, participants will have the opportunity to meet with some of Canada's industry leaders to discuss their experience in financing and distribution. Guests include key funders, sales agents, other important organizations and producers in Canada.

12:15 to 1:30 pm - lunch

1:30 pm to 4:00 pm: Power Round Tables: Session II

4:00 pm: Networking Cocktail Reception

Rub shoulders with industry professionals from across Canada in our exclusive networking cocktail reception.

Friday, November 22

(A full *Deadly Exposure* Pass is required for the morning round tables)

9:15 am to 9:45 am - coffee meet and greet

Complimentary coffee and tea from Coffin Creek Coffee.

9:45 am to 12:15 pm: Power Round Tables: Session III

12:15 to 1:30 pm - lunch

(A full *Deadly Exposure* Pass or *Panel Pass* required for Friday industry panels)

1:30 pm to 2:45 pm - Creating Doom in The Digital Space

Moderated by Mariah Owen

Digital platforms are blurring the lines between web and TV series. The quality and complexity of web series are increasingly on par with what we see in the feature film realm, with major broadcasters like Super Channel, Hollywood Suite, APTN, and OutTV collaborating with digital genre creators. Meet some of the creators of these programs and discuss their influence on genre production in Canada.

Guests include:

- Ashlea Wessel (Creepy Bits)
- Francesco Loschiavo (Tales from the Void)
- Luke Hutchie (EZRA)
- David J Fernandes (Creepy Bits)

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Equity Behind the Camera: Support for Underrepresented Creators

Moderated by Heidly Morales

Join us for an in-depth conversation with behind-the-scenes supporters of BIPOC and underrepresented creators and changemakers in the Canadian film industry. Learn what you can do to better bring underrepresented voices in front and back of the camera to the forefront.

Guests include:

- Kadan Douglas, Executive Director - BIPOC TV and Film
- Alethea Bakogeorge, Director of Programs & Development - DSO
- Luisa Alvarez Restrepo, Director: Inclusion & Community Development - ACTRA
- Julian Carrington, Managing Director - Racial Equity Media Collective

4:00 pm - Networking Cocktail Reception

Stay for a networking drink with your colleagues at the Tranzac Club before heading over to the screenings at the Isabel Bader Theatre.

Saturday, November 23

(A full *Deadly Exposure* Pass or *Panel Pass* required for Saturday industry panels)

9:15 am to 9:45 am - coffee meet and greet

Complimentary coffee and tea from Coffin Creek Coffee.

9:45 am to 11:00 am - Revolutionizing Film Production: The Interplay of Artificial Intelligence, Extended Reality and Virtual Production

Moderated by Keda Edwards Pierre

Dive into the exhilarating world of Artificial Intelligence and Immersive Media at this transformative workshop moderated by Keda Edwards Pierre. This creative and interactive workshop merges cutting-edge technology and innovation with the art of storytelling. Get ready to explore the future of media, where innovation meets imagination!

Guests include:

- Christopher Bernard, VP/Creative Producer (Coyalu Media Group)
- Spencer Idenouye, Developer, Educator & Artist (The Screen Industries Research and Training Centre)
- Joseph Ellsworth, Technical Advisor in XR Immersive Media, Software & Technology (Story2Tech)
- Jeannine Charles, Mixed Reality & Media Producer (And Action! Media)
- Marko Ciglijev, Multimedia Designer & Educator (Psycle)

11:15 am to 12:30 pm - The Journey from Production to Distribution

Moderated by Becca McKay

Find out what you need to know as a producer to find and work with the right distributor. This panel includes a mix of producers and distributors (along with a few who do both). Meet some of Canada's top distributors and producers to get the latest market trends, what is happening in the Canadian film industry and how we are doing in the US and international marketplace.

Guests include:

- Bruno Marino, Producer
- Todd Brown, Head of International Acquisitions & Producer - XYZ
- CF Benner, Operations Manager / Black Fawn Distribution

1:45 pm to 3:00 pm - In A Violent Nature: A Canadian Horror Breakthrough

Moderated by Alex West

When Chris Nash's *In A Violent Nature* premiered at Sundance earlier this year, it was picked up by IFC Films and became the big breakthrough success for a genre film from Canada. This unlikely low-budget film went on to make over \$4.1 million at the US box office and gathered high-profile fans like Stephen King in the process. This is one of (if not the biggest) genre titles now coming out of Canada, so join the filmmakers celebrating its success and discussing its creation.

Guests include:

- Peter Kuplowsky, Producer (In A Violent Nature)
- Shannon Hanmer, Producer (In A Violent Nature)
- Pierce Derks, Director of Photography (In A Violent Nature)
- Ry Barrett, Actor (In A Violent Nature)

Dark Visions BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Monday November 18 – 7:00 pm

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

SHIVA (13:29) dir. Josh Saltzman

Shiva is an unnerving tale about a recently widowed woman who breaks with a long-held Jewish mourning ritual in hopes of connecting with her deceased husband.

HOW TO STAY AWAKE (5:30) dir. Vanessa Magic

A woman fights to stay awake, to avoid battling the terrifying realm of sleep paralysis, but as she risks everything to break free, will she be released from the grip of her nocturnal tormentor?

POCKET PRINCESS (9:45) dir. Olivia Loccisano

A young girl must take part in a dangerous task in order to complete her doll collection in this miniature fairytale.

FOR RENT (10:33) dir. Michèle Kaye

In her new home, Donna unravels a sinister truth—her landlord is a demon with a dark appetite. As her family mysteriously vanishes, Donna confronts the demonic landlord, only to plunge into a shadowy game where the house hungers for more than just occupants. An ominous cycle begins, shrouded in mystery.

LUCY'S BIRTHDAY (9:29) dir. Peter Sreckovic

A father struggles to enjoy his young daughter's birthday despite a series of strange and disturbing disruptions.

PARASITIC (10:00) dir. Ryan M Andrews

Last call at a dive bar, a writer struggling to find his voice gets more than he bargains for.

NAUALLI (6:00) dir. Adrian Gonzalez de la Peña

A grieving man seeks revenge, unwittingly awakening a mystical creature known as the Nagual.

THE SAINT AND THE BEAR (6:34) dir. Dallas R Soonias

Two strangers cross paths on an ominous park bench.

THE SORROW (13:00) dir. Thomas Affolter

A retired army general and his live-in nurse find they are not alone in a house filled with dark secrets.

CADABRA (6:00) dir. Tiffany Wice

An amateur magician receives more than he anticipated when he purchases a cursed hat from the estate of his deceased hero.

DARK MATCH

- dir. Lowell Dean

Monday, November 18 – 9:30 pm

(91 mins) Horror / Action

(This screening is presented with Open Captioning and ASL Interpreter)

In the highly competitive world of wrestling, the amateur group S.A.W. hopes to one day make it to the big leagues. Headed by their manager Rusty, (Jonathan Cherry, WOLF COP, FINAL DESTINATION 2), the team is comprised of Miss Behave (Ayisha Issa, TRANSPLANT, POLAR), Mean Joe Lean (Steven Ogg, THE WALKING DEAD, BETTER CALL SAUL), Kate the Great (Sara Canning, INFLUENCER, THE VAMPIRE DIARIES), Enigma (Mo Jabari), and the duo Thick and Thin (Jonathan Lepine and Justin Lawrick).

When Rusty receives a mysterious phone call with an offer that's just too good to turn down, he ignores the adage, "If something looks too good to be true, it probably is," and despite the increased risk to his team, Rusty is lured by the large payout for this "Dark Match."

Convincing the league to take the challenge, they hop into a van and make their way to what turns out to be an isolated, middle-of-nowhere rural location. After a warm welcome, it soon becomes apparent that all is not as it seems. They've entered the sinister realm of a small-town cult led by The Prophet (Wrestling champ Chris Jericho, TERRIFIER 2, JAY AND SILENT BOB REBOOT) and his collaborator Spencer (Michael Eklund, THE DIVIDE, WYNNONA EARP). The cult's celebration of Lupercalia, or "The Rebirth," reveals that the S.A.W. team is the offering, and this Dark Match is turning out to be much more than they bargained for, forcing them to a fight where only one will leave the ring alive.

Brought to you by writer/director Lowell Dean (WOLFCOP, ANOTHER WOLFCOP), this action-packed, edge-of-your-seat wrestling thriller is not to be missed.

- Melanie Turner, Programmer



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MOURNFUL MEDIUMS BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 19 – 7:00 pm (98 mins)

Not too short, not too long! A shorts film program of the best in Canadian medium-length genre films.

NIGHT LAB (15:00) dir. Andrew Ellinas

When a mysterious package arrives from one of the lab's field research stations, a promising young researcher uncovers a conspiracy against her masterminded by her jealous boss. She soon finds herself having to grapple with her conscience before making a life-or-death decision.

DIRTY BAD WRONG (14:40) dir. Erica Orofino

Desperate to keep her promise to host the best superhero party for her 6-year-old young mother, Sid, a sex worker, takes extreme measures and books a last-minute client with a dark fetish.

MIDNIGHT AT THE LONELY RIVER (17:00) dir. Abraham Cote

When the lights go out at a seedy little motel bar at the crossroads of a seedy little town, nefarious happenings take place, and three predators enact their evil deeds. Enter Vicky, a drifter who quickly realizes what's happening right under everyone's nose. After midnight, in the shadows of this dim establishment, evil begets evil, and the predator becomes the prey.

MEAN ENDS (14:58) dir. Émile Lavoie

A buried body, a missing sister and an inquisitive neighbour make for a hell of an evening. And the sun isn't close to setting on Eric's sh*tty day.

STUFFY (18:26) dir. Dan Nicholls

A young couple sets off in the middle of the night to bury their kid's stuffed bunny, as one of them is convinced that the stuffy might be cursed.

DUNGEON OF DEATH (18:33) dir. Brian P. Rowe

Torturer Raullin loves a work challenge, especially if that challenge involves hurting people to extract information from them.

HUNTING MATTHEW NICHOLS

- dir. Markian Tarasiuk

Tuesday, November 19 – 9:30 pm
(96 mins) *Psychological Horror*

HUNTING MATTHEW NICHOLS is a welcome addition to the found footage genre, expertly intertwining emotional depth with psychological horror. Set twenty-three years after the mysterious disappearance of her brother, Tara Nichols, a documentary filmmaker, embarks on a harrowing investigation to uncover the truth. When unsettling evidence emerges, suggesting he may still be alive, her quest for answers plunges both her and the audience into a disturbing exploration of memory, trauma, and familial bonds.

Markian Tarasiuk, who produced, directed and co-stars HUNTING MATTHEW NICHOLS, showcases his versatility as a filmmaker by making a significant departure from his previous work in seasonal romantic comedies. Markian draws from a rich tapestry of influences, seamlessly merging found footage techniques with traditional narrative elements. The tension in the film is ramped up by shocking jump scares and psychological twists, making it a perfect fit for our loyal BITS audiences who crave unique storytelling in Canadian horror.

As the story unfolds, it builds to a powerful and shocking conclusion: HUNTING MATTHEW NICHOLS challenges our perceptions of truth and existence, inviting us to grapple with the complexities of loss and the narratives we construct around it – perfectly embodying the spirit of innovation and classic chills that Blood in the Snow Film Festival showcases.

- Dara Moats, Programmer



with the short film JOSEPHINE

- dir. John Francis Bregar (6:15)

A man haunted by his past seeks forgiveness from his deceased wife, but a session with two mediums leads to an unsettling encounter.

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BITS AND BYTES

Wednesday, November 20 – 7:00 pm (93 mins)

A special feature-length program of some of the best genre web and digital series.

EZRA (10:57) dirs. Luke Hutchie, Mike Mildon, Marianna Phung
After fleeing the dark and demonic chains of his shadowy old home, Ezra, a killer gay vampire, takes a leap of faith and enters the modern world.

HEAD SHOP (18:14 episode 1-3) dir. Namaï Kham Po
In a post-apocalyptic world, Anna's life and work are dominated by her father, Sylvestre, a short-tempered mechanic with a terrible reputation for tearing the head off anyone who dares cross him. Much to her dismay, he decides she's old enough to follow in his footsteps. To prove herself, she must now decapitate her first victim. Can she find a way to defy fate?

D DOT H (18:02 episodes 1-2) dirs. Meegwon Fairbrother, Mary Galloway
Struggling artist Doug is visited by the beautiful and enigmatic H, who claims he holds the power to visit "inconceivable places." Still half-asleep, Doug is shocked when H vanishes suddenly, and her doppelganger, Hannah, strides past.

CREEPY BITS: "LAST SONATA" (21:08) dir. Ashlea Wessel
Emilie, a celebrated cellist with a terminal illness, moves into a secluded house to finish her opus in peace, but the more she tries to shut herself away from the world, the more she finds herself haunted by powerful, enigmatic forces.

TALES FROM THE VOID: "WHISTLE IN THE WOODS" (24:36) dir. Francesco Loschiavo
A horror anthology TV series based on stories from r/NoSleep. Each tale blends genre thrills & social commentary, exploring the dark side of the human psyche.

SELF DRIVER

- dir. Michael Pierro

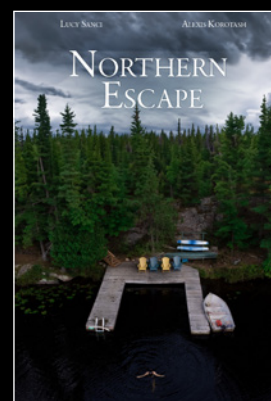
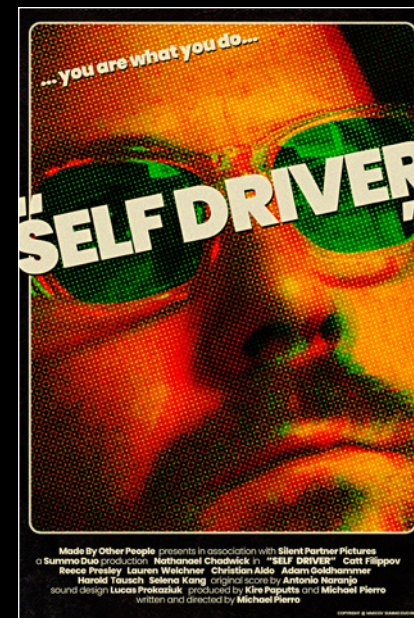
Wednesday, November 20 – 9:30 pm
(90 mins) Thriller

With today's high cost of living, our nameless main character, portrayed by Nathanael Chadwick, is married, raising a family, and making his living through a driving app. The stress of dealing with annoying people takes a toll on him until one of his customers mentions a new start-up company, a driving app called "Tonomo." He thinks the driver would be perfect for the job and tells him it pays more money than he currently makes.

After some thought, he reluctantly signs up for the new app. Our driver is immediately hit with a bunch of weird rules about customers and fares. There are a ton of restrictions, and he soon realizes that the app will strictly penalize you for not following the exact driving instructions. As the night wears on, he deals with many questionable events and, at the same time, has taken drugs from one of his fares to get through the shift. His night spirals into the underbelly of the dark city, and he has no idea what to expect next.

Toronto-based Director Michael Pierro's SELF DRIVER takes you on a wild ride of morality. When life cuts out the underdogs who struggle to make ends meet, you question how often you're willing to ignore the bad things around you for survival. SELF DRIVER will leave you with the right questions about an app-filled society in an economic downfall for the working poor.

- Nadine L'Esperance, Programmer



with the short film NORTHERN ESCAPE

- dirs. Lucy Sanci, Alexis Korotash (10:38)

A couple on a cottage getaway tries to work on their relationship but gets more than they bargained for when they discover something sinister lurking beneath the surface.

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(292 Brunswick Ave) for our after party
with DJ D-Rock - FREE admission with any festival
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FUNNY FRIGHTS & UNUSUAL SIGHTS BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Thursday, November 21 – 7:00 pm (92 mins)

A collection of Canadian shorts premieres, covering a bit of unusual, the surreal, and the lighter side of horror!

MIDNIGHT SNACK (1:41) dir. Sandra Foisy
Hunger always strikes in the dead of night.

HELL IS A TEENAGE GIRL (15:00) dir. Stephen Sawchuk
Every Halloween, the small town of Springboro is terrorized by its resident SLASHER – a masked serial killer who targets sinful teenagers that break 'The Rules of Horror' – don't drink, don't do drugs, and don't have sex!

GASLIT (10:36) dir. Anna MacLean
A woman goes to dangerous lengths to prove she wasn't responsible for a fart.

BATH BOMB (9:55) dir. Colin G Cooper
A possessive doctor prepares an ostensibly romantic bath for his narcissistic boyfriend, but after an accusation of infidelity, things take a deeply disturbing turn.

ANY LAST WORDS (14:22) dir. Isaac Rathé
A crook trying to flee town is paid an untimely visit by some of his former colleagues. What would you say to save your life if you were staring down the barrel of a gun?

PAPIER MÂCHÉ (4:30) dir. Simon Madore
A whimsical depiction of the hard and tumultuous life of a piñata.

THE LIVING ROOM (9:59) dir. Joslyn Rogers
After an unexpected call from Lady Luck, Ms Valentine must choose between her sanity and her winnings - all before the jungle consumes her.

A DIVINE COMEDY: WHAT THE HELL (8:55) dir. Valerie Lee Barnhart
Dante's classic Hell is falling into oblivion. Charlotte, a sharp-witted Harpy, navigates the chaos and sets out despite the odds for a new life and destiny.

MR FUZZ (2:30) dir. Christopher Walsh
A long-limbed, fuzzy-haired creature will do whatever it takes to keep you watching his show.

OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE WICKED (5:00) dirs. Luke Sargent, Benjamin Hackman
After a harrowing journey home from hell, old Pa boasts of his triumph over evil and how he came to lock the devil in his heart.

THE SHITTY RIDE (9:13) dir. Cole Doran
Hoping to impress the girl of his dreams, Cole buys a used car but gets more than he bargained for with his shitty ride.

INVITED

- dir. Navin Ramaswara
Thursday, November 21 – 9:30 pm
(73 mins) Horror

(This screening is presented with Open Captioning and ASL Interpreter)

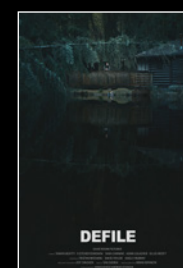
Festival veteran Navin Ramaswaran, director of POOR AGNES (2017), CHASING VALENTINE (2016), AND LATE NIGHT DOUBLE FEATURE (2015) comes to BITS with his latest horror film, INVITED.

The story follows Linda (Martina Scabron), a reluctant mother attending her daughter Jessica's (Beata Imre) Zoom wedding. She is marrying Adrik (Michael Lake), a man with ties to a Russian cult, and Linda senses something deeply sinister. As the Zoom wedding unfolds, the family quickly realizes that Adrik's intentions are far more dangerous than anyone imagined. They soon find themselves trapped and powerless in a terrifying fight, witnessing a powerful and manipulative force.

INVITED is told entirely through a computer screen – in true screenlife genre fashion – making audiences passive viewers and complicit in the chilling events that unfold. The digital setting heightens the tension, with the familiar Zoom interface serving as a portal to psychological and physical danger. Cinematographer Geet Chahil amplifies this tension with stark visuals, while Ramaswaran's direction ensures that every moment is filled with anxiety.

Ramaswaran brings his passion for visual storytelling, starting at the young age of six with a Canon AE-1 camera, to this tense, claustrophobic thriller. Written and produced by 105ive Films' Monica and Louie La Vella, respectively, and inspired by true events, INVITED immerses the audience in a digital nightmare, making them part of this twisted and anxiety-provoking ride.

- Heidi Morales, Programmer

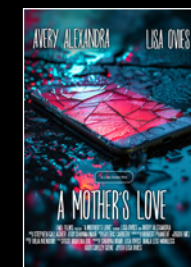


with the short film DEFILE

- (11:40) dir. Brian Sepanzyk
A couple's secluded getaway is suddenly interrupted by a strange family who exposes them to the horrors beyond the treeline.

with the short film A MOTHER'S LOVE

- (2:29) dir. Lisa Ovies
A young girl deals with the consequences of trusting someone online.



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CREEPY BITS

Friday, November 22 – 7:00 pm
(90 mins) *Horror*

Are you ready for satisfying bite-sized horror? Then look no further than David J. Fernandes' CREEPY BITS Season 2!

With the success of the award-winning CREEPY BITS Season 1, launched in 2021, and episode 5, "Pitter Patter," playing BITS in 2022, the short anthology horror series is back with nine chilling tales.

The brainchild of writer, director and producer David J. Fernandes boasts an eclectic mix of horror featuring a whack of Blood in the Snow short film alums like Adrian Bobb's (EXT, BITS 2019 and BITS 2021 Lab delegate) "The Massacurra Man," where a hitman's target just might be a threat, Sid Zanforlin's (THEY'RE HERE, BITS 2021 and BITS 2021 Lab delegate) "Wretch," where two friends learn the real meaning of loyalty when threatened by demonic forces, And Ashlea Wessel's (WEIRDO, BITS 2020) harrowing "Bonded," where a father and son's getaway isn't as peaceful as it seems. There are plenty more segments, like the ride-share terror of "Route 17," directed by BITS 2021 Lab delegate Kelly Paoli, and two by Fernandes himself, but we can't spoil all the spooky surprises in store.

CREEPY BITS Season 2 serves up a ten-course meal of horror to give hungry BITS audiences their fill and shows how our Canadian horror community can join forces to bring you more of what you want: compelling genre stories to keep you up at night!

THE MASSACURRA MAN (10:35) dir. Adrian Bobb

BONDED (13:53) dir. Ashlea Wessel

HORS D'OEUVRE (10:42) dir. David J. Fernandes

BLACK EMPANADAS (11:33) dir. Sid Zanforlin

ROUTE 17 (7:54) dir. Kelly Paoli

WRETCH (9:55) dir. Sid Zanforlin

LEAVE NO TRACE (8:50) dir. David J. Fernandes

BELOW (11:15) dir. Adrian Bobb

HORTICULTURE FOR BEGINNERS (7:27) dir. Kelly Paoli

- Carolyn Mauricette, Programmer



PINS AND NEEDLES

- dir. James Villeneuve

Friday, November 22 – 9:30 pm
(81 mins) *Horror / Thriller*

Max (Chelsea Clark, GINNY & GEORGIA, THE PROTECTOR) is an Environmental Sciences student and a diabetic, and she has to leave a field research project early to attend her brother's wedding. Hitching a ride with classmate Harold (Daniel Gravelle, FAHRENHEIT 451, BROTHERHOOD), they stop along the way to pick up Harold's friend Keith (Damien Romeo, GINNY & GEORGIA, THE EXPANSE), who was promised a ride back to the city. Max is annoyed, and even more so when they suffer a flat tire on the winding back roads right in front of an out-of-place luxury home. She goes to the house looking for help from the residents but, unable to find anyone, returns the car. Max spies her travel companions talking to a couple (Kate Corbett, FARGO, THE RIGHTEOUS and Ryan McDonald, BLACK CONFLUX, FRINGE) seemingly offering help, but what she sees next shatters her plans for an uneventful trip back to the city to attend her brother's wedding.

Festival alum James Villeneuve, co-writer of VICIOUS FUN, which won the BITS 2021 Bloodies Award for Best Picture, brings the viewer into a situation that they have likely thought about – maybe when walking down a dark alley alone at night or waking up in an unfamiliar spot the morning after. Clark, who also appears in SCARED SHITLESS at this year's festival, wows audiences again as she goes from the one with the medical instruments doing the poking and prodding to being on the other end. Fast-paced, beautifully shot, featuring characters playing for keeps, PINS AND NEEDLES is an intense thriller that will hold its audience tightly in its grasp.

- Norm McGlashan, Programmer

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with the short film

ADJOINING

- (11:42) dirs. Harrison Houde, Dakota Daulby

A couple's motel stay takes a chilling turn when they discover they're being observed, leading to unexpected consequences.

EMERGING SCREAMS BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Saturday, November 23 – 4:00 pm (94 mins)

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

APNEA (14:58) dir. David Matheson

A single, working mother finds her career and her offbeat son's safety in jeopardy when she discovers that her late mother is possessing her in her sleep.

NEREID (7:48) dir. Lori Zozzolotto

A mysterious woman escapes from an abusive relationship with earth-shattering results.

BEDLAMER (15:00) dir. Alexa Jane Jerrett

On the shores of a small fishing village lives a lonely settlement of men - capturing and domesticating otherworldly creatures that were never meant to be tamed.

BLOCKED (6:30) dir. Aisha Alfa

A new mom is literally consumed with the futility of cleaning up after her kid.

DANCE OF THE FAERY (10:23) dir. Kaela Brianna Egert

A young woman cleans up her estranged great-aunt's home after her death. Upon inspection, she soon realizes that her eccentric obsession with fairies was not born out of love but fear.

DEEP END (7:36) dir. Juan Pablo Saenz

A gay couple's heated argument during a hike spirals into a nightmare when one of them vanishes, leading the other to a mysterious cave that could reveal the chilling truth.

OJICHAAG - SPIRIT WITHIN (11:21) dir. Rachel Beaulieu

An emotionally devastated woman seeks comfort in her choice to end her life. As she faces death in the form of a spirit, she must decide to let herself go to fight to stay alive.

LURE (9:56) dir. Jacob Phair

A tormented father awaits the return of the man who saved his son's life.

LET ME IN (10:00) dirs. Joel Buxton, Charles Smith

A reluctant man interviews an unusual immigration candidate: himself from a doomed dimension.

THE SILENT PLANET

- dir. Jeffrey St. Jules

Saturday, November 23 – 7:00 pm
(95 mins) *Sci-fi*

Serving a life sentence, Theodore (Elias Koteas, CRASH, CHICAGO P.D.) lives in solitude on penal colony planet #384 in the Capillian Star System. Working as a miner, he extracts minerals to send to Earth until his last days. Isolation has blurred his memories: he vividly dreams of his wife and keeps a journal in an attempt to hold onto his past life on Earth.

His existence is disrupted when Niyya (Briana Middleton, SHARPER, THE TENDER BAR), a young woman sentenced to planet #384 for terrorism charges, arrives and believes she is the only person there. Raised by the "Oieans," an alien race that sought aid from Earth but was met with hostility, Niyya's tragic past led to her exile.

When Theodore attempts to befriend Niyya, she puts up walls, suspicious of his motives. However, their connection begins to revive some of Theodore's suppressed memories, revealing a possible link between their histories.

THE SILENT PLANET blends its desolate setting with the fascinating and complex relationship between Niyya and Theodore, exploring an earth where aliens have integrated into its immigration framework. This introspective and well-crafted film delves into an unsettling truth: humans find themselves detached from their own humanity more often than they'd like to admit.

Written and directed by Jeffrey St. Jules (BANG BANG BABY), THE SILENT PLANET defies typical sci-fi conventions, exploring the tension between preserving one's identity and the unsettling disconnection from the very things that ground it.

- Kassy Gascho, Programmer

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with the short film

ASCENSION

- (3:57) dir. Kenzie Yango

Deep in a remote forest, two friends, Mia and Riley, embark on a leisurely hike. As tensions run high between the two, a strange humming noise appears that seems to be coming from somewhere in the woods.

SCARED SHITLESS

- dir. Vivieno Caldinelli

Saturday, November 23 - 9:30 pm
(73 mins) Horror / Comedy

In a well-intentioned attempt at immersion therapy, seasoned plumber Don (Steven Ogg, also appearing in DARK MATCH at this year's festival) drags his germophobic son Sonny (Daniel Doheny, BRAND NEW CHERRY FLAVOR, DAY OF THE DEAD) to a house call. But this isn't your average take-your-kid-to-work day—there's a lab-bred, microwaved mutant creature hanging out in the pipes, killing tenants in gut-churning ways. With the help of the stoic property manager (Chelsea Clark, also appearing in PINS AND NEEDLES at this year's festival), the trio races to stop the creature before it takes over Toronto's pipelines.

Fulfilling every potty mouth's dream, SCARED SHITLESS delivers fluids in every shade of the rainbow. With creature FX crafted by monster maestro Steven Kostanski, the grotesque being evolves throughout the film, transforming from a wee little baby into a ravenous freak!

Directed by Vivieno Caldinelli and written by Brandon Cohen, SCARED SHITLESS is a total delight and an audience pleaser, nailing the perfect balance between practical effects, laugh-out-loud moments, body-ripping horror, dark humour, nostalgia-filled needle drops, and heartwarming moments (that aren't farts!). Sometimes, community and friendship can be found in the darkest of sewers—and the splashes of a toilet.

After watching this film, you might think twice before plopping down on the toilet ... And you'll be hitting that flush knob faster than EVER before!

- Kassy Gascho, Programmer



with the short film

OH...CANADA

- (6:20) dir. Vincenzo Nappi

Oh, Canada. Such a wonderful place to live - WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT. A musical look into the artifice surrounding Canadian identity.

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Development Coordinator: Carolyn Mauricette

Volunteer Coordination: Frederica Black Events

Assistant Industry Coordinator: Keda Edwards Pierre

Festival Programmers: Kassy Gascho, Nadine L'Esperance, Carolyn Mauricette, Dara Jade Moats, Norm McGlashan, Heidy Morales, Melanie Turner

Scheduling & Programming Advisor: Kelly Michael Stewart

Development Lab Advisory: Mariam Bastani, Roger Boyer, Keda Edwards Pierre

Development Jury: Dai Kelegan, Keda Edwards Pierre, Rueben Martell, Heidy Morales, Elizabeth Schuch

Development Lab Industry Leads: Malachi Ellis, Anelle Dehghani, Rueben Martell

Panel Moderators: Mariah Owen, Keda Edwards Pierre, Becca McKay, Heidy Morales, Alex West

Front of House: Sebastian Roberts, Ellen Reade

Additional on-site logistics: Cindy Hinds

Board of Directors: Sarah Parrish, Cindy Hinds, Carolyn Mauricette, Jen Gorman, Mariam Bastani

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Creative Direction and Design: Small Dog Design

Program booklet editor: Carolyn Mauricette

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Valentina Richarz (industry) Colleen Yates (festival),

Anaïs Rozencwaig (at-large)

Videography: Scott Rawson Brown

Social Media & Website: Sarah Lauren Parrish

Bumper Animation: Lance Fernandes

Bumper Music: Joshua Love

DJ's: DJ D-Rock (Mon to Thurs) & DJ Osaze (Fri & Sat)

After party photo location: Locked in the Cellar

Team Members Emeritus: Harvey Lalonde, Kevin Havins

...and extra special thanks to all our volunteers!

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Top to bottom: Seeds, The Shrouds, The Dogs

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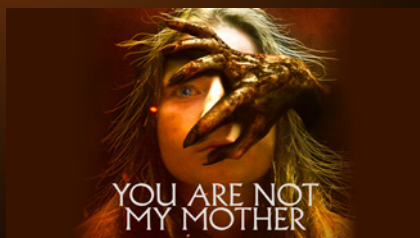
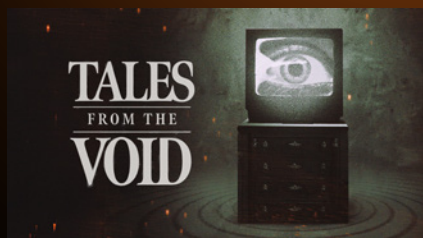
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