

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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TORONTO AFTER DARK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ITS COMPLETE LINEUP OF
13 SPECTACULAR FEATURE FILM PREMIERES AND EVENTS

Toronto, October 6, 2006 – **Toronto After Dark Film Festival** is pleased to announce its complete lineup of feature film premieres and exciting events taking place as part of its inaugural edition, **October 20-24, 2006**. **Toronto After Dark** showcases cutting-edge horror, sci-fi and fantasy cinema from around the world one week before Halloween, in Toronto, Canada.

The six newly added feature films included in this announcement cover an eclectic range of sub-genres: from **Frostbite**, Sweden's award-winning first vampire movie to **Special**, a dark alternative superhero tale that has been a hit at both Sundance and Edinburgh, to **Retribution** the brand new psychological horror masterpiece from acclaimed Japanese director **Kyoshi Kurosawa**. "Our latest batch of film announcements includes vampires, zombies, killer snakes, and a mentally unstable superhero" says **Adam Lopez**, Festival Director. "These are all perfect films to add to an electrifying film festival just before Halloween."

In total, **13 thrilling feature film premieres** will play in Toronto over the five nights of the festival this month. Also just recently announced: a **filmmaking masterclass** with **Lloyd Kaufman** the legendary master of low budget horror, a fun-packed **Zombie Walk** through downtown Toronto, and a showcase of **locally produced** thrilling short films, dubbed **Canada After Dark**. Single tickets and **extra value four-packs** of tickets are now on sale for the first time, along with the **Festival VIP Pass**, which provides the ultimate savings for cinemagoers wanting to see all 13 films. Complete festival information, including film descriptions, event schedule, trailers, and ticketing is available at: www.torontoafterdark.com

Highlights of the just recently announced titles and events follow:

RETRIBUTION Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Japan. *Canadian Premiere*

Hugely acclaimed Japanese horror director Kiyoshi Kurosawa (*Cure, Kairo, Bright Future*) joins forces with uber-producer Taka Ichise (*Ringu, Ju-On*), in this brand new psychological horror film. As Detective Yoshioka (Koji Yakusho) investigates a series of murders, he begins to suffer memory lapses, forcing him to consider that the serial killer he is chasing might in fact be himself. *Retribution* was only recently completed, in time for its World Premiere at the Venice Film Festival. Toronto will be just the third city in the world to see this eagerly anticipated film.

SPECIAL Hal Haberman & Jeremy Passmore, USA. *Canadian Premiere & Opening Gala*
"As if Kevin Smith directed Unbreakable" – *Efilmcritic*.

Shortly after parking enforcement officer Les (Michael Rapaport) begins taking a new experimental drug, he gains the ability to fly, becomes telepathic, and finds himself walking through walls. Les quits his job to focus purely on performing heroic acts, but it isn't long before two strange men in suits begin following him, and the use of his powers seems to exact a terrible toll. A fresh and darkly comical take on the superhero genre. *Official Selection of the Sundance and Edinburgh Film Festivals*.

TOKYO ZOMBIE Sakichi Sato, Japan. *Toronto Premiere*

"An hilarious alternative buddy comedy...bound to please fans of Miike"
– *Dread Central*

Mitsuo and Fujio – Japanese cult icons Tadanobu Asano and Sho Aikawa - play a pair of slackers fleeing an undead apocalypse in this dryly hysterical zombie comedy. Director Sato appeared in Tarantino's *Kill Bill*. Sato and is also a frequent collaborator with cult icon Takashi Miike for whom he scripted *Ichi the Killer*.

FROSTBITE Anders Banke, Sweden. *Toronto Premiere*

“Exciting, funny and enjoyable...a thrill ride with bites” – *Moviexclusive*

Bathe in the blood of Sweden's first Vampire film! A teenage girl moves with her doctor mother, (who happens to specialize in blood research) to Sweden's far north where night can last for entire seasons. Cue mysterious disappearances, vampires, teen rebellion, and a talking dog and you end up with *Frostbite*, an incredibly polished genre picture that's more *Buffy* than *Nosferatu* and a whole lot of fun. Let the bloodletting begin! *Winner, Best Film Award at Europe's Fantasporto Film Festival*

FUNKY FOREST: THE FIRST CONTACT Ishii, Ishimine & Miki, Japan. *Toronto Premiere*

“Hilariously bizarre” – *Variety*.

With elements of science fiction, traditional Japanese stand up, animation, recurrent characters such as the Guitar Brother and the Babbling Hotspring Vixens, Funky Forest is completely unpredictable and shows every sign of having been created while under the influence of a great many recreational pharmaceuticals. Director Ishii is best known on these shores for his animation work on Tarantino's *Kill Bill*. *Groundbreaking Film Award – Fantasia Film Festival*

VENGEANCE Phairi Mawrana, Thailand. *North American Premiere*

“Giant snakes, poison lizards, flesh-eating wasps...Vengeance has got it all”

When a gang of notorious thieves breaks out of jail and heads for Thailand's remote northern border it falls to a squad of local cops to head them off before they escape the reach of the law. But the pursuit takes them all into the heart of an uncharted deadly forest. With giant snakes, poison lizards, flesh-eating wasps, time travel, gunplay, dismemberments, shape shifting and karmic retribution – *Vengeance* has got it all!

Toronto After Dark Film Festival also proudly announces the following events:

MAKE YOUR OWN DAMN MOVIE! MASTERCLASS WITH LLOYD KAUFMAN.

Troma Entertainment's legendary founder, Lloyd Kaufman shares his 35 years of maverick horror filmmaking with a Toronto After Dark audience at the University of Toronto campus.

TORONTO ZOMBIE WALK A fun crawl through downtown Toronto by hundreds of film fans dressed as zombies. Zombies arriving at the Bloor Cinema will be treated to discount entry to the Toronto Premiere of the award-winning German zombie comedy, *Night of the Living Dorks*.

CANADA AFTER DARK SHORT FILM PROGRAM.

15 recently completed thrilling short films made in Canada, including several award winners, playing throughout the Festival in front of the international feature films.

TWO AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THE FESTIVAL: the Audience Choice Award for Best Feature Film and the After Dark Jury Award for Best Short Film

The first annual Toronto After Dark Film Festival, celebrating innovative new horror, sci-fi and fantasy cinema runs October 20-24, 2006, at the Bloor Cinema, Toronto, Canada.

PRESS INFO: Complete festival info, including downloadable press kit, high-resolution stills, and trailers available at www.torontoafterdark.com/press For additional queries, e-mail press@torontoafterdark.com