

“THANKSGIVING”
Production Information

After a Black Friday riot ends in tragedy, a mysterious Thanksgiving-inspired killer terrorizes Plymouth, Massachusetts – the birthplace of the holiday. Picking off residents one by one, what begins as random revenge killings are soon revealed to be part of a larger, sinister holiday plan. Will the town uncover the killer and survive the holidays...or become guests at his twisted holiday dinner table?

Credit block

Thanksgiving is not yet rated by the Motion Picture Association. For future rating information, please visit www.filmratings.com. The film will be released in theaters nationwide by TriStar Pictures and Spyglass Media Group on November 17, 2023.

FROM TRAILER TO MOVIE

Horror fans have called it the best horror movie never made. But this *Thanksgiving*, sharpen your carving knife and warm up the pumpkin pie, because it's finally here.

Eli Roth's ode to 80s slasher-horror began in 2006, when his friends Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez were working on their double feature *Grindhouse*. To add to the double-feature experience, Tarantino asked his friends – including Roth – to create fake trailers that would appeal to the grindhouse crowd. And Roth knew exactly what he wanted to do.

In his youth and teenage years, Roth and his friend Jeff Rendell took in a steady diet of horror films, consuming VHS after VHS of carnage, chaos, and gore. And one special subgenre kept them busy. “We came of age in the early 80s, the golden era of the holiday slasher movie,” he recalls. “*Black Christmas, Halloween, My Bloody Valentine, April Fool’s Day, New Year’s Evil...* When we saw *Silent Night, Deadly Night*, we cheered the mayhem while the Santa Claus killer yelled, ‘PUNISH!’”

“This, to us, was cinema at its peak,” Roth continues.

But for the native of Newton, Massachusetts, one holiday eluded him: Hollywood never made the Thanksgiving slasher pic. “It’s hard to oversell the importance of Thanksgiving in Massachusetts,” he says. “Every school group goes to Plimoth Patuxet to see what life was like back in 1620. But where others saw a butter churner, we saw opportunities for amazing kills.”

With his fake trailer, Roth saw the opportunity to create *Thanksgiving* – the 1980s holiday slasher that somehow Hollywood had forgotten to make. Rendell and Roth wrote it, and as Roth was completing filming on *Hostel Part II*, he had access to locations, actors, even fake heads from that film to immortalize it. When *Grindhouse*

promised *Thanksgiving* as a preview of coming attractions, audiences loved it. And that was that.

Except it wasn't. For 17 years, Roth would hear from fans wondering if he would ever make the movie for real. Roth was game, but there was just one problem: "We didn't have a plot," he says, noting that the fake trailer is simply a stringing together of stabbings, beheadings, and mayhem, themed to the holiday. But a trailer does not a movie make, and Roth and Rendell kept looking for ways to make it real. "We were so thrilled with how the trailer turned out, we continually found ourselves reverse engineering the story to fit in the gags. How would we decapitate a turkey at the parade? How can we roast a human turkey?" he notes. "We knew we had to make *Thanksgiving* a real slasher film, one that could exist whether you had seen the trailer or not." It was clear that there was no way to make these iconic sequences work as an actual movie – which meant that if *Thanksgiving* was going to become real, they would need another approach.

With that in mind, they focused on the gestalt of the fake trailer, rather than the individual sequences themselves. "We began with the working premise that *Thanksgiving 1980* was the film the *Grindhouse* trailer was made from, and it was so shocking that every print was destroyed, and the only element that survived was the one trailer," he says. "The new film we were making would be the reboot of that movie, starting again from scratch, but cherry picking elements we knew would work in the story we were telling today."

During the many years of writing, rewriting, and getting it right, Roth says it is the fan sites who kept the *Thanksgiving* dream alive. "Each year the horror sites would trot it out and lament that we never made it," says Roth. "I must thank them for this – it kept us going when we were burned out on the idea or couldn't figure out how to make it great. Finally, after a few story breakthroughs, the idea really began to click, and we worked it out."

Having finally cracked the code, Roth took his pitch to Spyglass. It was fortuitous: when Gary Barber, Chairman and CEO of Spyglass and executive producer of *Thanksgiving*, launched Spyglass, he set out to ramp up the new venture's production pipeline and recognized the value in horror franchises. "Spyglass has successfully relaunched long-running horror franchises, including *Scream* and *Hellraiser*, and we saw *Thanksgiving* as a film that could break new ground in the slasher genre as it combines signature throwback elements with fresh humor that makes audiences want to come back for seconds," says Barber.

Having received his greenlight, Roth turned to casting and production while Spyglass partnered with TriStar Pictures to release the film worldwide, with Spyglass handling select international territories.

CASTING THE FILM

Roth brought the cast together very quickly – not only to allow the actors to prepare for their roles, but also so that those playing characters who would meet ignominious ends could get their heads life cast.

First to join the film was Patrick Dempsey – McDreamy himself – in the role of Sheriff Newland, who has the unenviable job of investigating the gruesome deaths that pile up like food on a Thanksgiving plate.

Dempsey had two main reasons for wanting to join the cast: "My son wanted me to do a horror film," he explains, "and I wanted to wear a uniform."

Dempsey notes that after coming of age as a heartthrob in teen movies like *Can't Buy Me Love* and *Loverboy*, he's now "on the other side," as he puts it. With that experience, he knows what makes a teen cast tick. "It was fun to watch them blossom and come

together as a company and as friends,” he says. “That chemistry makes the film fun and enjoyable and gives it authenticity.”

At the center of the group of teen friends is Jessica, played by Nell Verlaque. “She’s the glue that holds everyone together,” she says. “She has all the normal trials of being a teenager, and then all of these crazy events start happening.”

On working with Eli Roth, she says, “He is by far the most passionate director I’ve ever worked with. And he’s so collaborative -- I have a lot of traumatic moments on this crazy, emotional sort of journey, and he was always so great about giving us the time to do it.”

As Jessica’s best friend Gabby, Roth cast TikTok star Addison Rae. Vivacious, friendly, and always out for a good time, Rae’s character contrasts with the more reserved Jessica. The actress says that she was immediately attracted to the project on reading the script: “Eli is really good at capturing the comedy and the horror in the same world, which is just so rare,” she says. “

Jessica is caught in a love triangle of sorts between her ex-boyfriend Bobby, who ghosts Jessica after suffering a trauma in the movie’s wild opening sequence, and Ryan, her smug new prep school beau.

Jalen Thomas Brooks, who plays Bobby, was also gratified by the experience of working with Roth. “I love slasher films,” he says, “so it’s been a blessing and a dream to be a part of this. When I was 13, I convinced my mom to let me watch Eli’s movie *Cabin Fever* – she didn’t know what she was getting into, and neither did I... it scarred me.”

“When I first read this script, as I was reading it, I was getting more and more entranced,” says Milo Manheim, who plays Ryan. “I was like, is this a comedy? Is this

horror? And then as I read the script, it all became very clear to me what this movie was, which was something incredible that I definitely wanted to be a part of.”

Playing Evan, Gabby’s football star boyfriend, is Tomaso Sanelli. “He’s not a great guy, but likeable anyway,” says the actor of his character. “He’s very, he’s very into sports, the quarterback at the high school. He tries to be super serious, with the machismo, but he ends up just looking really funny and stupid when he’s acting like that.”

Rounding out the cast are Jenna Warren as Yulia and Gabriel Davenport as Scuba.

Like the others, Warren was excited to be part of a horror movie – even if she is especially easily frightened. “On our first day, Patrick Dempsey scared me in a clown costume twice,” she recalls. “I screamed and dropped to the ground. It was the weirdest phone call I’ve ever made to my mom. ‘You can’t repeat this to anyone, and I shouldn’t even be telling you this right now but Patrick Dempsey just scared me in a clown suit twice in front of everyone on my first day, so I’m really excited to be here.’”

For Davenport, the chance to be in a movie in which it was clear that the filmmakers would put all of their heart, soul, and love into making each death as gruesome and memorable as possible was irresistible. “Every death was just wild,” he says. “Like, just insane deaths that I don’t think we’ve ever really seen before. They’re just dope.”

THERE WILL BE NO LEFTOVERS

The heart of any slasher movie is the kills, and Eli Roth – the genre’s maestro – would make sure that *Thanksgiving* reflected his best work.

“Every kill had to meet our standards of scare and gore; if the movie didn’t deliver on its promise, we’d be dead,” says Roth. And Roth had the added pressure of having done it

already. “I found myself not just trying to match what I did in the trailer, but trying to top it in every way possible,” he continues.

Which is why early on, Roth began discussing the project with prosthetics genius Adrien Morot. “His craftsmanship is second to none. Adrien and his wife Kathy made the most incredibly realistic and beautiful heads and body parts I have ever seen. They were so beautiful! But of course, no matter how beautiful the fake head, it must be smashed in with a meat tenderizer.”

It’s a responsibility Roth takes very seriously. Getting to make a horror movie is, for him, standing on the shoulders of giants. “We look at the kills and say, okay, how can we outdo ourselves? And not just ourselves, but every other movie? It’s a badge of honor for us to get the best kill. Every time you make a horror movie, you have a chance to enter into the pantheon of horror greats. The opportunity is there if you take it. So with every death, we try to truly make it a classic.”

And Roth knows when it has that special something. “I have to have that ‘ugh’ feeling... I have a very, very, very high tolerance for movie gore, so if a scene is upsetting me, then I know it’s gonna work for a general audience.”

Another reason why Roth works so well and closely with Morot is they have a shared love for practical effects. “When I think of all of my favorite kills from all of my favorite movies, none of them are digital,” says Roth. “They’re all practical makeup effects. It’s a different emotional response.”

For Morot, each job is different. Sometimes you’re asked to provide Oscar®-winning makeup for an Oscar®-winning actor in a dramatic role, as he did with *The Whale*. And sometimes, you’re asked to split a human head in two with the bowsprit of a ship.

Having worked with Roth on *Death Wish* and *The House with a Clock in Its Walls*, Morot was very familiar with Roth’s fake *Thanksgiving* trailer, and that was all he needed to

know. “He said, ‘We’re doing it as a movie,’ and I said, ‘I’m in.’ It was that obvious that I had to do the movie. And when I told the guys in my shop, they put aside what they were working on – it was that important to everyone.”

And does he have a favorite kill in the movie? “That’s like asking me which one’s my favorite kid,” he says. “I know which one’s my favorite kid, but I’m not going to say it. He knows it as well.”

While Morot isn’t talking, that best kill just might be what Roth calls the “Pinocchio death” – Grandpa getting impaled by the bowsprit of the Mayflower during the Thanksgiving Day parade. “We engineered a track that would ram the wood through the rear window of the car and into the fake head, which was rigged with tubes that would spray blood and brains on the kids playing his grandkids,” Roth explains. “Easier said than done.”

For Roth, a complicated kill is always nerve-wracking until the last drop of blood has been spilled. “I’m always most excited on a day when we’re filming a kill scene, I have this nervous pit in my stomach and I can’t relax until I know we have the kill on camera,” he says. “The timing of the head falling off, the swing of the axe, the way the blood pumps – a million things can go wrong. But when they go right there’s nothing like it.”

And at first, during the Pinocchio kill, many of those things did go wrong. “The first three times, the wood got tangled in the blood tubes. The face kept ripping in the wrong way, or the wood would get tangled in the rubber so it looked like the face was stretching out, not exploding outward,” he explains. “Finally, Adrian determined we needed to change the size of the bowsprit – the face opened beautifully and the blood showered all over the kids.”

Those kids, sisters Hannah and Charlie Storey, have worked with Roth before and come from a family of horror fans. “As soon as we cut, the kids burst out laughing and

everyone posed for photos with them, and their parents have told me they now want to grow up to make horror movies,” says Roth. “I consider that a job well done.”

As for his own goals, Roth says it’s simple. “Now, hopefully, every year, at every dinner, for the rest of time, when someone reveals the turkey, they will say in a sister voice, ‘Dinner...is served!’ And everyone will scream.”

ABOUT THE CAST

PATRICK DEMPSEY (Sheriff Newlon) will next be seen in Michael Mann's new film *Ferrari*, in which he stars opposite Adam Driver and Penélope Cruz. He was just seen starring opposite Amy Adams in *Disenchanted*, the Disney+ feature film sequel to *Enchanted*, and most recently starred in the Sky-Italy television series “Devils,” which aired throughout Europe. Other credits include Universal's *Bridget Jones's Baby* alongside Renee Zellweger and Colin Firth and the EPIX miniseries “The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair.”

Dempsey is well-known for his portrayal of Dr. Derek Shepherd on the hit ABC series, “Grey’s Anatomy.” His performance earned him a 2007 Screen Actors Guild Award and he was nominated in 2006 and 2007 for a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Drama.

Dempsey’s other film credits include *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, *Valentine’s Day*, *Made of Honor*, *Freedom Writers*, *Sweet Home Alabama*, *Scream 3*, *With Honors*, *Outbreak*, *Hugo Pool*, *The Treat*, *The Palace Thief*, *Heaven Help Us*, *Happy Together*, *Some Girls*, *Coupe De Ville*, *Run*, *Mobsters*, and *In the Mood*. Dempsey became well known from such classic ‘80s nostalgia films as *Can’t Buy Me Love* and *Loverboy*.

Dempsey resides in Los Angeles and has a residence in his home state of Maine.

ADDISON RAE (Gabby) has become one of the most recognizable young stars in Hollywood.

In 2021, Rae starred in Netflix's feature film *He's All That*, directed by Mark Waters. The film, a gender-switched reboot of 1999 cult classic *She's All That*, premiered as the #1 movie on the platform in 80 countries.

Following the massive success of *He's All That*, Netflix signed a multipicture deal with Rae for her to star in and executive produce projects for the platform.

Since the beginning of 2020, Rae has amassed over 120 million followers across socials, including 88M followers on TikTok with over 5.8B likes, and 38M followers on Instagram. As an artist, her first single "Obsessed" has 85M streams.

Rae was born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

MILO MANHEIM (Ryan) started out 2023 with a bang, starring in three extremely well-received projects in March alone: Paramount+'s YA drama series "School Spirits," Disney Channel's rom-com *Prom Pact*, and Disney+'s "Doogie Kamealoha, M.D." Rounding out a very busy year, Manheim will star in Affirm Films' *Journey to Bethlehem* as Joseph alongside Fiona Palomo (Mary) and Antonio Banderas (King Herod), releasing in theaters November 10th.

In 2022, Manheim reprised his lead role as the charismatic zombie Zed in *Z-O-M-B-I-E-S 3*, the third installment in Disney's hugely successful franchise. Manheim appeared opposite his *Z-O-M-B-I-E-S* franchise co-star Meg Donnelly in a recurring role for ABC's "American Housewife." In 2018, he wowed audiences and came in second place in the 27th season of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

A second-generation actor, son of award-winning actress Camryn Manheim, Manheim was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. After growing up on the sets of "The Practice" and "Ghost Whisperer," Manheim was bitten by the acting bug and began training in an afterschool program at the age of seven. He went on to perform in 15 musicals with Liza Monjauze Productions, including "Rent," "Footloose," "Tommy," "A Chorus Line," "Gypsy" and "Spring Awakening." Manheim also performed in the original musical "Generation Me" at the prestigious New York Musical Festival (NYMF), for which he won the 2017 NYMF Award of Excellence for Best Leading Actor.

Always civic-minded, as a child he contributed to the Obama campaign with funds raised from a lemonade stand and was personally invited to Washington, D.C., to attend the inauguration. Manheim has worked with numerous community service organizations and charities, including Pediatric Aides, Poker for Puppies, Buy Life and Foster Cares. For the past six years, Manheim has been involved in Robert Kennedy Jr.'s Waterkeeper Alliance, which is an organization focused on providing clean water around the world. Manheim also had the opportunity to interview Robert Kennedy Jr. for a national television news segment about the environment.

In addition to acting, singing, and dancing, Manheim plays the guitar, drums, piano and ukulele. He also enjoys playing volleyball, skiing, and cooking. However, his all-time favorite hobby is participating in escape room challenges.

JALEN THOMAS BROOKS quickly gained industry notoriety when he was first discovered by executive producer/showrunner Krista Vernoff, who cast him as the sexy bad boy Sean in the Erin Brockovich-inspired drama series "Rebel" (ABC), starring Katey Sagal. Vernoff later tweeted, "This kid is a star! Mark my words. Cast him in everything immediately!"

Born in West Hills, California, and raised in Las Vegas, Brooks was obsessed with movies, but never imagined he would become an actor, let alone a writer. In fourth

grade, he developed a love for basketball, training day and night. In seventh grade, he excelled in AAU basketball and continued all the way through ninth grade. As a freshman, Brooks started on his High School Varsity team as well as the AAU Pre-Circuit, UnderAmour Circuit, and EYBL Nike Circuit, quickly garnering interest from D1 colleges.

Brooks then decided to take a leap of faith, going from sports to creative arts, graduating a year early. He eventually found his passion for acting after watching *The Hunger Games* and "Hang the DJ," an episode of the Netflix anthology series "Black Mirror." Inspired by the performances of Joe Cole, Georgina Campbell, and Jennifer Lawrence, he began studying acting like it was his job, eventually landing an agent and auditioning for major roles.

Immediately upon arriving in Los Angeles, he was testing for TV series, landing guest roles as Simon Kirby on "Supergirl" (CW) and as Jack Swagger on "Henry Danger" (NICK). Shortly after, he was cast to recur on the fifth season of John Wells' "Animal Kingdom" (TNT) as Blaise — the natural daredevil and de facto leader of a disaffected group that roams Oceanside, California.

Brooks wrapped two seasons on CW's highly rated series "Walker," playing Colton — the cool, sharp indie kid and love interest to Stella (Violet Brinson). The show is written and executive produced by Anna Fricke ("Being Human," "Valor"), and executive produced by Dan Lin and Lindsay Liberatore and Jared Padalecki.

NELL VERLAQUE (Jessica) previously starred in a series regular role in David E. Kelley's series "Big Shot" opposite John Stamos for Disney+, and in Lifetime's *Secrets in a Small Town*; she was also seen in the Amblin TV / CBS series "Bull." Verlaque is a graduate of the prestigious LaGuardia School of Performing Arts and attended the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She is also a trained singer and dancer.

RICK HOFFMAN (Thomas Wright) currently appears in Showtime's "Billions" opposite Paul Giamatti and Damien Lewis. Hoffman is best known for his fan favorite role as eccentric and endearing lawyer Louis Litt on all nine seasons of USA's popular legal drama "Suits." His work in feature films includes *Hostel*, directed by Eli Roth, and *Blood Work*, directed by Clint Eastwood. Hoffman's other notable TV credits include "Ballers," "Samantha Who?," "The Bernie Mac Show," and "Philly."

GINA GERSHON () has enjoyed a prolific and diverse career in entertainment, earning acclaim as a film, television and stage actor, as a singer/songwriter/musician, and as an author.

Up next, audiences can see Gershon opposite Aubrey Plaza in *Emily the Criminal*, which premiered at Sundance in 2022. Gershon will also be seen starring as Moxxi in Lionsgate and Eli Roth's highly anticipated adaptation of the hit video game *Borderlands*, and in Woody Allen's *Rifkin's Festival* opposite Wallace Shawn and Christoph Waltz.

Her previous TV credits include an arc on Season 2 of the NBC drama "New Amsterdam" and a role on the hit CW show "Riverdale" as Gladys Jones, Jughead's mother. She was also seen in the Amazon comedy series "Red Oaks," the Judd Apatow-produced HBO comedy series "Crashing," and the Golden Globe-winning series "Empire." She also was seen on Fox's "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," Larry David's "You're your Enthusiasm," HBO's "How to Make It in America," and Danny McBride's "Eastbound & Down."

Her film credits include Kay Cannon's *Blockers*, *Permission*, *Killer Joe* (for which she was awarded Best Supporting Actress at the Toronto International Film Festival), *Showgirls*, the Wachowskis' *Bound*, Robert Altman's *The Player*, *Face/Off*, and Michael Mann's Oscar®-nominated *The Insider*.

Her Broadway credits include the Tony Award-winning revival of “Boeing Boeing,” “Bye Bye Birdie,” Sam Mendes’ “Cabaret,” and the Stephen King/John Mellencamp/T Bone Burnett musical “Ghost Brothers.” She was a founding member of the theater company Naked Angels and she recently completed a residency at the famed Café Carlyle, where she performed her musical act “Wild Women Don’t Get the Blues.”

Off-screen, she co-wrote the fiction novel “Camp Creepy Time” with her brother Dann and the true story “In Search of Cleo: How I Found My Pussy and Lost My Mind,” which she later turned into a one-woman show. Gershon released her debut album “In Search of Cleo” in 2007. She has played the Jew’s harp on several albums, including Herbie Hancock’s Grammy-winning “Reflections.” She has frequently collaborated with Christian McBride and she performed the first Jew’s harp solo ever in Carnegie Hall for Sting’s Rainforest Benefit Concert.

KAREN CLICHE () has been an actress for 25 years, starring in over 50 films and TV shows, producing and hosting her own cooking show in French, and lending her voice to various brands, audiobooks, and media campaigns for 10 years.

Cliche was born in Quebec to military family and moved every few years around the world including Virginia and Germany. She also traveled extensively as a model before landing lead roles in TV and film projects in Europe, Australia, Canada and Hong Kong. She is the mother of a 13 year old daughter and enjoys the company of her two cats.

GABRIEL DAVENPORT (Scuba) has been a performer as long as he can remember. Growing up in Toronto, Davenport found himself pursuing a career on screen in 2018 and there’s been no stopping him since!

Starting on popular series including “V Wars” (Netflix), “Designated Survivor” (ABC), and “The Expanse” (Syfy), Davenport quickly became a known performer and his career continued to blossom. He carried supporting roles in projects including “Home for the Holidays” (Amazon Prime), “Mistletoe Time Machine” (Tubi), and the series “Murdoch Mysteries” (CBC), “Coroner” (CW), “Pretty Hard Cases,” and more.

TOMASO SANELLI (Evan) is a three-time Canadian Screen Award nominee, born and raised in Toronto. At an early age, Sanelli was cast as the lead in many school productions, including with the Rolecall Elite Theatre troupe. His love of theatre and improv paved the way to his television and film career starting at age 11. He graduated from Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts drama program.

As a prolific Canadian child actor from 2014 to 2021, Sanelli was cast as a lead in numerous TV series, including “Creeped Out” (Family Channel/Netflix), “Holly Hobbie” (Hulu), “Detention Adventure” (HBO Max), “Lockdown” (YouTube), and “Star Falls” (Nickelodeon). He also played in “Incorporated” (Syfy), “Shadowhunters” (Netflix), and “Suits” (USA Network/Netflix); he played the young Dick Grayson/Robin in “Titans” (DC/Netflix) and appeared in the award-winning independent feature film *Road to the Lemon Grove*.

In the last year, Sanelli was cast in *Longing* opposite Richard Gere.

Sanelli is a sports enthusiast, and especially enjoys soccer, which he played competitively for over a decade. He loves listening to music, playing piano, and everything about movies.

JENNA WARREN (Yulia) has always known that acting was what she was meant to do. At the age of 10, she landed her first cartoon series lead as Olive in “Justin Time,” an

Emmy-nominated and three-time award winning series (Disney Jr/PBS/Sprout), which helped to launch her acting career.

Warren can be seen in lead roles in the feature films *The Family*, a psychological thriller directed by Dan Slater, which had its World Premiere at Busan International Film Festival in October 2021, and Sheila Pye's coming-of-age psychological thriller *The Young Arsonists*, which premiered at TIFF 2022.

Since her first voice-over role, Warren has worked as a lead voice actress in more than ten animated series, including NBC Universal's "Kody Kapow!" opposite Jason Alexander, "Frankie and the Zhu Zhu Pets" (Disney Channel), "The Doozers" (Jim Henson/Hulu, DHX), the seven-time nominated series "Wild Kratts" (PBS – United States), and "Monster Math Squad" (DHX Media, CBC-TV, Tiny Pop UK). Notably, Jenna voices the role of Carly in the new series "Thomas & Friends: All Engines Go" (Netflix). Most recently, she landed the lead role of Sunny Starscout in the fifth iteration of the "My Little Pony" franchise (Netflix/Youtube).

Warren has also appeared in the recurring role of Camille in the seven-time award-winning and ten time nominated series "The Next Step" (The Family Channel – Canada) (Universal Kids – United States), and in guest starring roles in "Murdoch Mysteries" (CBC), "Grand Army" (Netflix), and "October Faction" (Netflix).

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

ELI ROTH (Director / Story by / Producer) burst onto the film scene at the 2002 Toronto Film Festival with his directorial debut *Cabin Fever*. Made independently for \$1.5 million dollars, the film sparked a frenzied seven-studio bidding war and went on to be Lionsgate's highest grossing film that year. Roth's follow-up film, *Hostel*, which he wrote, produced, and directed, and was presented and executive produced by Quentin

Tarantino, earned him critical praise and was a massive worldwide hit, spawning a successful sequel, *Hostel Part II*, also written and directed by Roth.

In 2015, Lionsgate released Roth's Sundance hit thriller *Knock Knock*, which stars Keanu Reeves as a happily married man whose life is quickly turned upside down by Lorenza Izzo and Ana de Armas in her English language screen debut. Additionally, Roth co-wrote, produced, and directed *The Green Inferno*, which was shot on location in the Amazon, filming deeper into the jungle than any previous film. From 2015-2017, Roth hosted Discovery Channel's hugely popular Shark Week and its late-night talk show "Shark After Dark," both of which hit new network high ratings with Roth hosting.

Roth also directed the critically acclaimed #1 family film *The House with a Clock in Its Walls*, starring Cate Blanchett and Jack Black for Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment, and the gritty hit action film *Death Wish* starring Bruce Willis for MGM and Annapurna.

As an actor, Roth has appeared in Quentin Tarantino's *Death Proof* segment of *Grindhouse* (in which he also wrote and directed the popular faux trailer *Thanksgiving*, which played between the features in the film) and *Inglourious Basterds*, in which he portrayed Sgt. Donnie Donowitz; he also directed the propaganda film-within-the-film, *Nation's Pride*. Roth and his cast members received the Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Ensemble, as well as the Broadcast Film Critic's Choice Award and the People's Choice Award.

Most recently Roth appeared as the scene-stealing Live Nation head Andrew Finkelstein in Sam Levinson's *The Idol* for HBO

As a producer, Roth has produced the hit films *The Last Exorcism*, *The Man with the Iron Fists*, Jon Watts' directing debut *Clown*, and the hit Emmy-nominated Netflix series "Hemlock Grove," which ran for three seasons. Roth hired an unknown Damien Chazelle to write the sequel to *The Last Exorcism*, starring Julia Garner and Ashley

Bell. Roth's critically acclaimed docuseries "Eli Roth's History of Horror" ran for three seasons on AMC; his other series include "A Ghost Ruined My Life," "My Possessed Pet," "The Haunted Museum" starring Zak Bagans, and "Urban Legend," all for Discovery Plus and HBO Max.

Roth's critically acclaimed documentary *Fin*, a harrowing documentary detailing the destructive practices of the shark fin trade, premiered to rave reviews in July 2021 as part of Discovery's Shark Week. It went on to win Best Documentary at the Ischia Global Film Festival.

Roth recently finished directing and co-writing the film adaptation of the hit videogame *Borderlands* for Lionsgate; the film reunites Roth with stars Cate Blanchett and Jack Black alongside an all-star cast including Kevin Hart, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Gina Gershon.

Roth co-created the DreamWorks Animation kids' series "Fright Krewe" with James Frey, which premiered in October 2023 on Hulu and Peacock and features an all-star cast including Melanie Laurent, Vanessa Hudgens, and Roth. The series was just renewed for a second season.

An avid shark lover, Roth spends his time promoting shark conservation, working as a board member of the Environmental Media Group. He is currently in post-production on another environmental documentary.

JEFF RENDELL (Story by / Screenplay by / Producer), a native of Newton, Massachusetts, became friends with Eli Roth in kindergarten. Their shared love of film as kids resulted in the creation of countless movies made in their basements. Every weekend they were shooting wacky comedy skits or something horror related.

Although Rendell's continued interest in film had him attend Emerson College film school, he ended up working most of his adult life in the rare autograph business and then for his father's World War II museum. The museum provided a connection to the film business in 2009 when Rendell brought several authentic World War II items to be used for *Inglourious Basterds*.

ROGER BIRNBAUM (Producer) is the co-founder of Electromagnetic Productions (EMP). EMP recently wrapped production on the feature film *Thug* starring Liam Neeson, directed by Hans Petter Moland (*Cold Pursuit*).

Before EMP, he produced films under his banner Cave 76 Productions, where together with Rebel Wilson, Birnbaum produced *The Hustle*, which starred Wilson along with Anne Hathaway.

Birnbaum produced the 2017 version of *Death Wish*, which was directed by Eli Roth and starred Bruce Willis. In 2016, Birnbaum produced *The Magnificent Seven*, which starred Chris Pratt and Denzel Washington. It opened at number one the weekend it was released. It was also the opening night film of The Toronto Film Festival and the closing night of The Venice Film Festival.

Before launching Cave 76, Birnbaum served as Co-Chairman and Co-CEO of MGM. During his term, he oversaw *Skyfall* and *The Hobbit*, along with the TV series "Vikings" and the development of "Fargo."

Birnbaum co-founded the production, finance and distribution company Spyglass Entertainment with Gary Barber in 1998; Birnbaum held the title of Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Spyglass's box-office successes included *The Sixth Sense*, *Bruce Almighty*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *27 Dresses*, and *Seabiscuit*.

Prior to founding Spyglass Entertainment, Birnbaum co-founded Caravan Pictures, where he produced films such as *Six Days/Seven Nights* and *Grosse Pointe Blank*. Additionally, Birnbaum produced the entire *Rush Hour* franchise with New Line Cinema. Before joining Caravan, Birnbaum served as President of Worldwide Production and Executive Vice President at Twentieth Century Fox, where he oversaw the development and production of such films as *Home Alone*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, and *Die Hard 2: Die Harder*. Prior to Fox, he served United Artists as president of Production, overseeing the production of *Rain Man*, *Child's Play* and *Road House*, among many other films.

Birnbaum served as an American Film Institute Trustee and for two years served as the Co-Artistic Director of the institute.

GARY BARBER (Executive Producer) is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Spyglass Media Group, LLC (“Spyglass,”) a premier entertainment company behind the successful relaunched horror franchise *Scream* (2022) and its next installment *Scream VI* (2023), the reinvention of *Hellraiser* (2022), the drama *The Upside*, the ensemble comedy *Reunion*, the high school comedy *Incoming*, and the iconic fashion competition series “Project Runway.”

Barber’s career in entertainment spans more than three decades. He took over Metro Goldwyn Mayer Inc. in 2010 as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, leading its impressive transformational turnaround out of bankruptcy, restoring the studio’s prominence by revitalizing its film and television businesses and posting successive years of profitability. Under Barber’s leadership, the 23rd and 24th installments of the long-running Bond franchise, *Skyfall* and *Spectre*, produced by Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli, became the two highest grossing films in franchise history. Additionally, the enduring Rocky franchise was revived with *Creed*, and the studio’s impressive roster of releases and co-productions included *The Hobbit* trilogy, *The Magnificent Seven*, *Me Before You*, *21 Jump Street*, and *22 Jump Street*. On the

television front, Barber greenlit the award-winning and critically acclaimed scripted drama series “The Handmaid’s Tale” (Hulu), “Fargo” (FX), and “Vikings” (HISTORY).

In 1998, Barber was a founding partner of Spyglass Entertainment, the globally recognized production, finance and distribution company. Well-known for making commercial hits in a wide range of genres, Spyglass Entertainment grossed over \$5 billion in worldwide box office to date and amassed more than 34 Oscar® nominations and four wins. Spyglass saw success with such films as *The Sixth Sense*, *Bruce Almighty*, *Wanted*, *Seabiscuit*, *The Vow*, *G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra*, *Star Trek*, *27 Dresses*, *Shanghai Noon*, and *Four Christmases*, to name a few.

Prior to Spyglass, Barber served as Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of Morgan Creek Productions and President of Vestron International Group.

GREG DENNY’s (Executive Producer) select credits include *You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah*, *Shazam!*, *Slumberland*, *Suicide Squad*, *X-Men: Dark Phoenix*, *XXX: Return of Xander Cage*, *Pixels*, *RoboCop*, and *Total Recall*.

Denny has been working within the entertainment industry for over 20 years. He has worked with Warner Bros., New Line Cinema, Netflix, Walt Disney Studios, Twentieth Century, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and Columbia Pictures, and has managed projects all over Canada as well as in Sri Lanka and the Dominican Republic.

Before moving into producing, Denny served as an editor and a grip, and collaborated on numerous projects with IMAX Corporation.

PETER OILLATAGUERRE (Executive Producer) joined Amazon MGM Studios in September 2023 as the Head of Feature Film Production. In this newly created role,

Oillataguerre is responsible for overseeing all aspects of feature film production on behalf of Amazon and MGM Studio's film group.

Prior to Amazon MGM Studios, Oillataguerre served as the President of Production for Spyglass Media Group, where he shepherded Spyglass' film productions including: *Scream* (2022) and its successful 2023 follow-up *Scream VI*. Additionally, Oillataguerre oversaw production on the reimagined *Hellraiser* for Hulu, the ensemble comedy *Reunion*, and the coming-of-age high school comedy *Incoming*.

For nine years, Oillataguerre served as the President of Physical Production for Metro Goldwyn Mayer Studios, where he was responsible for overseeing all aspects of physical production across the feature film and television units. During his tenure, films included the James Bond films *Skyfall*, *Spectre*, and *No Time To Die*, the revival of the Rocky franchise with *Creed* and *Creed II*, *The Addams Family*, *Tomb Raider*, *Overboard*, *Me Before You*, and *The Magnificent Seven*, as well as the hit television series, "The Handmaid's Tale," " Fargo," "Vikings," and "Get Shorty."

Prior to MGM, Oillataguerre worked at Spyglass Entertainment in physical production, where he worked on such films as *27 Dresses*, *The Vow*, *Leap Year*, *Shanghai Noon*, and *The Count of Monte Cristo*; before that, he was the SVP of Production at Universal Pictures where he was involved in the productions of *Van Helsing*, *Meet the Fockers*, *The Scorpion King*, *The Life of David Gale*, and *Red Dragon*.

With a penchant for bringing strong, often international teams together, **KATE HARRISON KARMAN** (Executive Producer) is involved in all aspects of production at Cream, from the development of a kernel of an idea to financing, production and final tweaks in an editing room. As President and Co-owner at Cream, Karman brings with her an extensive hands-on background in dramatic production, having produced over 30 feature films and numerous recreation based non-scripted projects. In the last few years, Karman has developed and produced numerous projects with the acclaimed filmmaker

Eli Roth including a slate of shows for Discovery+ and the VR shorts “TrickVRTreat” and “Be Mine” for Meta. The numerous non scripted series that she has executive produced for Cream include “History of the Sitcom” and “The Story of Late Night” for CNN, “Age of Samurai” (Netflix), “Fear Thy Neighbor” (Investigation Discovery) and the international co-production “Stuff the British Stole” (CBC/ABC).

CHRIS STONE (Executive Producer) serves as the Senior Vice President, Production & Development for Spyglass Media Group, LLC and is responsible for handling film development as well as finding new projects, IP and original stories across all genres.

Since Spyglass’ formation in 2019, Stone collaborated on the successful relaunch of the long-running horror franchise *Scream* (2022) and its next installment, *Scream VI*, with Paramount Pictures. He also worked on the reinvention of *Hellraiser* for Hulu, the high school comedy *Incoming*, and the ensemble comedy *Reunion*.

Previously, Stone served as a Vice President of Production & Development for Lantern Entertainment. Prior to that, he was a creative executive at Dimension Films, where he worked on such television projects as “Scream” for MTV and “Spy Kids: Mission Critical” for Netflix. Stone began his career working for producer Peter Safran.

MILAN CHADIMA (Director of Photography) is a Czechoslovakian cinematographer. He is known for his work on *Devil Conspiracy*, *Clownwise*, and *Extraction 2*. Chadima was Eli Roth’s cinematographer on the *Thanksgiving* trailer segment of *Grindhouse*, as well as on *Hostel* and *Hostel Part II*.

PETER MIHAICHUK (Production Designer) is a highly acclaimed film production designer with a passion for creating chilling and immersive worlds within the horror

genre. With an impressive 17 years of experience in the film industry, Mihaichuk has become a sought-after talent in the realm of cinematic terror.

Throughout his career, Peter Mihaichuk has made significant contributions to the horror genre, leaving an indelible mark on some of the most iconic films in the field. His notable credits include his work on the spine-tingling films *Rabid*, *Antibirth*, and *Trick VR Treat*, among many others.

Mihaichuk's ability to transform ordinary sets into haunting and nightmarish landscapes has earned him critical acclaim and a dedicated following among horror enthusiasts. His attention to detail, creative vision, and mastery of atmosphere have consistently elevated the terror quotient of each project he undertakes.

Mihaichuk continues to push the boundaries of horror production design, ensuring that audiences are left with an unforgettable and fear-inducing cinematic experience. With a career defined by his dedication to the macabre, Mihaichuk remains a pivotal figure in the world of horror filmmaking, and his legacy continues to grow with each spine-chilling project he undertakes.

MICHELE CONROY (Editor) is a veteran film and television editor. She has earned multiple DGC awards, including for her work on *Mama*, *Pompeii*, and *Splice*, which was produced by Guillermo del Toro and directed by longtime collaborator Vincenzo Natali. She also recently collaborated with del Toro and Natali on "Guillermo del Toro's Cabinet of Curiosities," where she cut three episodes for directors Natali, Panos Cosmatos, and David Prior. Other collaborations with Natali include the ensemble romance *Paris, Je T'Aime*, *Getting Gilliam*, and most recently, *In the Tall Grass*. Other theatrical releases include *Little Italy*, *The Grizzlies*, and *Ginger Snaps: Unleashed*. Her TV credits include "Vikings," "Penny Dreadful," "Flashpoint," and "This Is Wonderland."

LESLIE KAVANAGH (Costume Designer) is acclaimed for her work on "The Handmaid's Tale" (season 5), which earned her a CAFTCAD Award nomination. Kavanagh's work can be seen in "Clarice," "The Lie," "Seven in Heaven," and "Man Seeking Woman." Specializing in horror and action-based films, Kavanagh is skilled in stunts, blood effects, and destruction.