

# SCREAMFEST

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## SCREAMFEST® HORROR FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES INITIAL LINEUP FOR 21ST EDITION

*The in-person festival will kick off with the North American premiere of THE RETALIATORS*

**Los Angeles, CA (September 23, 2021)** - Screamefest® Horror Film Festival, the largest and longest-running horror film festival in the United States, today announced their first-wave lineup of competitive features and shorts for its 21st edition. Running October 12th through 21st at the TCL Chinese Theater, Screamefest® welcomes audiences back to the big screen for a collective experience they won't soon forget. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://screamefestla.com/>

*The Retaliators* will open Screamefest® LA on October 12th for its North American premiere with a red carpet prior to the screening. The film follows an upstanding pastor who uncovers a dark and twisted underworld as he searches for answers surrounding his daughter's brutal murder. Directed by Bridget Smith and Samuel Gonzalez Jr. and written by the Geare brothers, *The Retaliators* also features a high-octane original soundtrack and cameos from some of the biggest names in rock music, including Five Finger Death Punch, Tommy Lee, Papa Roach, The Hu, Ice Nine Kills, Escape The Fate, and more appear on screen. Marc Menchaca (Ozark), Michael Lombardi (Rescue Me), and Joseph Gatt (Game of Thrones) star in this horror-thriller which reveals a game of revenge played using a new set of rules.

Considered the "Sundance of Horror," Screamefest® is proud to showcase new work from independent filmmakers from across the globe. Highlights from this year's program include the World Premieres of *Father of Flies*, the haunting tale of family life and the supernatural and Teddy Grennan's *Wicked Games* where a long weekend at a country estate is turned into a nightmare when a group of masked intruders invades the property. Little do they know one guest has a surprise for them.

Four films will be making their North American debuts at the festival. In addition to *The Retaliators*, Richard Waters's dark folk horror *Bring Out The Fear* traps its protagonists in an unsolvable maze where a sinister presence awaits; Clare Foley stars in the sci-fi horror *The Changed* where an alien presence takes possession of the hearts and minds of her city; and *Isolation* depicts nine tales of terror which are woven together as remote people work to survive an increasingly deadly outbreak.

US premieres at the festival include Russia's *#Blue\_Whale* produced by Timur Bekmambetov, which follows Dana as she works to uncover the truth behind her sister's suicide; Argentina's fantasy horror film *Nocturna: Side A- The Great Old Man's Night* which depicts one old man's journey to rethink his past and present and question his reality; and *Kratt* by Rasmus Berivoo in which children stumble upon an instruction manual to create a supernatural being.

West Coast premieres at the festival include a joint production between the US, Mexico, and Venezuela, *Exorcism of God* which follows an American priest working in Mexico who, due to a botched exorcism, carries a dark secret with him; hailing from Ireland, *Let the Wrong One In* dives into the complications of family ties when a vampire is discovered in the family; Erik Bloomquist follows twins who spend a night at a remote inn to investigate their missing father in *Night at the Eagle Inn*; North American distribution rights to the Argentinian *The Returned (Los Que Vuelven)* - which follows a woman in 1919 prays to a

mythical deity to resurrect her stillborn son - were acquired in a new venture between Peter Block of A Bigger Boat and Seth Nagel, Scott Einbinder and Garrick Dion of 5X Media; *What Josiah Saw* explores a farmhouse haunted by the past; *Alone With You* stars Emily Bennett, Emma Myles, and fan-favorite Barbara Crampton in a twisted tale of memory and horror unfolding over a romantic homecoming for a distant girlfriend; and *When I Consume You* by Perry Blackshear where two siblings get more than they bargained for when hunting a shadowy stalker.

The festival will also feature a Special Presentation of Daniel Farrands's *Aileen Wuornos: American Boogeyman* starring Peyton List and Lydia Hearst, which follows the notorious killer through a little known chapter of her life in Deland, Florida.

"After a challenging year for cinema, we are excited to return to our home at the TCL Chinese Theatre for our latest lineup of frights," says festival founder Rachel Belofsky. "While last year's drive-ins allowed us to continue to celebrate horror films as a community, we have missed the magic of the traditional theatrical experience."

Formed in August 2001 by film producer Rachel Belofsky, Screamefest Horror Film Festival is a female-run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that gives filmmakers and screenwriters in the horror and science fiction genres a venue to have their work showcased in the film industry.

Please find the 2021 Screamefest feature line-up below:

**Aileen Wuornos: American Boogeywoman** (US, 2021) - Special Presentation

Written and Directed by Daniel Farrands

Produced by Lucas Jarach, Daniel Farrands, Meadow Williams, Swen Temmel, Luke Daniels, Daniel Davila  
Executive Producer(s) Nicolas Chartier, Jonathan Deckter, Lydia Hearst, Alan Pao

Cast Peyton List, Lydia Hearst, Tobin Bell, Nick Vallelonga, Swen Temmel, Meadow Williams, Andrew Biernat

Based on a little-known chapter in the life of America's most notorious female serial killer, "Aileen Wuornos: American Boogeyman" takes place in 1976 when 21-year-old Aileen (Peyton List) arrives in Florida attempting to escape her tragic past. Soon she marries wealthy yacht club president Lewis Fell (Tobin Bell) who offers her the chance to become part of Florida's high society. Ultimately, the victimized Aileen surrenders to her murderous impulses and wreaks havoc on the peaceful seaside community of Deland, Florida.

**Alone With You** (US, 2021) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Emily Bennett & Josh Brooks

Written by Emily Bennett & Josh Brooks

Produced by Andrew D. Corkin & Theo James

Cast Emily Bennett, Emma Myles (ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK), Dora Madison (BLISS, VFX),  
and Barbara Crampton (RE-ANIMATOR, YOU'RE NEXT)

Charlie (Emily Bennett) is setting the atmosphere in her sleek, two-story apartment in Brooklyn for a romantic homecoming for her distant girlfriend Simone (Emma Myles) who's been away for work. There are past glimpses of visual tension between the two, so we're led to feel that this meticulous setting of mood may be a peacemaking gesture. Enamored beyond all good sense, Charlie begins to experience a myriad of unsettling incidents, and the horrors of what

has transpired are slowly revealed in the shards of Charlie's resistant memory.

**#Blue\_Whale** (Russia, 2021) - US Premiere

Directed by Anna Zaytseva

Written by Evgeniya Bogomyakova, Anna Zaytseva, Olga Klemesheva

Produced by Timur Bekmambetov, Anna Shalashina, Igor Mishin

Cast Anna Potebnaya, Timofey Eleckii, Ekaterina Stulova, Diana Shulmina, Olga Pipchenko, Polina Vataga, Daniil Kiselev

After her younger sister Julia commits suicide, troubled adolescent Dana decides to find out what led to her death. Examining her sister's computer, Dana finds a secret chat group where adolescents are encouraged to kill themselves through a challenge called "Blue Whale". Dana's investigation leads her ever closer to the truth, but to really discover what happened, she herself must play the deadly game. #blue\_whale // #I\_want\_to\_play\_the\_game is inspired by real events that happened in Russia in 2015 and 2017.

**Bring Out The Fear** (Ireland, 2021) - North American Premiere

Written and Directed by Richard Waters

Produced by Alison Scarff & Richard Waters

Cast Ciara Bailey, Tad Morari, James Devlin

Rosie and Dan are a couple in a doomed relationship. While taking a final walk in their favourite forest, they find it has trapped them in an unsolvable maze. The paths lead nowhere, the trees never end, the sun never sets, and a sinister presence stalks and torments them, trying to drive them insane... There is no escape. But what exactly are they hiding? This dark folk horror will leave you questioning what is real and what is malicious trickery.

**The Changed** (US, 2021) - North American Premiere

Written and Directed by Michael Mongillo

Produced by Taylor Warren and Eloise Asmuth

Cast Clare Foley, Jason Alan Smith, Carlee Avers, Doug Tompos, introducing Olivia Freer, with Kathy Searle, and Tony Todd

Something has taken possession of the hearts and minds of the populace. Kim (Clare Foley), Mac (Jason Alan Smith), and Jane (Carlee Avers) try to convince themselves it's paranoia, but before long the city is besieged by the changed. By the time they realize an alien intelligence has merged with their neighbor, Bill (Tony Todd), a horde of changed is amassing outside their suburban home.

**Exorcism of God** (US/Mexico/Venezuela, 2021) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Alejandro Hidalgo

Written by Alejandro Hidalgo, Santiago Fernández Calvete

Produced by Alejandro Hidalgo, Joel Seidl, Karim Kabche & Antonio Abdo

Cast María Gabriela De Faría, Will Beinbrink, Joseph Marcell

Peter Williams, an American priest working in Mexico, is considered a saint by many local parishioners. However, due to a botched exorcism, he carries a dark secret that's eating him alive until he gets an opportunity to face his own demon one final time.

**Father of Flies** (USA/UK, 2021) - World Premiere

Directed by Ben Charles Edwards

Written by Kirsty Bell

Produced by Kirsty Bell, Phil McKenzie

Cast Nicholas Tucci, Camilla Rutherford, Davi Santos, Page Ruth, Keaton Tetlow, Colleen Heidemann

A haunting tale of family life. A vulnerable young boy finds his mother pushed out of the family home by a strange new woman, and he must confront the terrifying supernatural forces that seem to move in with her.

**Isolation** (US, 2021) - North American Premiere

Directed by Larry Fessenden, Andrew Kasch, Dennie Gordon, Bobby Roe, Alix Austin & Keir Siewert, Christian Pasquariello, Alexandra Neary, Zach Passero, Adam Brown & Kyle I. Kelley

Written by Larry Fessenden, Cody Goodfellow, Dennie Gordon, Zack Andrews & Bobby Roe, Kyle I. Kelley & Adam Brown, Keir Siewert, Zach Passero, Alexandria Neary, Christian Pasquariello

Produced by Nathan Crooker, James P. Gannon

Cast Larry Fessenden, Dennie Gordon, Graham Denman, Damien Gerard, Bobby Roe Sunny Roe, Bodhi Roe, Adam Brown, Alix Austin, Hannah Passero Marieh Delfino, Alex Weed, Fine Belger, Hans Gurbig

Woven together are nine tales of terror that follow isolated citizens from around the world as they confront their darkest fears in an attempt to survive an increasingly deadly outbreak.

**Kratt** (Estonia, 2020) - US Premiere

Written and Directed by Rasmus Merivoo

Produced by Rain Rannu, Tõnu Hiielaid

Cast Mari Lill, Ivo Uukkivi, Jan Uuspõld, Paul Purga, Nora Merivoo, Harri Merivoo

When children are left at Grandma's without smartphones they're bored to tears. That is until Granny finds them loads to do. She also tells them about a magical creature named KRATT that'll do whatever its master says. When they stumble upon an instruction on how to build one they don't hesitate. All they have to do now is to buy a soul from the devil...

**Let The Wrong One In** (Ireland, 2021) - West Coast Premiere

Written and Directed by Conor McMahon

Produced by Trisha Flood, Ruth Treacy, Julianne Forde, Michael Lavelle

Cast Karl Rice, Eoin Duffy, Anthony Head, Mary Murray

Let the Wrong One In follows young supermarket worker Matt, who is a little too nice for his own good. When he discovers that his older, estranged brother Deco has turned into a vampire, he's faced with a dilemma: Will he risk his own life to help his sibling, with blood being thicker than water? Or will he stake him before he spreads the infection further? The film stars upcoming Irish talent Karl Rice and Eoin Duffy, along with Buffy the Vampire Slayer icon Anthony Head, in the role of Henry; a taxi driver with a sideline in vampire hunting.

**Night at the Eagle Inn** (US, 2021) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Erik Bloomquist

Written by Erik Bloomquist, Carson Bloomquist

Produced by Erik Bloomquist, Carson Bloomquist

Cast Amelia Dudley, Taylor Turner, Beau Minniear, Greg Schweers, Erik Bloomquist

Fraternal twins spend a terrifying night at a remote inn to investigate the last known whereabouts of their father. As they dive deeper, the property's dark secrets ensnare them in a hellish labyrinth they must escape before dawn.

**Nocturna: Side A - The Great Old Man's Night** (Argentina, 2021) - US Premiere

Directed by Gonzalo Calzada

Written by Gonzalo Calzada

Produced by Alejandro Narváez, Javier Diaz

Cast - Pepe Soriano, Marina Artigas, Lautaro Delgado

Synopsis - Ulysses is a hundred-year-old man, he lives alone and is on the verge of death. The last night of his life, he will experience something that will force him to rethink his past, his present and his view about his reality.

**The Retaliators** (US, 2021) - North American Premiere - **OPENING NIGHT**

Directed by Bridget Smith, Samuel Gonzalez, JR.

Written by The Geare Brothers

Produced by Allen Kovac, Michael Lombardi, Mike Walsh

Executive Producer(s) Dan Lieblein

Cast Michael Lombardi, Marc Menchaca, Joseph Gatt, Jacoby Shaddix, Katie Kelly, Abbey Hefer, Ivan Moody, Zoltan Bathory

In THE RETALIATORS, an upstanding pastor uncovers a dark and twisted underworld as he searches for answers surrounding his daughter's brutal murder. A high-octane original soundtrack and cameos from some of the biggest names in rock music set the tone as this horror-thriller reveals a game of revenge played using a new set of rules. Marc Menchaca (Ozark), Michael Lombardi (Rescue Me), and Joseph Gatt (Game of Thrones) star. Five Finger Death Punch, Tommy Lee, Papa Roach, The Hu, Ice Nine Kills, Escape The Fate, and more appear onscreen and on THE RETALIATORS Original Soundtrack, coming soon via Better Noise Music.

**The Returned (Los Que Vuelven)** (Argentina, 2021) - West Coast Premiere

Directed by Laura Casabe

Written by Laura Casabe, Paolo Soria, Lisandro Colaberardino

Produced by Alejandro Israel

Cast Maria Soldi, Lali Gonzalez, Alberto Ajaka

South America, 1919; a landowner's wife is desperate for a child of her own, having suffered through multiple miscarriages. She finds hope, however, in a seemingly outlandish plan: she'll pray to a mythical deity to resurrect her stillborn son. The plan works, but along with the child comes something else...something evil.

**What Josiah Saw** (US, 2021) - LA Premiere

Directed by Vincent Grashaw

Produced by Ran Namerode, Vincent Grashaw, Bernie Stern, Angelia Adzic

Executive Producer(s) Cole Payne, Scott Haze

Written by Robert Alan Dilts

Cast Robert Patrick, Nick Stahl, Scott Haze, Kelli Garner, Tony Hale, Jake Weber

Everyone in town knows about the haunted Graham Farm on Willow Road. You'll hear there's a bad history to it. Josiah and his youngest son, Thomas, are all that remain of this estranged family. But after experiencing terrifying visions from beyond, Josiah decides they must change their ways to right a great wrong. After being away for over two decades, Eli and Mary, Josiah's eldest children, are enticed to sell the property and reunite at the old farmhouse in hopes of closing this haunting chapter of their lives for good. Sins of the past will be paid in full.

**When I Consume You** (US, 2021) - West Coast Premiere

Written and Directed by Perry Blackshear

Produced by MacLeod Andrews, Perry Blackshear, Evan Dumouchel, Libby Ewing

Cast Libby Ewing, Evan Dumouchel, MacLeod Andres, Margaret Ying Drake  
Siblings Daphne and Wilson Shaw practically raised one another. They've protected each other from everything life has thrown their way. Daphne's professional life is soaring and she's looking to adopt a child. Wilson is interviewing for a position at a local school, hoping to become a teacher. But Daphne has an unsettling, dangerous stalker whom she can't seem to shake, and now threatens to destroy them both. They hunt for their tormentor through the shadowy streets of Brooklyn, honing their bodies and minds for a showdown. But this foe may prove to be more than they can handle. They will break and rebuild themselves if necessary to save each other, and protect the light they know is in this world for them... if only they can persevere.

**Wicked Games** (US, 2021) - World Premiere

Written and Directed by Teddy Grennan

Produced by Bennett Krishock, Heath Franklin, Burton Gray, Teddy Grennan, Christopher Walters

Cast Christine Spang, Markus Silbiger, Michael Shenefelt, Conner Ann Waterman

When Harley joins her new boyfriend for a long Halloween weekend at his country estate, they're invaded by a bank of masked freaks and forced to play a Wicked Game. To the intruders' unpleasant surprise, Harley's hard-boiled history has endowed her with a bag of tricks which give the game a surprise ending.

Standing out as one of the top tastemakers in the genre of horror, Screamfest has been a launchpad for top tier franchises and storytellers. Among the numerous films that have been discovered and/or premiered at the festival include box office hit *The Wretched*, *Tigers Are Not Afraid*, *We Summon the Darkness*, *Pledge*, *The Master Cleanse*, *Tragedy Girls*, *American Mary*, *Paranormal Activity*, *30 Days of Night*, *Trick 'r Treat*, and *The Human Centipede*.

Screamfest selects award winners at the close of the festival. Film entries are accepted in the categories of Best Feature, Directing, Cinematography, Editing, Special Effects and Musical Score. In addition, there are special categories for Best Animation, Best Short, Best Documentary and Best Student Film as well as a Screenplay competition.

Screamfest® takes the health and safety of its guests seriously and proof of vaccination or negative COVID test with a temperature check will be required for entry. Masks are required at all times while inside the venue. Hand sanitizer stations are placed throughout the theater and lobby with special cleanings in between screenings. Screamfest® will comply with all LA County regulations and policies are subject to change.

For more information or the latest news, visit [screamfestla.com](https://screamfestla.com)

**To apply for press credentials, [please click here](#). The deadline for credential applications is October 8, 2021.**

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## **ABOUT SCREAMFEST HORROR FILM FESTIVAL**

Formed in August 2001 by film producer Rachel Belofsky, Screamfest Horror Film Festival is a female-run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that gives filmmakers and screenwriters in the horror and science fiction genres a venue to have their work showcased in the film industry. Among the numerous films that have been discovered and/or premiered at the festival include “Tigers Are Not Afraid,” “The Wretched”, “We Summon the Darkness”, “Pledge”, “The Master Cleanse”, “Tragedy Girls”, “American Mary”, “Paranormal Activity,” “30 Days of Night,” “Trick ‘r Treat” and “The Human Centipede.” Screamfest hosts monthly screenings year-round such films include “Mom and Dad” starring Nicolas Cage and Selma Blair and many retrospective screenings.

## **ABOUT 2020 SCREAMFEST PARTNERS**

Screamfest is sponsored by Birns & Sawyer, ELMA, HorrorPack, Deadly Grounds, Simple DCP, Screenplay.com and InkTip. Screamfest is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Department of Arts and Culture. Screamfest is made possible in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs. This activity is supported in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency. Learn more at [www.arts.ca.gov](http://www.arts.ca.gov).