

# BROOKLYN HORROR FILM FESTIVAL

## The Brooklyn Horror Film Festival Announces Full 2024 Program

*Festival opens with Joe DeBoer, Kyle McConaghy's TIFF hit DEAD MAIL and Honors Larry Fessenden with this year's Leviathan Award, reveals new poster art*



2024 Poster: Art by Earl Barrett-Holloway

*Highlights also include FEAR IN FOCUS: SPAIN sidebar, World Premiere of Izzy Lee's HOUSE OF ASHES, director Joe Begos' JIMMY & STIGGS, Jayro Bustamante's RITA and closing night film THE RULE OF JENNY PEN*

**(Brooklyn, NY | September xx, 2024)** The Brooklyn Horror Film Festival (BHFF) announces today the full program for its 2024 incarnation, running **October 17-24** with all screenings held at Nitehawk Cinema's Williamsburg and Prospect Park locations. Audiences are in for an

unworldly lineup of films and events, including a special screening of Larry Fessenden's **HABIT** with the **Leviathan Award Ceremony**, honoring his film career.

The Opening Night film is the NY premiere of **DEAD MAIL** from directors Joe DeBoer and Kyle McConaghay. The 2024 festival boasts the North American Premieres of exciting new films: Tiago Teixeira's unsettling body horror film **CUSTOM**; a new documentary on horror at the turn of the millennium from Phillip Escott and Sarah Appleton, **GENERATION TERROR**; and New Zealand director Sasha Rainbow's film **GRAFTED**.

The festival will feature the world premieres of Izzy Lee's first feature, **HOUSE OF ASHES**; the atmospheric ghost story, **LILLY LIVES ALONE**, and the queer sci-fi adventure **PSYCHONAUT**. The festival's other spotlight titles include **ANIMALE**, the beautiful revenge-fantasy from French director Emma Benestan as the festival's Centerpiece Film; and **THE RULE OF JENNY PEN** starring Geoffrey Rush and John Lithgow as the Closing Night Film.

Additional highlights include the action fueled revenge film **SAYARA** from Turkey; Joe Begos's latest neon drenched bloodbath **JIMMY & STIGGS**; a screening of several episodes of the new horror anthology **TALES FROM THE VOID** which includes an episode directed by John Adams and Toby Poser; a fantastical time traveling romance from director Alice Lowe, **TIMESTALKER**; **GAZER**, the dreamy noir film from Ryan J. Sloan; Mercedes Bryce Morgan's gory erotic thriller **BONE LAKE**; and the nightmarish mystery **SOMNIUM** which premiered at the Chattanooga Film Festival earlier this year.

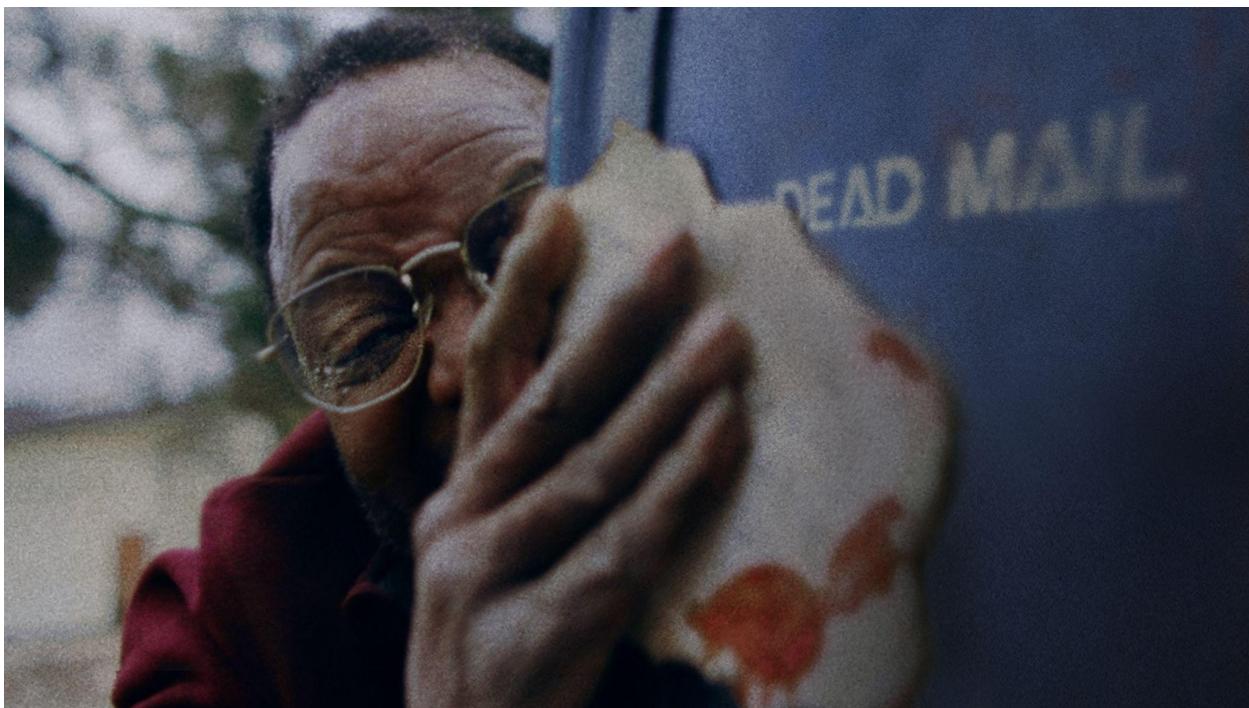
The festival's signature sidebar programs return, starting with **FEAR IN FOCUS: SPAIN**, which includes the North American premiere of **EXORCISMO**, a documentary that focuses on the violent and smutty film history of the post-Franco era of Spanish cinema; as well as retro screenings of **VAMPYRES** and **THE BLOOD SPATTERED BRIDE** on 35mm; which ties into the Vampire sidebar that features Abel Ferrara's **THE ADDICTION** and a screening of the Spanish version of **DRACULA** with a live score from The Flushing Remonstrance.

**MISKATONIC INSTITUTE OF HORROR STUDIES** will also return to host a special lecture by Dr. Leah Richards "Queer Vampires, Queer Liberation, Queer Futurity.

Read on for the full list of films below.

**Festival badges are on sale now [here](#) and a limited amount of individual tickets go on sale this Friday at 12PM EST. Full program info is detailed below:**

---



*Dead Mail* dir. Joe DeBoer, Kyle McConaghy

**DEAD MAIL**

**OPENING NIGHT FILM**

**New York Premiere**

**US | 2024 | 106 Min. | Dir. Joe DeBoer, Kyle McConaghy**

A blood-stained note arrives at a county post office, leading its experienced "dead letter" mailroom clerk and his associates down a perilous path to discover its origins. Meanwhile, an entrepreneurial synthesizer engineer enters a precarious partnership with an overbearing investor. Perfectly capturing an authentic retro aesthetic, Joe DeBoer and Kyle McConaghy's indie horror-synth thriller is a total gem and should launch this directing team into the stratosphere.

**ANIMALE**

**CENTERPIECE FILM**

**East Coast Premiere**

**France | 2024 | 98 Min. | Dir. Emma Benestan**

As a French town's annual bull racing competition approaches, a string of grisly murders committed by a wild bull ignites the community into a frenzy.

**THE RULE OF JENNY PEN**

**CLOSING NIGHT FILM**

**East Coast Premiere**

**New Zealand | 2024 | 103 Min. | Dir. James Ashcroft**

John Lithgow vies for "Best Villain of the Year" honors playing a deranged nursing home resident terrorizing a new fellow resident (played by Geoffrey Rush) in this twisted and mean-spirited gem.

**HABIT**

**LEVIATHAN AWARD**

**Presented by Arrow Video**

**United States | 1995 | 112 Min. | Dir. Larry Fessenden**

On a drunken downward spiral following a breakup and the recent death of his father, Sam's troubles only multiply when he meets the enigmatic Anna who just might be a vampire. This special screening of HABIT will be followed by the Leviathan Award presentation and Q&A w/ Larry Fessenden, moderated by BHFF alum Jenn Wexler.

**BIRDEATER**

**East Coast Premiere**

**New Zealand | 2023 | 113 Min. | Dir. Jack Clark, Jim Weir**

Louie invites his fiance Irene to join him at his bachelor party, but as alarming details of their relationship emerge, the night free falls into full-on madness.

**BLACK EYED SUSAN**

**NYC Premiere**

**United States | 2024 | 85 Min. | Dir. Scooter McRae**

In a world increasingly relying on AI technology, one company experiments with BDSM sex dolls to offer to their most violent clients.

**BONE LAKE**

**New York Premiere**

**United States | 2024 | 94 Min. | Dir. Mercedes Bryce Morgan**

Hoping to get out of their romantic rut, a couple rents out a scenic cabin, but their plans are disrupted when they find another couple has also rented the same cabin.

**CUSTOM**

**North American Premiere**

**United Kingdom | 2024 | 76 Min. | Dir. Tiago Teixeira**

A couple produce their own erotic films for money but when they take on a new client they become embroiled in something dark and sinister.

**DEAD TALENTS SOCIETY**

**New York Premiere**

**Taiwan R.O.C. | 2024 | 106 Min. | Dir. John Hsu**

To avoid getting kicked out of the underworld, a ghost joins a small haunting talent agency and sets out to become the scariest urban legend of them all.

**THE DEAD THING**

**East Coast Premiere**

**United States | 2024 | 95 Min. | Dir. Elric Kane**

Disillusioned by empty hookups, Alex finally connects with a charismatic guy who seems worth her time, only to learn that he's harboring a nightmarish secret.

**GAZER**

**NYC Premiere**

**United States | 2024 | 114 Min. | Dir. Ryan J. Sloan**

An ingenious and challenging marriage of noir and horror, this singular feature debut finds a young mother with a time-distorting mental condition forced to pull off a heist to provide for her daughter.

**GENERATION TERROR****North American Premiere****United Kingdom | 2024 | 100 Min. | Dir. Phillip Escott, Sarah Appleton**

Generation Terror looks at the global effects of the turn of the millennium had on horror and the slew of films it ushered in.

**GRAFTED****North American Premiere****New Zealand | 2024 | 96 Min. | Dir. Sasha Rainbow**

Body horror gets an extreme, bubblegum-poppy makeover in this funny and gruesome feature debut, in which a college student's research into skin diseases helps her achieve popularity in the most perverse way imaginable.

*House of Ashes dir. Izzy Lee***HOUSE OF ASHES****World Premiere****United States | 2024 | 95 Min. | Dir. Izzy Lee**

While under house arrest, a grieving widow questions whether she's losing her mind or if she's the victim of something supernatural after an old friend moves in to help curb her loneliness.

**JIMMY & STIGGS****East Coast Premiere****United States | 2024 | 80 Min. | Dir. Joe Begos**

Trapped in a Los Angeles apartment, two best friends guzzle booze and lay waste to a small army of relentless extraterrestrials in Joe Begos's latest dose of unadulterated, modern-day grindhouse carnage.

**THE LAST SACRIFICE****East Coast Premiere****United Kingdom | 2024 | 92 Min. | Dir. Rupert Russell**

Part film history and part true crime documentary, this riveting and unsettling doc examines an infamous 1945 murder in England that inspired your favorite British folk horror films and remains draped in mystery.

**LILLY LIVES ALONE****World Premiere****United States | 2024 | 93 Min. | Dir. Martin Melnick**

The 10-year anniversary of a tragic accident sends a guilt-ridden woman over the edge, plunging her into a drug and booze fueled fever dream of conspiring townsfolk and supernatural terrors.

**PSYCHONAUT****World Premiere****Netherlands | 2024 | 87 Min. | Dir. Thijs Meuwese**

With the help of a futuristic healing machine, Maxime must traverse into the dark recesses of her dying girlfriend's mind in order to locate the "essential memory" that could save her life.

**RITA****United States Premiere****Guatemala | 2024 | 107 Min. | Dir. Jayro Bustamante**

A young girl runs away from her abusive father only to end up in a safe house, where she finds the fantasy and horrors that await her.

**SAYARA****East Coast Premiere****Turkey | 2024 | 98 Min. | Dir. Can Evrenol**

Brooklyn Horror alum Can Evrenol (Housewife, 2017) combines his personal brand of extreme horror with brutal martial arts action in this tale of blood-soaked revenge, following a woman's mission to avenge her sister's murder.

**SOMNIUM****New York Premiere****United States | 2024 | 92 Min. | Dir. Racheal Cain**

Gemma moves to LA in the hopes of making it as an actress but when she takes a job at a mysterious sleep clinic it has strange effects on her.

**THE SOUL EATER****East Coast Premiere****France, Belgium | 2024 | 108 Min. | Dir. Alexandre Bustillo, Julien Maury**

Jump-started by a perplexing murder scene of absolute carnage and a group of missing children, two investigators from different departments are sent down the same dark and unforgiving trail.

**TALES FROM THE VOID (Season 1 Episodes 4-6)****World & New York Premieres****United States | 2024 | 79 Min. | Dir. Maritte Lee Go, Francesco Loschiavo, John Adams and Toby Poser**

Fans of short-form horror are in for a treat with this trio of episodes from Screambox's new Reddit-derived anthology series, two of which are BHFF World Premieres and the third directed by indie horror stalwarts John Adams and Toby Poser.

### **TIMESTALKER**

**Presented by The Future of Film is Female**

**New York Premiere**

**United Kingdom | 2024 | 96 Min. | Dir. Alice Lowe**

A karmic journey that sees the hapless heroine Agnes reincarnated every time she makes the same mistake: falling in love with the wrong man.

### **WHO'S WATCHING**

**East Coast Premiere**

**United States | 2024 | 86 Min. | Dir. Tim Kasher**

Cursive frontman Tim Kasher delivers an impressively nihilistic directorial debut with this seedy look at a mentally disturbed social misfit who takes his infatuation with a female co-worker to disturbing heights.



*Wake in Fright 4k Restoration dir. Ted Kotcheff*

### **WAKE IN FRIGHT (4K Restoration)**

**East Coast Premiere**

**Australia | 1971 | 109 Min. | Dir. Ted Kotcheff**

A masterwork of pure cinematic madness, Ted Kotcheff's wild and disturbing *Wake in Fright*, which follows a schoolteacher as he loses his mind amidst drunken Aussie locals, receives a glorious 4K restoration.

### **THE ADDICTION**

**United States | 1995 | 82 Min. | Dir. Abel Ferrara**

In this '90s cult classic from New York director Abel Ferrara, a doctoral student becomes a vampire and attempts to adapt to her new lifestyle and thirst for blood.

## FEAR IN FOCUS: SPAIN



*Exorcismo* dir. Alberto Sedano

Fear in Focus is back with a special Spain edition! The festival's perennial sidebar, once again presented by **Arrow Video**, which celebrates a specific region's exceptional work within horror, turns its eyes to one of the original and most enduring purveyors of the genre.

Program highlights include the North American premiere of **EXORCISMO**, a documentary exploring the post-dictatorship period of Spanish cinema when genre filmmakers were producing the most wildly taboo challenging work the country had ever seen, and repertory screenings of queer vampire essentials **THE BLOOD SPATTERED BRIDE**, screening on 35mm, and **VAMPYRES**, celebrating its 50th anniversary. The lesser known—and superior to some—Spanish production of **DRACULA**, made the same year as the Bela Lugosi classic, will also be screened with a brand new live score from The Flushing Remonstrance.

Rounding out the offerings will be a special **FEAR IN FOCUS: SPAIN** shorts block, spotlighting an exciting new wave of Spanish horror.

### **Exorcismo**

**North American Premiere**

**Spain | 2024 | 122 Min. | Dir. Alberto Sedano**

**EXORCISMO** dives into the post-Franco era of Spanish cinema that saw directors freed from censorship and creating some of the most erotically explicit horror and genre films of all-time.

### **Vampyres - 50th Anniversary**

**Spain | 1974 | 87 Min. | Dir. José Ramón Larraz**

A pair of ravenous femme vampires creep around the British countryside searching for men to bring back to their creepy mansion where they fuck and feed on them.

**The Blood Spattered Bride (35mm)**

**Spain | 1972 | 100 Min. | Dir. Vicente Aranda**

Sexually charged horror doesn't get much better, or kinkier, than this cult classic about a newly married woman who can't stand her husband and falls for a beautiful, long-dead lady vampire.

**Dracula (Spanish Version w/ Live Score)**

**United States| 1931| 104 Min. | Dir. George Melford**

An unsung gem, Universal's other 1931 Dracula production receives a long-overdue spotlight at this special screening with a live score from The Flushing Remonstrance.

**Fear in Focus: Spain Shorts Program**

Brooklyn Horror is proud to dedicate this year's *Fear in Focus* sidebar to the amazing genre films of Spain. This special shorts program of new Spanish frights includes tales of merciless revenge, spine-chilling supernatural terrors and gut-wrenching body horror.

**Be Right Back**, dir. Lucas Paulino, Gabe Ibáñez; **Apotemnofilia**, dir. Jano Pita; **Nap**, dir. Javier Chavanel; **The Visitor**, dir. Tony Morales; **Don't Talk to Strangers**, dir. Imanol Ortiz López; **Voyager**, dir. Pablo Pagán; **Berta**, dir. Lucía Forner Segarra

## **SHORT FILMS**



*Roger is a Serial Killer* dir. Don Swaynos

#### **NIGHTMARE FUEL**

Sleep no more after witnessing the terror on display in this chilling block of purely scary horror, complete with Ouija board mishaps, techie ghouls, and cult rituals gone awry.

**Dream Creep**, dir. Carlos A.F. Lopez (USA); **Pop**, dir. Josh Jones (USA); **Agonist**, dir. Annie Marie Elliot (USA); **Cease to Exist**, dir. Taylor Nodrick (Canada); **The Awakening**, dir. Al Campbell (UK); **Taboo**, dir. Almog Avidan Antonir (USA); **INKED**, dir. Kelsey Bollig (USA); **Mr. Static**, dir. Mike Williamson (USA); **Transylvanie**, dir. Rodrigue Huart (France)

#### **HEAD TRIP**

Brooklyn Horror's signature celebration of genre-bending horror returns with a fresh crop of short-form innovation, including sexual darkness, animalistic transformations, and coming-of-age supernaturalism.

**Evil, I**, dir. Vanessa Beletic (USA); **Izzy**, dir. Yfke van Berckelaer (Netherlands); **Poppy's Saturn**, dir. Nicole Tegelaar (Belgium); **Calf**, dir. Jamie O'Rourke (Ireland); **Faces**, dir. Blake Simon (USA); **Kneading**, dir. Lulu Syracuse, Augie Syracuse (USA); **Tight**, dir. Jessica Barr (USA); **Femme**, dir. Nina Noël Raaijmakers (Netherlands)

#### **SLAYED: LGBTQ Horror Shorts**

##### **Presented by Horror Press**

Once again, Brooklyn Horror Fest is back with its Slayed shorts block which focuses on LGBTQIA+ filmmakers and themes. And as always, the selection lives up to the name.

**Beach Logs Kill**, dir. Haley Z. Boston (USA); **Lady Parts**, dir. Ariel McCleese (USA); **Unsettled**, dir. Bella Thorne (USA); **Dream Factory**, dir. Alex Matraxia (UK); **Rat!**, dir. Neal Suresh Mulani (USA); **Stink**, dir. Matias Breuer (USA); **Girls**, dir. Julien Hosmalin

#### **LAUGH NOW DIE LATER**

##### **Presented by Teeth: The Musical**

What's better than being scared? Laughing your ass off at the same time, which you'll do thanks to this batch of raucous horror-comedies featuring personal trainers, home invasions, and sexual dysfunction.

**Cheat Meal**, dir. Drew Bierut (USA); **The Last Thing She Saw**, dir. Anthony Cousins (USA); **Mean Ends**, dir. Émile Lavoie (Canada); **Erection and Destruction**, dir. Eddie Mullins (USA); **Make Me a Pizza**, dir. Talia Shea Levin (USA); **Roger is a Serial Killer**, dir. Don Swaynos (USA); **Hold Up**, dir. Ori Guendelman (USA)

### **HOME INVASION #1**

Back like we never left, our annual showcase of NYC local shorts returns with a buffet of genre film goodness.

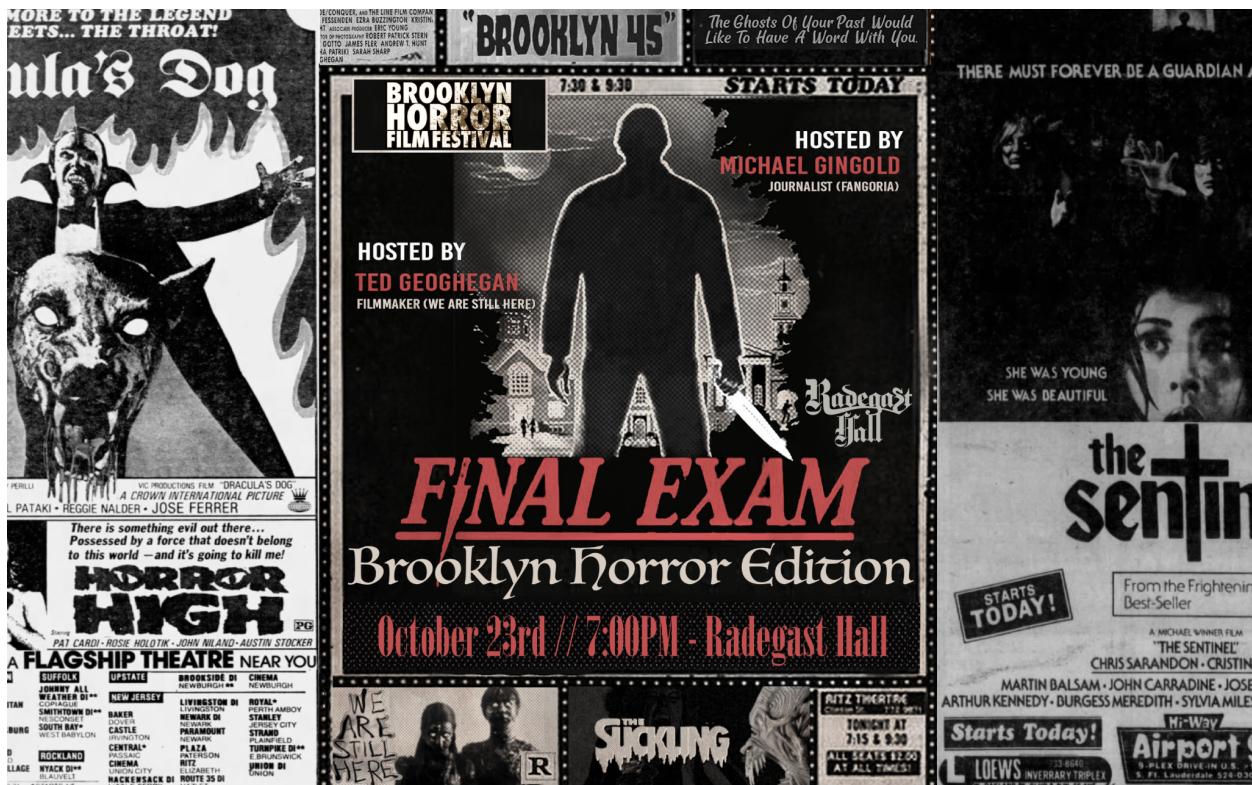
**Red Flag**, dir. Malin Barr, Cleo Handler; **Be Bad**, dir. Lauren Hart; **By The Window**, dir. Case Avron; **Wild Animals**, dir. David B Jacobs; **I Prefer Monsters**, dir. Dylan Brown; **Tinkerhell**, dir. Noah Sterling; **Hammer**, dir. Alejandra Parody, Ben Sottak; **Stigmata**, dir. Ben Gordon; **Jump Cut**, dir. James Martin Morrison

### **HOME INVASION #2**

Round two of our annual local shorts program, just in case you needed a reminder that NYC genre films are built different.

**The Sacrifice**, dir. Christopher Werener; **VHX**, dir. Alisa Stern, Scott Ampleford; **Accidental Stars**, dir. Emily Bennett; **The Retreat**, dir. Emmett Kerr-Perkinson; **The Shadow Wrangler**, dir. Grace Rex; **Implied Monsters**, dir. Christine Nyland; **Strange Creatures**, dir. Nicholas Payne Santos; **Girl With the Grey Eyes**, dir. Kara Grace Miller; **Don't F\*ck With Ba**, dir. Sally Tran

# SPECIAL EVENTS



## Final Exam Horror Trivia

Presented by Dark Sky Films

Do you think you know more about horror films than the rest of Gotham? Then it's time to prove it via five blistering rounds of expert level creepy trivia with hosts Ted Geoghegan (director of *WE ARE STILL HERE* and Shudder's *BROOKLYN 45*) and journalist Michael Gingold (of *Fangoria* and *Rue Morgue* fame)! Meet new friends, win amazing prizes, and learn more about horror cinema exclusively at Final Exam!

## Certified Forgotten Podcast

Certified Forgotten is a 60-minute bi-weekly horror movie podcast with a focus on underseen films. Hosts Matt Donato and Matt Monagle speak with creators, filmmakers, and critics about their lifelong relationships to the horror genre. Each episode also highlights another unique genre title with ten-or-fewer reviews on aggregator site Rotten Tomatoes that's picked by the guest, letting them champion each episode's title to their heart's content.

## Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies Lecture: Queer Vampires, Queer Liberation, Queer Futurity with Dr. Leah Richards

As any vampire scholar, and most vampire fans, will tell you, the figure of the vampire is inherently queer. John Polidori based Lord Ruthven ("The Vampyre," 1818) on the indiscriminately licentious Lord Byron; J. Sheridan Le Fanu's Carmilla ("Carmilla," 1872) still dominates the lesbian vampire genre; and Bram Stoker's Dracula (Dracula, 1897) tells his three brides that Jonathan Harker "is mine". Their non-normative reproduction, the pleasure that they take in penetration and feasting, their seduction of victims into voluntary acquiescence, and their capes and ruffles and air of languid dissipation...vampires are queer. But so what?

This lecture will first establish cinematic vampires as almost universally queer-coded and explore the significance of this specific intersection of monstrosity and sexuality. The talk will then explore the alignment of vampire cinema with the queer liberation movement of the 1960s-70s, covering films such as Hammer's Karnstein trilogy (The Vampire Lovers [1970], Lust for a Vampire [1971], and Twins of Evil [1971]) and its much gayer spiritual relatives including Daughters of Darkness (1971), The Blood Spattered Bride (1972), and Vampyres (1974), as well as recent titles like Bit (2019), Thirst (2020), and So Vam (2021).

Through the work of queer theorists including Lee Edelman, Jack Halberstam, and José Esteban Muñoz the lecture will explore the ways that vampires can contribute to discourses around queer identity, modes of being, and futurity.

## **LEVIATHAN AWARD**

### **Presented by Arrow Video**



The Leviathan Award, Brooklyn Horror's first and only tribute award, was created in 2023 to honor the luminaries of horror and acknowledge their monstrous contributions to the genre.

2024 honors go to the irreplaceable Larry Fessenden whose inspired filmmaking, cherished turns in front of the camera and impactful producorial work as the founder of Glass Eye Pix has helped shepherd and sustain indie horror in New York for three decades and counting. Larry Fessenden is exactly the kind of trailblazing and enduring artist we want to celebrate, one whose distinct mark on the industry and on countless filmmakers is undeniable.

# 2024 Brooklyn Horror Jury

## Features, Dark Matter

Edoardo Vitaletti (Filmmaker, THE LAST THING MARY SAW)  
Justin DiPietro (MPI, Executive Vice President)  
Toby Poser (Filmmaker, WHERE THE DEVIL ROAMS)

## Features, Head Trip

Jenika McCrayer (Horror Press, writer)  
Jim Brunzell (Dark Star Pictures, Director of Festivals)  
Jacqueline Castel (Filmmaker, MY ANIMAL)

## Shorts

Avery Coffey (Unbound and Rewound Horror Podcast, Host & Producer)  
Nathan Ginter (Filmmaker, THE THIRD EAR)  
Sophie Carroll (Director of Creative, ALTER & DUST at Gunpowder & Sky)

BHFF would like to thank their 2024 Sponsors:

### Premium Sponsors

Arrow Video  
Dark Sky Films

### Supporting Sponsors

Adobe Express  
Cut + Measure  
Den of Geek  
Horror Press  
IFC Films  
KCBC  
Teeth: The Musical  
Yellow Veil Pictures

###

For press assets to support your coverage, please go [HERE](#)

For festival poster, please go [HERE](#)

To apply for press credentials, click [HERE](#)

### For more information, visit:

[Brooklynhorrorfest.com](http://Brooklynhorrorfest.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/brooklynhorror/](http://facebook.com/brooklynhorror/)

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/brooklynhorror>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/brooklynhorrorfest>

To apply for press accreditation, please apply on our website: [brooklynhorrorfest.com/press/](http://brooklynhorrorfest.com/press/)

For any further questions, please contact the festival publicists, listed below:

