

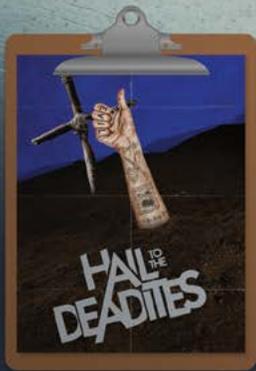
BLOOD IN THE SNOW

FILM FESTIVAL + DEADLY EXPOSURE

presented by SUPER CHANNEL



November 21 to 26, 2022



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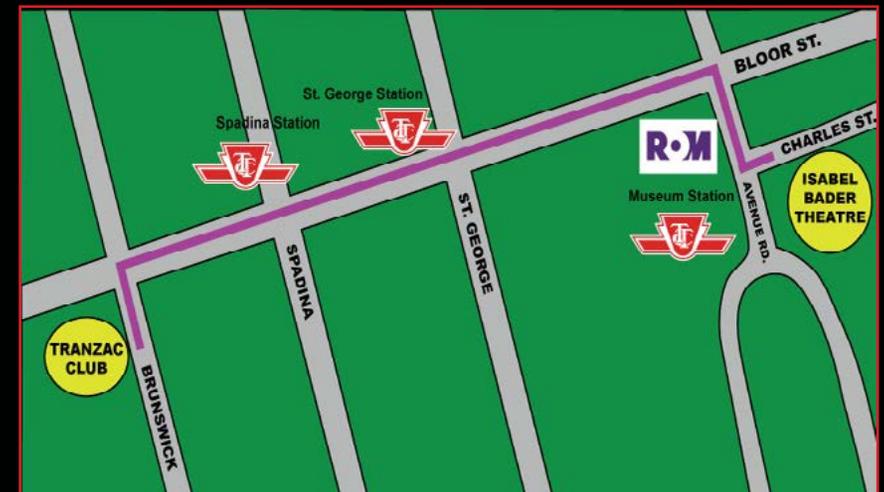


ISABEL BADER THEATRE

93 Charles St W, Toronto, ON
Screenings at 7 & 9:30pm

TRANZAC CLUB

292 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON
After parties - 9pm to 2am
+ DJ D-Rock Mon Nov 21
+ DJ Johnny Revelation Nov 25/26



Message from the Interim Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada

We could not be more excited to come back to the festival circuit to celebrate the artistry of film and showcase Canadian creatives around the world and at home. That is why we are proud to support the 2022 Blood in the Snow Film Festival!

Over the last year, Canadian talent have worked hard to tell their stories in innovative and creative ways that show the world that Canada is a thriving audiovisual hub. We are so proud of all our creators and excited to welcome them back to cinemas at festivals like this, where their work can be shown in front of audiences of film-lovers. We are grateful to the Government of Canada for the Reopening Funds which provided additional funding to film festivals across the country.

At Telefilm, our mission is to elevate storytelling. It is to support Canadians of all backgrounds, especially underrepresented communities that deserve to be able to tell their own stories. Right now, our priority is to reflect the diversity of our country on screen and bring representation to the forefront of our initiatives and programs.

We want to thank and congratulate the 2022 Blood in the Snow Film Festival for its continued support of diverse voices in film and for fostering the return to cinemas so we can all celebrate these talents from around the world in theatres once again.

And remember, keep supporting Canadian talent in theatres and online whenever you can!

Francesca Accinelli
Interim Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada



Message from President and CEO, Super Channel

We are thrilled to partner with Blood in the Snow for the third year in a row to bring audiences across the country access to this unique film festival celebrating the best in contemporary Canadian horror film.

When the pandemic forced the team at BITS to pivot in 2020, we stepped up to help bring the festival to a national audience and support Canadian genre filmmakers by providing a platform to showcase their content to viewers across the country. Now in our third year, we are proud to continue this partnership with BITS through this ongoing hybrid version of the festival — offering the best of both worlds!

Whether you are able to experience BITS in-person at the Isabel Bader theatre in Toronto, or through the virtual experience on Super Channel, we are sure you are going to be excited to discover what the festival has to offer. If you are joining us on Super Channel, grab some popcorn, settle in and prepare to stay up late to experience this exceptional collection of shorts and feature films from some of Canada's most talented genre filmmakers. For the full festival experience, don't forget to stay for the Q&A's with talent and creators following the feature film presentations.

Our sincere thanks to Kelly and the team at BITS for their continued partnership and for once again curating an incredible selection of films for you to enjoy!

Don McDonald
President and CEO, Super Channel



A QUICK BIT FROM KELLY MICHAEL STEWART



How are you all doing? Are we post Covid yet? So many questions and so few real answers. All I know is during the pandemic, I took stock of what was really important to me, and it confirmed front and center how important this festival is to all of us. I'm especially proud of how we weathered the storm of the lockdown and how lucky we were to come out of it stronger than ever. There's no better example than our new, amazing and bigger venue at the Isabel Bader Theatre, and our continued partnership with Super Channel. It's the best of both worlds with in-person and online screenings.

Although we had a great festival in 2021, I'm particularly excited about this year because this is our first "full-blown" Deadly Exposure Industry Conference, after parties and red carpet since 2019.. Also in-person this year for the first time is the Horror Development Lab that Carolyn Mauricette and I launched in 2021. We've brought 13 exciting projects from across Canada to pitch their projects and meet with film industry professionals.

Thank you to everyone on our amazing team but especially to Sarah Lauren Parrish and Carolyn Mauricette, without whom this year's festival couldn't have happened. I'd also like to single out two other people: Don McDonald for giving us an online home these past three years on Super Channel and to Barbara Chirinos at Telefilm Canada who understood what we wanted to do with the lab from day one and has been a tireless supporter of the festival.

Whether you are in-person or at home watching this year, we hope you love the 15 features and 54 short films we have selected as much as we do. Keep supporting Canadian genre filmmakers!

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

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 2022 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 13 incredible filmmaking projects that will be pitching and meeting with industry leaders November 21 to 23, 2022.



Best Friends Forever
Emily Gagne and Josh Korngut



CCF's Solstice Stories
Kai Little-White, Marel Alemany



Draculine
Ray Raghavan



Entity
Eva Grant



Midnight Dreamers
Khizer Khani



Monkey Dog
Tanis Parenteau and Vicki Ramirez



The Rehearsal
Brian Quintero



Naualli
Adrian de la Pena



Nikawiy (Mother)
James Dixon



The Swell
Shelaigh Rowan-Legg



Welcome Home
Laura Tremblay



Tourist Season
Joel H. Brewster and Ariel Hansen



White Noise
Christina Saliba



Wednesday November 24

9:15pm Complimentary coffee and tea from Deadly Grounds coffee (while supplies last).

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 one is an opportunity to meet with some of the key funders. Session two is an opportunity to meet with some of the key distributors, sales agents, organizations and producers in Canada. This event has been financially assisted by Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates and the Independent Production Fund.

9:45 am-12:15 pm: Power Round Table Part I

Guests include:

CBC | **Micah Kernan**, Development Manager, Comedy and Drama Scripted Programming
 Bell Media | **Mitch Geddes**, Coordinator, Original Programming, Drama & Comedy
 Independent Production Fund (IPF) | **Mark Shapland**, Communications & Program Coordinator
 IndieVue | **Sanjay Burman**, President
 Marquee Insurance | **Stephanie Herrera**, Head of Entertainment
 Marquee Insurance | **Rorie McIntosh**, President
 Ontario Creates | **Karam Masri**, Program Consultant
 PurpleDOG Post Production | **Keshia Saldanha**, Business Development Manager
 William F. White (Whites) | **Greg Jeffs**, Client Services Coordinator, Emerging Filmmakers/Digital Content

1:45 pm - 4:15 pm: Power Round Table Part II

Guests include:

Black Fawn Distribution | **CF Benner**, Sales Manager & **Chad Archibald**
 Black Fawn Films | **Chad Archibald**, Director/Producer/Co-Owner
 Photon Films | **Sardé Hardie**, Vice President- Acquisitions & Sales at Photon Films
 Raven Banner Entertainment | **Anelle Dehghani**, Physical Distribution and VOD Manager
 Red Water Entertainment | **Reese Eveneshen**, Head of Development
 Syndicado | **Greg Rubidge**, President & Founder
 Vortex Words + Pictures | **Matt Orenstein**, Vice President, Acquisitions and Strategy

4:30pm: Networking Cocktail Reception

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

Friday November 25

9:15am to 09:45am - coffee / meeting and greet

Complimentary coffee and tea from Deadly Grounds coffee (while supplies last).

9:45am - Meet the Producers Panel

The eclectic lineup at Blood in the Snow also includes a great mix of producers behind this year's feature films. How do they find projects and directors? What are their methods to bring a collaborative vision to the screen?

Join us as we get those answers and more from those who get productions off the ground.

Guests include (subject to change):

- **Kurtis David Harder** (Influencer, V/H/S 94, Z, What Keeps You Alive)
- **Bruno Marino** (Control, Gridlocked)
- **Jason Green** (Shifted, Bickerman's Grove)

11:15am - Meet the Actors Panel

Actors bring us those unforgettable performances we return to time and time again. How do they use acting skills and reach into emotional storytelling to approach a role? As the key part of a film, actors must take direction,

study their environments, and become someone else for the length of a shoot. Find out how these talented performers capture the characters they play. Guests include (subject to change):

- **Ryan Allen** (The Devil Comes At Night, Titans)
- **Chelsea Clark** (The Protector)
- **Gabrielle Graham** (Relax, I'm from the Future)
- **Lanette Ware-Bushfield** (Anything for Jackson, The Wedding Planners)

12:15pm - 2:00pm lunch break

2:00pm - Meet the Distributors Panel

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. Guests include (subject to change):

- **Tom Alexander** (Mongrel Media)
- **Andrew Hunt** (Raven Banner Entertainment)
- **Avi Federgreen** (Red Water Entertainment / IndieCan Entertainment)

3:30pm - Meet the Directors Panel

Every director has their own approach and brings their own experience to tell a story, and how they do it can be wildly different, or sometimes, they simply have to follow the rules. Check out how these resourceful directors navigate their creative process from start to finish in this engaging talk. Guests include (subject to change):

- **KC Carthew** (Polaris, The Sun at Midnight)
- **Adrian Konstant** (Shifted, Bickerman's Grove)
- **Luke Higginson** (Relax, I'm from the Future)
- **Lenin M Sivam** (The Protector, Roobha)

4:30pm to 6:00pm - Networking cocktail

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 26

9:30am to 10:00am - coffee / meeting and greet

Complimentary coffee and tea from Deadly Grounds coffee (while supplies last).

10:00am-12:00pm - Producing Masterclass with Michael Peterson (part I)

Award-winning producer Michael Peterson will go through the various stages of making a film, sharing his hard-earned tips and tricks that he has learned by making dozens of short films, music videos, commercials, tv-series, and a dozen feature films, mostly in the horror genre. He will go through each stage in the process from the very start to the very end: Choosing and developing the right script; putting together smart budgets; creating a good team culture with your cast and crew; planning production; moving through post-production, and entering film festivals and markets. He will share some of the documents, template examples, and other paperwork, along



with stories and examples of film from the trenches of being a filmmaker. This workshop was developed to help new filmmakers avoid some of the pitfalls and mistakes that happen to almost all of us embarking on the journey of making a film. This is the advice Michael wishes he had been given when starting his journey as a filmmaker. If you're looking to make your first short film or are making the leap into producing your first feature film, everyone will get something from this workshop. Attendants are encouraged to bring questions relevant to their film projects for discussion.

12:00 to 1:00pm - lunch break

1:00pm to 2:00pm - Producers Masterclass with Michael Peterson (part II)

2:30pm to 4:00pm - 50 years of Frightenstein with Mitch Markowitz

The Hilarious House of Frightenstein is an iconic Canadian children's television series, which was produced by Hamilton, Ontario's independent station CHCH-TV in 1971. Syndicated both in Canada and internationally, it has influenced filmmakers and performers all over the world to this day. The landmark sketch show included zany "Laugh-In" style comedy, educational content and incredible monster costumes and makeup. The show's cast included Billy Van, Billy Van, Billy Van, (he played 9 different characters) Vincent Price, Julius Sumner Miller, Fishka Rais, Guy Big, and Mitch Markowitz.



Join us for an exclusive one-on-one chat with Co-Producer Mitch Markowitz who also played the 'Super Hippy' character to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this landmark series where Mitch shares with us his unique insights into the show and its legacy.

4:30pm to 6:00pm - Frightenstein cocktail

The chat will be followed by a cocktail reception where you can speak to Mitch Markowitz and perhaps get a FREE autographed FRIGHTENSTEIN POSTER! at the Tranzac Club before the screenings.

THE PROTECTOR

- dir. Lenin M Sivam (Toronto Premiere)
Monday November 21 - 7:00 pm

When a mysterious birthday gift—a book— appears at Evelyn's (Chelsea Clark, GINNY AND GEORGIA) doorstep, her life changes forever. She's already dealing with a traumatic childhood after witnessing family violence and taking matters into her own hands when she was just a girl. Starting fresh after a stint at a correctional centre leads her to a small town to fulfil probation under the care of Dr. Flora (Rebecca Jenkins, STORIES WE TELL, BLACK HARBOUR). Things are strict, Evelyn is on meds, and she carries anger from past trauma that won't go away. The book, called "The Protector," tells of a god who brings peace and order wherever he goes. She's somehow enthralled with the story, and she's somehow connected to the book. With a friendship, job, and mental health on the line, Evelyn spirals into a dangerous legend and uncovers an unbelievable prophecy she may never escape.



As the unstoppable lead, Clark embraces her role with strength and tenacity as a young woman who refuses to bend to authority and takes charge of her destiny. Along with the eerie atmosphere, look for co-star Munro Chambers of TURBO KID fame, and be prepared for a genre mash-up by writer/director Lenin M. Sivam who captures mysticism, small-town mentality and one young woman's struggle to find her place in a strange and unforgiving world.

- Carolyn Mauricette, Programmer



with the short film **THE RIGHT ONE**
- dir. A.J. Demers

A woman works dark folk magic in hopes of finding her lost sister.

INFLUENCER

- dir. Kurtis David Harder (Toronto Premiere)
Monday November 21 - 9:30 pm

Social media influencer Madison (Emily Tenant, CHARMED, RIVERDALE) is on the trip of a lifetime in Thailand. Through her platform, she conveys to her followers the need for a "feeling of adventure," which includes getting out of your comfort zone, "living in the moment," and exploring new places. Madison has little idea of how far this philosophy will take her, and despite what she portrays to her loyal followers, the vacation is not quite what she anticipated. Her boyfriend Ryan (Rory J Saper, FIND ME IN PARIS, THE LEGEND OF TARZAN) cancels joining her at the last minute, and she finds herself very much alone, trying to make the best of her stay at the resort. Meeting CW (Cassandra Naud, SNOWPIERCER, SEE), a charismatic, independent woman living in Thailand, changes everything for the better in Madison's eyes, and she gladly accepts the new friendship. As they get to know each other, CW shows Madison a side of Thailand full of adventure—exactly what Madison was hoping for, but she soon learns a trip to a remote island will reveal CW's true nature.



In this dark psychological thriller, INFLUENCER takes us behind the smoke and mirrors of influencer culture, and Naud's confident performance will keep audiences wondering what happens next in this dangerous paradise. Directed by Kurtis David Harder of V/H/S 94 and FAKE BLOOD fame, INFLUENCER takes the viewer on a suspenseful adventure with many twists and turns in the vein of a modern-day SINGLE WHITE FEMALE.

- Melanie Turner, Programmer



with the short film **MY SOUL TO TAKE**
- dir. Laura Vandervoort

After a year filled with hopelessness, low self-esteem and loneliness, Quinn retires for the night in her downtown high-rise. A software update on her phone appears and is accepted without hesitation. An update, which summons her into a dream world of antiquities and powerlessness.

MOURNFUL MEDIUMS

BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Monday November 21 - 11:59 pm EST (on Super Channel)

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

VICINAL dir. Andrew David Osborne
Thom and Romina have just scored the coolest apartment in the city. When a former tenant, an eccentric older man named Walter Severich, shows up and asks for a tour, things start to get really strange.

SPARK dir. Camille Hollett-French
When a disillusioned woman is implicated in the disappearance of a lonely aging scientist, she must convince the police that hope has the power to bridge dimensions.

ALIENATION dir. Ray Raghavan
A young Mexican girl and her mother, separated in the forest, are hunted by Border Patrol agents and something even more sinister.

THE FORE-MEN dir. Adrian Bobb
Weeks after a mysterious time-compression event violently splices environments from the past into the present, two survivors encounter the foreboding figures responsible for the event and experience firsthand their sinister nature.

ANGAKUSAJAUJUQ - THE SHAMAN'S APPRENTICE dir. Zacharias Kunuk
A young shaman must face her first test—a trip underground to visit Kannaaluk, The One Below, who holds the answers to why a community member has become ill. Facing dark spirits and physical challenges, she must trust her mentor and grandmother's teachings and learn to control her fear.

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Join BITS Radio host Robert Bellamy after each screening on Super Channel for a Q&A with the filmmakers.

Listen to all the episodes of BITS Radio with Blood in the Snow alumni at bitsradio.ca

BITS AND BYTES BITS WEB PROGRAM

Tuesday November 22 - 7:00 pm

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

CREEPY BITS CHAPTER 5: PITTER PATTER dir. David J. Fernandes
Frank follows tiny footsteps around a closed school at night.

CCF'S SOLSTICE STORIES dirs. Kai Damali Little-White, Marel Alemany
During a 3-day summer solstice weekend in the woods, four teens discover a mysterious chest with five gifts, five stories, and one warning—don't sleep. Together, they must unravel this mystery and stay awake if they hope to make it to the final sunrise.

FIRST KILL CLUB dir. Tyler Belluz
A world-wide cult consisting of their members performing a single, random act of murder for a single granted wish.

HURTS SO BAD dir. Paula Vergara
Music video for Bella Rosa.

THE FOREST KING dir. Lubomir Arsov
A young boy's desire for success and status in a VR game leads him into a terrifying new reality.

VRDLK: FAMILY OF VURDULAK dir. Samuel Chou
VRDLK: (pronounced Vor-Du-Lac) centers around a traveling diplomat that is caught in a snowstorm and forced to take shelter with a poor Serbian family.

BE MY VICTIM dir. Cary McKnight
New single from Toronto's only heavy metal horror band BLOOD OPERA - "Be My Victim" featuring all new voice over from Tony Todd.

CREEPY BITS CHAPTER 6: SOUL SUCKER dir. David J. Fernandes
Lina is interrogated about the brutal and possibly supernatural death of her boyfriend.

SHADOW OF THE ROUGAROU dir. Jordan Waunch
"Shadow of the Rougarou" is an energetic and gripping supernatural thriller that uses horror elements and traditional Métis storytelling to tell the tale of Sâkowêw, a westward bound Métis-Cree fur trapper called back home to rally recruits for the 1885 NorthWest Resistance. Ambushed in the wilds of the Rocky Mountains by a hostile group of American Wolfers and stalked by an ancient evil deep within the woods, this young Métis woman must unravel the truth of her past if she is to return to her childhood village alive.

L'INHUMAIN

- dir. Jason Brennan (Toronto Premiere)
Tuesday November 22 - 9:30 pm

With a loving wife and child, living in a well-appointed family home with the right type of SUV, Mathieu Cote (Samian, ALLER SIMPLE) seems to have it all. He's a leading neurosurgeon at a top-notch hospital where colleagues hang on his every move in the surgical theatre. But underneath his public persona, he's hiding a health problem that he suppresses with copious amounts of pills, and a wandering eye jeopardizes his marriage. Mathieu's issues bury his Indigenous heritage, including a pivotal event from his childhood that he is forced to face following the unexpected death of his father. Returning home to Anishinaabe territory, he performs his family duties, assisting his mother in fulfilling his father's final wishes. It's also an opportunity to finally confront a deep-seated fear Mathieu has harboured since he was a teenager and battle an ancient foe.

Buoyed by strong writing and efficient directing by Jason Brennan (a member of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg), L'INHUMAIN moves seamlessly from professional city life to rural settings and Indigenous traditions. Sure-footed acting led by Samian and Jeanne Roux-Cote gives their characters dimension as they deal with otherworldly battles. You're guaranteed a journey of self-discovery as L'INHUMAIN takes you to a place where the natural, spiritual and supernatural converge. (French with English subtitles).

- Norm McGlashan, Programmer



with the short film **ADD TO WISH LIST**

- dir. Navin Ramaswaran

When an avid online shopper stumbles upon a loophole for free products, he quickly discovers that the orders aren't being sent by mistake — and the most sought-after product of all is actually him.

EMERGING SCREAMS BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Tuesday November 22 - 11:59 pm EST (on Super Channel)

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

GNAW dir. Rosalee Yagihara

A pesky hangnail sends Cote into an obsessive state while creating a disconnect her relationship with her girlfriend resulting in an unsettling terror.

LEÇON DE CONDUITE (DRIVING LESSON) dir. Maxime Girard

Looking for adrenaline during a driving lesson, Léa and Florence decide to spy on their friend's mother.

FOLK dir. Gabriel Miron

Late on Halloween night, a girl is harassed by young trick-or-treaters with a sinister agenda.

SMILEY FACE dir. François Ricard-Sheard

Three young women experience the nightmare of being devoured by a humanoid creature.

444 dir. Alexandre Nachi

Inside a house he doesn't recognize, with a family he doesn't know, a young man tries to make some sense of what is happening to him. Everything keeps changing, his mind is sick. "Trust the protocol" is all he can do.

L'ABATTU DES VENTS dir. Félix-Antoine Garneau-Chouinard

Alone on a secluded island, a lightkeeper is a prisoner of his own madness.

STITCHED UP dir. Keisha James

Two friends find themselves in a fight for their lives when a sewing machine comes to life.

CRUISE dir. Sam Rudykoff

We've all received scam phone calls, but what about the person making the calls? Cruise is a dark workplace satire about a hapless telemarketer trying mightily to give away a free cruise. And if he fails, there will be dire consequences.

THE CRADLE dir. Massimo Meo

An angry mob interrupts a witch as she prepares breakfast for her collected children.

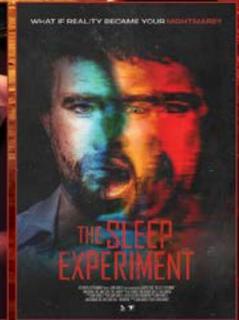
DARKSIDE dir. Spencer Zimmerman

After a devastating tragedy, an astronaut struggles to complete his interstellar mission to rescue a lost crew.

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FUNNY FRIGHTS & UNUSUAL SIGHTS BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Wednesday November 23 - 7:00 pm

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

ITTY BITTY IZZY dir. Ryan Couldrey

After being shrunk down to 1/10 their size by a malfunctioning video game, Izzy must find a way to undo their shrinkage before they're turned into cat food.

THE LAST CHRISTMAS dir. Ryan Port

A mischievous 8-year-old girl unleashes a twisted Christmas nightmare, when her plans to capture Santa Claus go horribly wrong.

THE HUNTERS dir. Kevin Reeves

Two hunters run into trouble in a remote, wintry part of Northern Ontario.

BANQUET ON THE BEAGLE dir. Joel Van Dyk

The mostly true story of Charles Darwin's historic voyage to the Galapagos Islands, and the culinary delights that followed aboard the HMS Beagle.

DAMNED SUPPER dir. Ariel Hansen

On Halloween a group of wannabe witches conjure up more than they bargained for during their dumb supper.

FIELDTRIP dirs. Soren Bendt, Paul Arion

A science fiction short movie about a man in a robotic spacesuit, who crashes into his own minefield and has to navigate through it.

DEATH & THE MYSTERIES OF RAISING POWERFUL CHILDREN dir. Joel Richardson

An absurd celebration of pop culture parenting that finds a way to make animal sacrifice fun again.

OLDTIMERS dir. Brian Quintero

Two associates finally get together during the holiday season to reminisce on their past glory days, hash out their differences, and rejoice by embracing a new, disturbing legacy.

SECRET SANTA dir. Lynn Kristmanson

Robin is Santa's biggest fan. It's Christmas Eve and Robin has hatched a plan to stow away in Santa's sleigh and hitch a ride to the North Pole. Won't Santa be surprised! But it's Robin who'll be getting the surprise. Robin is about to find out that you should never meet your heroes.

CONTROL

- dir. James Mark (Toronto Premiere)

Wednesday November 23 - 9:30 pm

Eileen (Sara Mitich, STAR TREK DISCOVERY, THE EXPANSE) awakes to disturbing scattered memories and a disembodied voice. Tinny and direct, it instructs her to complete increasingly difficult tasks like moving a pencil on the table in front of her, only she's chained to a chair. The intense lights in the room switch from cold white to red as a timer counts down, and if she doesn't complete the tasks, she's told her daughter Eve will die. After each attempt, Eileen is zapped into unconsciousness by some unseen force. This cold and hostile room holds her and many secrets as she tries to piece together where she is and why she's there. When her husband, Roger (George Tchortov, MAYOR OF KINGSVILLE, THE EXPANSE), appears, and she realizes she can do the seemingly impossible, they race against time to find answers to their deepest fears.

Mystery and palpable tension build in CONTROL, the fourth feature by stunt actor and director James Mark. BITS audiences will remember his action-packed KILL ORDER in 2017. In 2022, he gives us a visually stunning sci-fi filled with intrigue and the desperation of a mother trying to make sense of an impossible situation. Mitich digs deep, playing a woman determined to find her power and save her child, and the crisp production design leaves plenty of room for the actors to take centre stage. This contained drama still packs in unexpected action and makes CONTROL a solid and unique addition to Mark's eclectic genre resume.

- Carolyn Mauricette, Programmer



with the short film **SECOND LIFE**

- dir. Darrin Rose

After she is abandoned by her human husband, a robot replacement wife discovers she lived a violent second life she didn't know about.

RESIDENTS OF ARCADIA

- dir. Dom Cutrupi

Wednesday November 23 - 11:59 pm EST
(on Super Channel)

In this futuristic tale, social media influences Steve (Michael Stephen Perry) and Anika (Kamantha Naidoo, ZOMBIE, MY CORNERSTONE) live a life of affluence by promoting their products and lifestyle online. One evening, their feelings of safety and security are disrupted when they notice a stranger in their backyard attempting to break in. Following this incident, bizarre countdown clocks appear on all the reflective surfaces in the house—TVs, mirrors, and the like. Unsure what these countdowns mean, the couple contact authorities and are advised to wait until the timer hits zero. Nearing the end of the countdown, they both fall asleep, only to awaken in a new existence. They are not living the life they thought. At first confused, the couple soon realizes a company named Arcadia is behind a major shift in their realities. With new identities living as Remo (Nick Preston, THE HAUNTING OF BLY MANOR, MAID) and Mira (Ishaval Gill), they must deal with the struggle to stay together, eke out an existence and face a new world of challenges.



For his first feature film, Vancouver-based Dom Cutrupi's RESIDENTS OF ARCADIA delves into a new reality where individuals can plug into the worlds of others, unable to distinguish and separate the two. This virtual platform allows users to experience the ideal life, but at what cost?

- Melanie Turner, Programmer



with the short film **VIEWFINDER**

- dir. Tiffany Wice

During a night time photoshoot, a photographer encounters a mysterious entity.

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This project is funded in part by FACTOR, the Government of Canada and Canada's private radio broadcasters. Ce projet est financé en partie par FACTOR, le gouvernement du Canada et les radiodiffuseurs privés du Canada.

Dark Visions

BITS SHORTS PROGRAM

Thursday November 24 - 7:00 pm

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

GONE dir. Randy Daudlin

An unsuspecting housewife is grabbed outside a grocery store and wakes inside a plywood cell, the prisoner of a silent captor with a dark agenda.

INSIDE dirs. Alex Chung, Giulio Calisse

A young woman faces her stalker with whom she's inexplicably switched bodies with.

FIRST BLOOD dir. Olivia Loccisano

A teenage girl goes through a bizarre transformation after she gets her first period.

REGALO dir. Fernando Derpo Dalayoan

A family member visits Canada from the Philippines: strange occurrences happen!

FIND ME dir. Scott Weatherall

While working from home during lockdowns, Vanessa sees a young girl playing outside who leads her into a very dangerous game.

THE FARAWAY PLACE dir. Kenny Welsh

The Faraway Place is a fantasy/horror about a young woman and her father, both of whom have horns, living in the forest. Meanwhile, a violent cult hunts them down in order to eradicate their kind.

THE UNDERTAKER dir. Sergei Kibus

Undertaker Adrian, a gloomy and silent man, didn't have much of a laugh. One day he made a joke and invited his dead clients to a housewarming party, the joke turned out to be his last one.

DIASPORA dir. Tyler Mckenzie Evans

In a Black suburb, a couple begins to notice that their neighbours are disappearing and white people are moving in, they soon discover something much darker is happening.

POLARIS

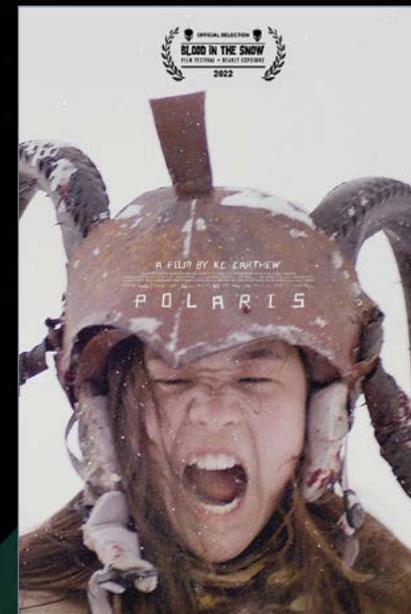
- dir. KC Carthew (Toronto Premiere)

Thursday November 24 - 9:30 pm

What do a polar bear, a girl, and the Northern Star all have in common? They all have a home in the wintery fantasy Polaris by KC Carthew. Hundreds of years in the future, Sumi (Viva Lee, DEADLY CLASS) spends her days in the snow with her adoptive polar bear mother, making life good. They're travelling to the northern star of Polaris, but their idyllic days are short-lived when vicious nomadic women separate them. Captured, Sumi must escape and find her way back to her mother, but her struggles in this post-apocalyptic landscape become an unbelievable journey where she will meet unexpected allies and fight for her life.

Shot in the Yukon with an all-female identifying cast, Carthew creates a world full of danger, survival and, at the core, a story about friendship. Based in the same universe as her 2015 short film FISH OUT OF WATER, POLARIS presents a harsh environment where Sumi and the nomadic warrior women live without men, limited technology, and lots of magical realism. POLARIS not only brings a fully realized fantasy/sci-fi world with its own unique language, but Carthew brings into question a future without the trappings of our modern society. Look for impressive stunts, plenty of action, bursts of bloody battles and an amazing performance from the young lead, Lee.

- Carolyn Mauricette, Programmer



with the short film **ONE OF THOSE GOOD LIVES**

- dir. Joseph Carney

When the young, white and unencumbered Steve (Sean Depner - Riverdale, Deadly Class) is hit by a truck, he awakens in a cavernous and decaying opera house.

DARK NATURE

- dir. Berkley Brady

Friday November 25 - 7:00 pm

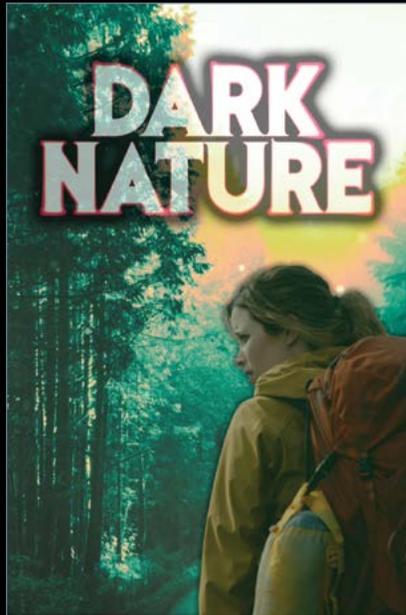
SPECIAL OPEN CAPTION SCREENING

After a particularly nasty breakup from a toxic relationship, Joy (Hannah Anderson) still looks for her abuser around every corner. Carmen (Madison Walsh from BITS 2021 selection DON'T SAY ITS NAME) manages to convince Joy to join her therapy group, which uses wilderness hikes to open the group to share their experiences more freely. But shortly into the trip, Joy becomes convinced her ex is stalking the group through the woods, a terrifying thought, but one that's no match to what's lurking in the woods ahead.

Shot deep in the heart of the Canadian Rockies, DARK NATURE combines traditional "man vs wilderness" elements with a predominantly female cast, Indigenous folklore, and old-fashioned monster movie ideals to produce an effectively creepy final product. Backed by stellar performances by standouts Anderson and Walsh, DARK NATURE unravels its mystery with a pace and timing that evokes the best of survival horror.

Métis director Berkley Brady takes a subgenre that has been thoroughly explored and exploited through pandemic filmmaking due to its isolation requirements to make DARK NATURE—one of the best man—or woman—vs the elements thrillers of this decade. Heavily influenced by classics like DOG SOLDIERS and THE DESCENT, DARK NATURE doesn't shy away from the bloody stuff and effectively draws the audience into its own universe. Do yourself a favour—don't miss this one!

- Kirk Haviland, Programmer



RELAX, I'M FROM THE FUTURE

- dir. Luke Higginson (Toronto Premiere)

Friday November 25 - 9:30 pm

Comedy great Rhys Darby of OUR FLAG MEANS DEATH stars as Casper, a well-intentioned but slightly incompetent time traveller. In a mishap, he travels to the past and can't find his way back to his own dimension. Casper arrives with zero preparation for a world that is quite foreign to him. Nevertheless, he decides to make the best of this dire situation.

He befriends Holly (Gabrielle Graham, POSSESSOR), a woman figuring out how to make the most out of life using her street smarts. When she learns Casper has true insights into the outcome of potentially lucrative future events, Holly decides this is an opportunity for both to move forward with their respective plans. They're both oblivious to the danger that awaits them in the form of Doris (Janine Theriault, BEING HUMAN, BELLEVUE), a ruthless agent from the future set on keeping the laws of time travel intact. It's up to Casper and Holly to work together to save the day.

In his first foray into feature film, writer/director Luke Higginson gives audiences plenty to appreciate in RELAX, I'M FROM THE FUTURE, offering a blend of sci-fi and comedic elements, creating a great balance throughout this madcap movie. As a dynamic duo, Darby and Graham are really fun to watch, and the supporting cast, like BITS alumnus Julian Richings (VICIOUS FUN) and Zachary Bennett (THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY, CUBE ZERO), complements the lead characters so well. Don't miss this story that expands time and space with lots of humour.

- Heidy Morales, Programmer



with the short film FISHBOWL

- dir. Ryan M. Andrews

Fed up with the limelight, a rock legend hides out at the apartment of an overzealous fan. But he will soon learn that he can't hide from his struggles with addiction and his enabling wife forever.



with the short film THE FALL

- dir. Desirae Witte

Leafie is a plucky little maple leaf who loves to groove. But when their latest performance takes an unexpected turn, the harsh realities of the season come crashing down.

THE DEVIL COMES AT NIGHT

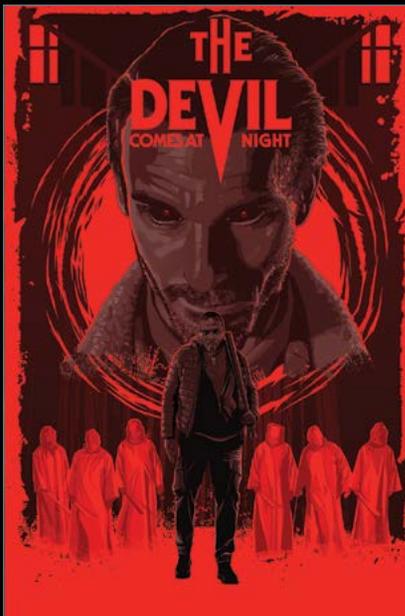
- dir. Scott Leaver (World Premiere)

Friday November 25 - 11:59 pm EST
(on Super Channel)

Ben (Ryan Allen, IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON, TITANS) is an ex-boxer down on his luck, and he's in a bind. His father, Arthur, has recently passed, and Ben is determined to find his inheritance hidden somewhere in his father's house. But Ben has to travel to the small town where his father lived. The trip becomes a series of unfortunate events, beginning with a hasty escape triggered by a barroom brawl, leaving Ben hiding out in the house from a band of angry locals and even stranger neighbours. When he discovers Amy (Adrienne Kress, AMERICAN GODS), his father's friend, hiding out in the inherited home due to strange happenings in town, things become even more sinister. The two strangers realize supernatural forces are rallying against them, and unsettling secrets are held between the home's walls.

Director Scott Leaver—who wrote the film with Allen and Kress—creates a truly claustrophobic atmosphere in his one-location supernatural thriller, with mysteries cleverly unfolding minute by minute. Allen's performance as an engaging anti-hero elicits empathy and echoes of the iconic Duane Jones from NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD, as he battles both personal and real demons, and Jason Martorino is committed to his role as the menacing threat. Mason. Expect great writing, excellent use of location and great performances when THE DEVIL COMES AT NIGHT.

- Carolyn Mauricette, Programmer



CRYO

- dir. Barrett Burgin

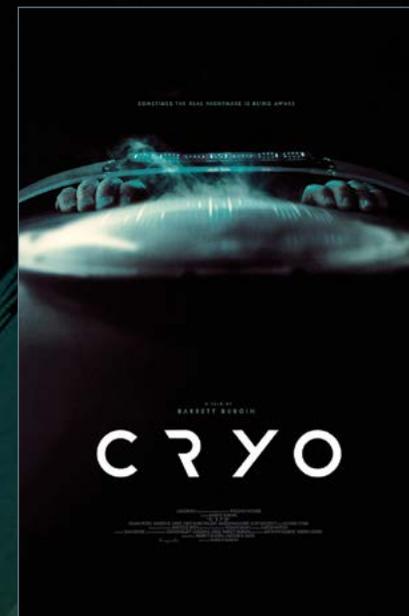
Evening of Friday November 25 - 2:00 am EST
(on Super Channel)

Awakening in an underground facility after being in cryostasis for an indeterminate amount of time, crew members have forgotten everything. With only numbered uniforms to identify each other, they discover someone has damaged one of their sleep pods. As the team begins to remember their names and assignments, they must decide who to trust with their identities and who they count on to keep them safe. During the slow return of their memories, lies, paranoia, and danger start to fester and spread like an insidious mould.

A psychological thriller with a deliberate pace that pulls the audience in by building a sense of dread and doom, CRYO works because the ensemble cast invests 100% in their performance and never lets the illusion slip or the tension dissipate. First-time feature film director Barrett Burgin produces an excellent example of what a film in a small location and a small but dedicated cast and crew can effectively pull off. Considering the low budget and limited team, the set design for this sci-fi thriller is truly an achievement that deserves to be seen.

Don't miss CRYO—the story keeps you guessing with an excellent setting and unique world-building and keeps the audience on their toes with twists and turns to the end.

- Kirk Haviland, Programmer



with the short film **MINDFUL MEDITATION**

- dir. Louie La Vella

A woman connects with an entity during a guided meditation.

THE BREACH

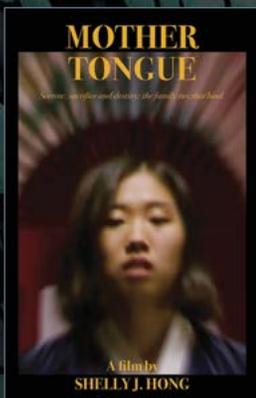
- dir. Rodrigo Gudiño (Toronto Premiere)
Saturday November 26 - 7:00 pm

John Hawkins (Allan Hawco, DEPARTURE, TOM CLANCY'S JACK RYAN) is a small-town police chief, but his methods seem too aggressive for his laid-back surroundings, so he's days away from leaving for a big city policing career. He hopes to leave heartache and the past behind, but his final days won't be quiet as a body covered in strange cuts and fluids washes ashore. John, along with his deputy Connie (Mary Antonio, REVENGE DELIVERED), local coroner Jacob Redgrave (Wesley French, UNSETTLED, TRIBAL) and Meg (Emily Alatalo, WORKING MOMS, SPARE PARTS), an expert in the area's waterways and John's ex, must put the pieces of the case together. The investigation leads to a mysterious, isolated house where a brilliant but eccentric researcher has been doing highly unconventional and dangerous work.



Hawco, Alatalo, and French are a force in this purposeful ensemble cast that includes Adam Kenneth Wilson as the reclusive researcher Cole Parsons and Natalie Brown as his distraught wife, Linda. Viewers, beware since this film is not for the faint of heart! Directed by Rue Morgue Magazine's founder and president, Rodrigo Gudiño, scored and produced by Guns N' Roses star Slash, and written by acclaimed horror novelist Nick Cutter, THE BREACH offers plenty of violence, plus body horror and highly uncomfortable moments that will have most shifting nervously in their seat. As visceral as it gets, there's a strong thread of forensic murder investigation, no matter how horrific the action becomes.

- Norm McGlashan, Programmer



with the short film **MOTHER TONGUE**

- dir. Shelly J. Hong

Grace has always harboured resentment towards her mother for abandoning her. After years of avoidance, Grace returns to her childhood home for answers when her daughter starts to exhibit unusual behaviour. But, the confrontation doesn't go as Grace imagined and she comes to understand her mother had a story she never knew. A fever dream exploring the effects of immigration on families and their relationships.

CULT HERO

- dir. Jesse Thomas Cook (Toronto Premiere)
Saturday November 26 - 9:30 pm

Control freak Kallie Jones (Liv Collins, DEADSIKING, THE HEXECUTIONERS) thinks her marriage needs a little boost. She decides her despondent husband, Brad (Justin Bott), could benefit from attending a "wellness centre" called Hope Acres, where Master Jagori (Tony Burgess, THE HOARD, EJECTA) runs the show. After Brad's prolonged stay, Kallie realizes that wellness isn't exactly "dished out" at this place.

To save her husband from the clutches of the wellness facility, Kallie decides to contact Dale Domazar (Ry Barrett, THE DEMOLISHER, THE HERETICS), a washed-up cult buster. Domazar was once THE guy to call for anything cult-related but now spends his days in a decrepit trailer dreaming about a comeback. When Kallie reaches out to him, he'll take any job to reboot his career, and they embark on a rescue mission full of surprises!

With an original story by CULT HERO's director Jesse Thomas Cook, the 2018 Blood in the Snow Vanguard Award winner, and the film's stars Collins and Burgess, screenwriter Kevin Revie created a script that takes us on a horror comedy caper. What ensues is a high-voltage, high-action, over-the-top good time. The cast is on point, and the comedy is fast and fun, so put this flick at the top of your list!

- Heidy Morales, Programmer



with the short film **NOT ANOTHER SERIAL KILLER**

- dirs. Angela Hanna Goulene, Alessandro Russotti

Meet Tessa Fey. She's cute, smart ... there's just one tiny problem, however -- every guy she attracts is a serial killer.

FOLLOW HER

- dir. Sylvia Caminer

Saturday November 26 - 11:59 pm EST
(on Super Channel)

Aspiring Actress Jess (Dani Barker) is desperately trying to find her way into show business while creating a kinky niche within the streaming world. She also needs enough cash flow to stop calling her parents monthly for money. After secretly filming femdom and creepy male interactions through the streaming platform "The Hive" while keeping her clients anonymous, Jess starts to earn a reputation, some money and a following. But after a video mistakenly reveals a client, she garners the interest of Tom Brady (Luke Cook of CHILLING ADVENTURES OF SABRINA fame), a mysterious writer with an interesting proposal for work. Jess decides to meet up with Tom and agrees to work from his home, but things start to unravel, revealing many disturbing secrets.



Hailing from the small town of Salmon Arm, BC, Dani Barker not only stars in but wrote this twisted tale of influencer culture inspired by her real-life experiences. The topic of influencer culture and possible negative connotations derived from it is explored in many features, and FOLLOW HER, along with fellow BITS 2022 selection INFLUENCER, successfully approaches different aspects of this lifestyle without becoming preachy or mean-spirited.

There's some truly gripping stuff to behold here, as FOLLOW HER's deliberate pacing carries this film along until its shocking finale.

- Kirk Haviland, Programmer



with the short film CONSUMER

- dir. Stephanie Izsak

Tortured by toxic beauty standards, thirteen-year-old Rein discovers an unconventional and disturbing way to lose weight. She thinks she's found a fast track to perfection...but ends up biting off more than she can chew.

CURSE OF AURORE

- dir. Mehran C Torgoley

Evening of Friday November 25 - 2:00 am EST
(on Super Channel)

Footage on the dark web takes us to rural Quebec to research a century-old child murder case.

Three American filmmakers Lena (Liana Baron, SILENT HILL: HOMECOMING), Aaron (Lex Wilson), and Kevin (Jordan Kaplan), arrive at an old house in a small town in Quebec. The tiny cottage has been in Lena's family for over 100 years, and at first, it seems like a quaint old house perfect for them to use as their base while they work on a script loosely based on Aurore, "L'Enfant martyre," a young girl murdered in 1920 by her parents. Meeting the strange townsfolk who don't like to be filmed gives them the creeps, and soon what feels like paranormal events take over the house and their investigation. The deeper their research takes them, the more uneasy and disheartened they become, and danger waits in the darkest corners of this small town.

Director Mehran C. Torgoley, who co-wrote the film with Baron, takes a well-known genre, that of found footage, plus the real case of Aurore Gagnon, and creates a story that brims with a sense of dread.

Using real YouTube footage from MindSeed TV's Casey Nolan and effective locations and casting, and of course, the creepy camera footage, the effects of CURSE OF AURORE will linger with audiences long after the film ends.

- Heidy Morales, Programmer



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