

Toronto **After Dark** Film Festival

3219 Yonge Street, Suite 346, Toronto, Ontario, M4N 3S1, Canada.

T: 416-903-6050 F: 416-481-7028 E: info@torontoafterdark.com W: torontoafterdark.com



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THRILLING AND TERRIFYING: FIRST FILMS ANNOUNCED FOR INAUGURAL
TORONTO AFTER DARK FILM FESTIVAL

Festival to Premiere Electrifying New Cinema From Around the World

Toronto, August 29, 2006 – **Toronto After Dark Film Festival** is pleased to announce its initial slate of feature film premieres screening as part of its inaugural edition, taking place **October 20-24, 2006**, in Toronto, Canada. Toronto After Dark Film Festival showcases cutting-edge new sci-fi, horror and fantasy cinema from around the world. The first seven titles announced today include a slew of critically acclaimed and audience award winning films playing on the international film festival circuit, that have yet to receive theatrical distribution. Festival Passes are now on sale, including discounted pricing for students. For more information, click on torontoafterdark.com.

“Our mandate is to premiere exciting new cinema in Toronto that audiences would otherwise never get to see”, says **Adam Lopez**, Festival Director of Toronto After Dark. “Amongst these initial titles, are groundbreaking new films from around the world that will take film fans on thrilling and terrifying new adventures, unlike any they have ever experienced before.”

BEHIND THE MASK: THE RISE OF LESLIE VERNON Scott Glosserman, USA

Toronto Premiere

“A masterpiece...the best horror movie to come by in years” – *Film Threat*

Set in an alternate reality where Jason Voerhees, Freddy Krueger, Mike Myers and all the great slasher icons of yore are real, actual people, Scott Glosserman’s darkly comic debut feature *Behind the Mask* introduces a new icon to the mix: Leslie Vernon. A troubled soul with a horrific past, Vernon is in training to join the ranks of the great slasher villains. Featuring references to numerous iconic horror and slasher movies, and even Robert Englund (Freddy Krueger) in a key supporting role, *Behind The Mask* is a crowd-pleasing treat for film fans. The film has become a sensation on the international Film Festival Circuit. *Winner of the Audience Choice Awards at Fantasia Film Festival, Montreal and Gen Arts Film Festival, New York.*

SHINOBI Ten Shimoyama, Japan

Toronto Premiere

“Flat out gorgeous from beginning to end” – *Twitchfilm*

If there was a one-line synopsis for *Shinobi*, it might read *Romeo and Juliet*, with super-powered ninjas. Gifted with a fantastic cast, including *Azumi*’s Jo Odagiri and *Versus*’ Tak Sakaguchi, and a director in Ten Shimoyama, with an incredible eye for visuals, *Shinobi* is a stunning masterpiece that straddles both arthouse and popcorn action. The film may be beautifully shot, but once the swords come out it’s pure entertainment. Featuring a poisonous beauty, wires shooting from sleeves, shape shifting, time manipulation and a major character who is simply “not good at dying”, *Shinobi* is an always inventive, always entertaining ride.

MAD COWGIRL Greg Hatanaka, USA

Toronto Premiere

“There will not be another movie this year like Mad Cowgirl” – *Village Voice*

Sarah Lassez stars as Therese, a meat inspector with a failed marriage, a sexually charged relationship with her brother, a fixation on an aging televangelist (Walter Koenig from Star Trek),

a brain tumour, quite possibly mad cow disease, and the growing conviction that she must kill the Ten Tigers From Kwangtung and become the Girl With The Thunderbolt Kick. Transgressive, hilarious, horrifying and loaded with loving shots of raw, bloody beef, you have never seen a film quite like *Mad Cowgirl* quite simply because there has never been a film like *Mad Cowgirl*. An experience not to be missed. *Winner of the Audience Choice Award at San Francisco IndieFest.*

RE-CYCLE The Pang Brothers, Hong Kong

Toronto Premiere

“Incredibly creative...hypnotizing and daring” – *Arrow In The Head*

Angelica Lee (*The Eye*) stars as Tsui, a struggling young writer in this visually stunning dark new fantasy from Hong Kong’s acclaimed Pang Brothers (*The Eye, Bangkok Dangerous*). When Tsui discards the opening chapter to her latest work, she begins to be plagued with visions and events seemingly lifted from the pages of her rejected manuscript. It is not long before Tsui is drawn entirely into a strange other world, a nightmarish alternate reality that serves as a repository for everything discarded and forgotten in ours. *Official Selection, Cannes Film Festival*

BEACH PARTY AT THE THRESHOLD OF HELL Jonny Gillette and Kevin Wheatley, USA

Canadian Premiere

“One of those films that cult film fans love to discover” – *Independentfilm.com*

In the year 2097, twenty years after America’s destruction in a nuclear apocalypse, a group of survivors, led by JFK descendent Tex Kennedy (Kevin Wheatley) emerge from their bunkers and set off to found a new nation. And so a darkly comical and bloody epic voyage begins, with Tex and his two sidekick androids, encountering all sorts of dangers, including a number of would-be killers working for a rival party, and the Devil himself. Keep an eye out for cameo appearances from Jane Seymour, Daniel Baldwin, and a string of faces familiar to fans of *Arrested Development* and *Office Space*. *Official Selection, Los Angeles Film Festival*

SL8N8 (SLAUGHTER NIGHT) Frank van Geloven and Edwin Visser, Holland

North American Premiere

“A string of terrific thrills and kills” – *Toronto After Dark Film Festival*

While *Behind the Mask* gleefully deconstructs the classic slasher film, this stylish debut from Dutch directors Frank van Geloven and Edwin Visser, dives headlong into the pool, with a string of terrific thrills and kills. Following the death of her father, teenaged Kristel, accompanied by a car load of her friends, sets off on a trip to gather her dad’s things at the abandoned mine where he was conducting research for his latest book: the biography of an occult obsessed serial killer condemned to death more than a century before. While touring the site, an experiment with a ouija board awakens the spirit of the killer, who believes collecting eight severed heads will free him from hell.

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DORKS Mathias Dinter, Germany

Toronto Premiere

“A zombie comedy that knocks ‘em dead” – *Variety*

“It’s not easy being a misfit at Fredrich Nietzsche High School. You’d think life would only be harsher if one were dead and somehow still in school. As three “nerds” discover, in many ways, it’s a hell of a better time! Complete with a German pop-punk soundtrack, this film is a ton of fun, and not remotely the Shaun of the Dead cash-in you might suspect upon initially hearing its title. It’s also weirdly naïve, which adds considerably to the film’s goofball charm. An audience favourite wherever its been shown, *Night of the Living Dorks* is a whacked-out, feel-good flick that totally works.” – Mitch Davis, *Fantasia Film Festival. Winner of the Audience Choice Award, Fantasia Film Festival, Montreal*

CONTACT: For Festival information, visit torontoafterdark.com. For media inquiries, please e-mail press@torontoafterdark.com