

THE
WICKED
AND
THE
DAMNED

PITCH DECK

CONTENTS

SYNOPSIS
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT
DIRECTOR
LOOK & TONE
FUNDING
CROSSROAD PICTURES

TAGLINE

One hundred years before Salem, there was Hatfield Peverel.

SETTING

The Dead of Winter - Hatfield Peverel, England - 1556

SYNOPSIS

A tale of love, loss and suffering, *The Wicked and The Damned* tells the story of widow Agnes Windham and her teenage daughter, Joan.

With the collective anxiety about witchcraft growing within the walls of the small town Priory, local shepherd William Fynne grows suspicious of Joan and her relationship with his own teenage daughter, Margret.

As their relationship grows more intimate, Margret suddenly goes missing, with William outright pointing the finger at Joan, via means of witchcraft and conspiring with the Devil.

Agnes defends her daughter, pleading with William to keep his baseless claims to himself, as she fears Joan will be sentenced to hang by new local head of the Church, Rev. Thomas Cole.

However, as Joan's behaviour grows increasingly strange after Margret's disappearance, spending her nights talking to her newly found companion, a black cat named Sathan and suffering fever dreams of the 'Shadows in the Wood', Agnes begins to fear for her daughter's safety from both the Church and what lurks within the trees.

Director Statement

The Wicked and The Damned is an exploration into love, loss and suffering, set against the backdrop of the rising fear about witchcraft in Essex, England during the 16th century.

Born and raised in Essex, and currently residing in Chelmsford, Essex, the Essex witch trials have always been a period of history that has captivated me.

I have especially been fascinated by the idea of mass hysteria via religion, homophobia and misogyny; an idea that is as relevant today as it was back then, and one I plan to explore deeply in this film.

What sets The Wicked and The Damned apart from other witch trial-based pictures, is that we will explore how the growing fear of witchcraft impacts multiple characters and how that collective anxiety writes the fate of our characters in the eyes of faith, love and family.

While deeply rooted in character, The Wicked and The Damned is first and foremost a horror film. I promise multiple horror elements throughout that will have the audience cowering in fear throughout, especially as they bear witness to our unholy trinity, the 'Shadows in the Wood', whom our main character Joan encounters during her night terrors.

Given that 60% of all supposed witches in England were accused and prosecuted in Essex, and also the fact that the Essex witch trials pre-date Salem by more than 100 years, I believe there is a story and legend to be told that will shock and absorb horror audiences around the globe.

Scott Lyus

Director

Scott Lyus

Writer | Director | Producer

Scott Lyus is an award-winning filmmaker behind short film festival hits ‘Silently Within Your Shadow’, ‘Echoes of the Passed’ and ‘Black Mass’, as well as feature film ‘Walking Against the Rain’, which is set to premiere late 2022.

His shorts have screened at well over 100 festivals worldwide including Frightfest, Panicfest, Shriekfest and the Starburst International Film Festival, where he was awarded Best Short Film in 2018 and Best Screenplay in 2020.

Scott’s short film work, as well as his debut feature film ‘Walking Against the Rain’, have received plenty of press attention, including genre heavyweights Bloody Disgusting, Dread Central, Scream Horror Magazine and Starburst Magazine.



Director Scott Lyus on the set of Walking Against the Rain, with lead actor Reece Douglas

Look & Tone



Funding

Investor Benefits

- . First position recoupment
- . Dividends/Interest: Investment plus 20%
- . Equity pro rata: 50% Investor share / 50% Producer share
- . Principal: Returned within 12 - 24 months
- . UK Production Tax Credit (up to 25%) will be returned to the Investor within 6 - 12 months under first position recoupment as soon as the film is completed

Production and Distribution Timeline

- . 10 -12 month to finish film from full funding lock
- . 6 month film festival run
- . 12 - 24 month full recoupment by Investor plus 20%
- . 24 month and beyond pure profit revenue - split 50/50 between Investor and Producers

Recoupment

All proceeds of the Film paid to the Production Company from all sources after deductions of fees and expenses of the distributors, and from worldwide gross receipts for all media, in perpetuity, will be paid out as follows:

- . 100% to Investor until 100% of the total investment amount of the film is recouped
- . Plus, a further 20% of 100% investment amount
- . The balance will be considered “Adjusted Gross Receipts” and will be shared:
- . 50% “Adjusted Gross Receipts” to Investor and 50% to Producers



CROSSROAD P I C T U R E S

Crossroad Pictures offer genre films unlike anyone else on the market. Compelling, character driven pictures that ask topical and on-trend questions about the world around us. They are specifically produced to not be the usual 'schlocky' films that are often prevalent in this sector, but still contain enough of the much-loved tropes to please even the most die-hard genre fan. In today's world of prequels, sequels and reboots, we pride ourselves on offering original and compelling genre cinema.

KEY PLAYERS: Scott Lyus and Chris Nials are committed to creating feature length films via Crossroad Pictures Ltd. Both Scott and Chris have assembled a team of award-winning collaborators including Director of Photography Neal Parsons who worked on the OSCAR winning short *The Silent Child* and BIFA winning SFX designer Dan Martin.

VISION: After successfully navigating the world of short films, Scott and Chris registered Crossroad Pictures Ltd at the end of 2019 ready to make the jump into feature filmmaking, with an aim to produce one feature film every 18 months for the next 10 years. Each time expanding slightly in budget, scale and audience reach, starting with feature film *Walking Against the Rain* (2022).

Walking Against the Rain is the first film in a trilogy and the first picture of a five picture slate. Next up is *The Wicked and The Damned*, followed by *Chapter 2 of Walking Against the Rain*.

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