

COMING IN 2019

# DEATH DOOR CEMETERY

24 doors  
to hell

**In 2019, December will be bloody...**

## **DEATHCEMBER – The Ultimate Advent Horror Anthology Movie**

Production of 24-short film genre anthology has started – International line-up

*Dec. 27, 2018 – Frankfurt, Germany*

Set for its world premiere in fall 2019 is DEATHCEMBER, a European production advertised as the world's first cinematic Advent calendar, consisting of 24 short films by 24 directors from around the globe. With its tagline "24 Doors to Hell", the movie unmistakably positions itself at the heart of the horror genre. Nevertheless it will offer audiences a thoroughly diversified viewing experience, with shorts that range from classic scares to black comedy to action to sci-fi to pure, brutal splatter.

DEATHCEMBER was conceived by Dominic Saxl and is produced by him, Ivo Scheloske and Frank Vogt, three long-time friends and genre enthusiasts hailing from Frankfurt, Germany. They managed to convince federal German HessenFilm funding board to provide them with a grant of about \$ 210,000 to produce a horror feature; something they still can't believe has actually happened, since *"official Germany isn't really fond of horror movies, to put it mildly"*, as producer Frank Vogt says.

Drawing from this grant, as well as – substantially – from personal funds and funds acquired from a small group of private investors, the three friends have set out to combine three things that are at the heart of most every genre fan: Christmas, horror, and anthologies; brought together within a framework that seems so obvious as a conceptual choice that it's hard to believe an idea like this has never been realized before: a cinematic Advent calendar of death, with 24 doors that will open up to reveal 24 stories about mayhem, slaughter, and all other kinds of festive fun.

Then again, a project of this magnitude requires a certain amount of dedication – and, probably, sheer insanity – on the part of the makers. Managing the logistics of a production that features 24 individual filmmakers with the most diverse backgrounds, visions, styles (who also live in the most diverse time zones), *"can prove to be a real nightmare, albeit a very beautiful and exciting one"*, says producer Dominic Saxl.

Awed and inspired by genre milestones such as ABCs OF DEATH and V/H/S that have set new anthology standards, the makers of DEATHCEMBER try to bring together the best that modern genre cinema has to offer. Giving their directors complete creative freedom, Saxl, Scheloske and Vogt asked them for one thing only: to deliver a short that serves as a unique take on the Christmas horror genre, and does so within a time frame of 2–5 minutes.

### Exciting line-up of international genre directors

More than 40 directors from all over the world answered their call, and the most promising 24 pitches were chosen to be realized for the feature film. 3 extra short films will be made to serve as a “safety net”, in case some directors fail to deliver.

DEATHCEMBER’s line-up of directors includes big names as well as up-and-comers, from genre mainstays such as **Lucky McKee** (THE WOMAN) and **Trent Haaga** (68 KILL) to current festival favorites like **Isaac Ezban** (PARALLEL) and **Lazar Bodroza** (EDERLEZI RISING) to exciting fresh talent, among them a number of **Blumhouse** alumni such as **Chelsea Stardust** (Fangoria’s SATANIC PANIC) and **Sam Wineman** (THE QUIET ROOM).

Also attached as directors are names like **Pollyanna McIntosh**, who is currently best known as Jadis/”Anne” in AMC’s THE WALKING DEAD, but has also recently written and directed DARLIN’, the sequel to THE WOMAN, which will be released in 2019. And, as a special surprise, the living genre legend, **Ruggero Deodato** (CANNIBAL HOLOCAUST).

*“We’re really excited and proud to have been able to assemble such an amazing group of talented, enthusiastic and kind-hearted people, whose works will make DEATHCEMBER a stand-out anthology,”* says producer Ivo Scheloske.

Going all-in on the Advent calendar theme, the producers opted to announce one participating director per day from December 1 to 24 – on their Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, as well as on their Kickstarter campaign page.

## Kickstarter campaign offering unique rewards

On that note: the 24 shorts of DEATHCEMBER will be connected by animated sequences that tell a story about the Advent calendar itself. In order to raise extra funds to provide for better animation and post-production capabilities, the producers have launched a Kickstarter campaign that will run until January 15.

The campaign offers backers the opportunity to obtain a number of exclusive, limited rewards, such as a special edition media-book version of the movie, a “preferred guest” attendance of a festival screening of DEATHCEMBER, or even an Associate or Executive Producer credit. The campaign has started out really well, raising over 30% of its funding goal within the starting weekend.

## DEATHCEMBER’s timeline

The first two of the anthology’s short films have already been completed: “Kill Santa” by **Sadrac González-Perellón** (BLACK HOLLOW CAGE), and “Joy to the Girls” by **Sonia Escolano** (HOUSE OF SWEAT AND TEARS). Two more, by **Trent Haaga** and **Jason Rostovsky** (DON’T BE AFRAID OF THE LIGHT), have been shot this December, the rest will follow between January and March 2019. The movie’s frame story will be illustrated, animated and edited in February and March.

A rough cut of the movie is planned to be finished by May 2019; and the **world premiere is already fixed for Sitges International Filmfestival** in October 2019, with a small chance for it to take place even earlier, at Fantastic Fest in Austin, September 2019.

There are already a number of companies pitching to handle world sales of DEATHCEMBER. Depending upon negotiations, the movie will see its theatrical or home entertainment release in all markets sometime in late 2019 or in 2020.

## PR and advertising

Initial marketing for DEATHCEMBER relies heavily on social media channels. Since November 1, the movie has been communicated to (potential) fans and followers through a huge number of posts and ads primarily on Facebook, using a wide range of branded images and videos. Since December 1, these communication efforts have been intensified, as one participating director per day was introduced to social media audiences by means of various audio-visual material.

In their home country of Germany, the producers have launched a broad PR offensive towards classical and digital news outlets, film magazines, blogs and fanzines, on top of that.

Dominic Saxl, Ivo Scheloske and Frank Vogt hope to find an interested audience in other countries, too. They are eager to answer any question the media might have and provide them with further information as well as images and digital assets of any kind.

Please do reach out!

Best regards,

**Dominic Saxl / DEATHCEMBER**

[info@deathcembermovie.com](mailto:info@deathcembermovie.com)

[www.deathcembermovie.com](http://www.deathcembermovie.com)

[facebook.com/Deathcembermovie](https://www.facebook.com/Deathcembermovie)

[instagram.com/Deathcembermovie](https://www.instagram.com/Deathcembermovie)

[twitter.com/Deathcemberfilm](https://twitter.com/Deathcemberfilm)

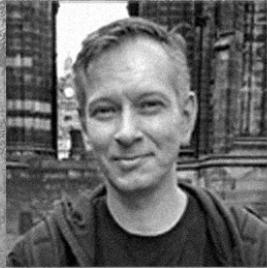
<http://bit.ly/DeathKick> (Kickstarter campaign page)

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!Ah4DewWmrtY3IMh48larBiXfA8XQqA> (further press material)



# THE PRODUCERS

## MEN BEHIND THE CALENDAR



**Dominic Saxl**



**Ivo Scheloske**



**Frank Vogt**

The producers of DEATHCEMBER are three long-time friends based in and around Frankfurt, Germany who share a passion for genre films of all sorts, for horror anthologies, and for creating stuff that entertains the hell out of you.

*Click their names to learn even more on Facebook!*

### **Dominic Saxl**

Dominic earns his livelihood as an advertising creative since 1999. He has created dozens of commercials (some of which are actually quite good), won numerous international awards. Writer and co-director of serial killer short film ZIELGERADE (2005). Freelance writer for DEADLINE, one of Germany's biggest film magazines. He hosts an underground film club in Frankfurt that screens lost and obscure genre gems. Dedicated Christmas horror fanatic – who probably *had* to come up with the idea to DEATHCEMBER at some point in his life.

### **Ivo Scheloske**

Ivo works as a product manager at independent film label Anolis Entertainment since the turn of the millennium. He has produced a number of documentaries as bonus

materials for the label's releases. Ivo was in charge of press relations and film festival partnerships for Anolis' self-produced features TEARS OF KALI (2004) and MASKS (2011), and he also acted as Associate Producer for the latter title. Long-time professional horror geek, and loving it.

### **Frank Vogt**

DEATHCEMBER's resident post-production magician and COO of Magna Mana Production, founded in 1996 as a full-service production company for feature films, advertising, TV and digital media, event and service companies. For more than 10 years, Frank produced the trailers for Germany's most important genre film festival "Fantasy Filmfest". His company offers the complete range of services pertaining to film production, post-production, and digital image editing, and Frank himself offers veteran genre fandom.



### **Yazid Benfeghoul**

Also attached as a co-producing partner is Yazid Benfeghoul, one of the most prolific figures in Germany's genre landscape, initially making a name for himself as editor of influential splatter fanzine GORY NEWS and host of long-running film festival "Splatterday Night Fever". Since 2000, he has produced 12 German and international horror films such as Olaf Ittenbach's BEYOND THE LIMITS, Alex Chandon's INBRED or Marc Fehses's SKY SHARKS starring Naomi Grossman and Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa (currently in post-production). Today he is one of the publishers of DEADLINE film magazine. Yazid brings a lot of valuable experience and tons of contacts to the project, helping DEATHCEMBER move along smoothly.

# THE DIRECTORS

## FACES OF DEATH CEMBER



**Trent Haaga** is a screenwriter, director, and actor based in Los Angeles who has been involved in over 100 feature films. He got his start working for Troma Films as the writer/producer of THE TOXIC AVENGER PART 4 and went on to make many films for Full Moon Pictures. Trent has written several cult films including the 2008 TIFF Midnight Madness hit, DEADGIRL, and the 2013 SXSW Audience Award-Winning CHEAP THRILLS. He also wrote Courtney Cox's directorial debut, TALHOTBLONDE and the screenplay for the international hit video game THE EVIL WITHIN 2.

The latest feature film he directed was the vicious black comedy thriller and 2018 SXSW Audience Award winner 68 KILL starring Matthew Gray Gubler, AnnaLynne McCord, and Alisha Boe. Trent is entering into his installment of DEATHCEMBER with the "never say die/punk rock" attitude that he is known for. He's excited to get down and dirty in the old Troma style that he began his career with ...



**Milan Todorovic** is a Serbian film director, producer and writer, best known as the creator of the first Serbian zombie movie *ZONE OF THE DEAD* (2009), starring genre legend Ken Foree (George A. Romero's *DAWN OF THE DEAD*), and as the director of the first Serbian creature feature, *NYMPH* (2014), a killer mermaid flick starring legendary Franco Nero. In 2016, he produced the sci-fi feature *THE RIFT*, starring Ken Foree and Monte Markham. Since 2015, he's a professor at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade.

Milan says that he never liked short movies – but when we asked him to participate in *DEATHCEMBER*, he changed his mind immediately, *“because this would be like one big story, stitched together... spreading terror and excitement at the same time”*. His short will take place on “Slava” (family saint's day): a time of celebration... but it may also be a time of blood.



**Jason Rostovsky** is a writer and director born and raised in LA whose first short film *DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE LIGHT* has just finished an amazing festival run, exciting juries and audiences everywhere, and winning a number of awards along the way. Since graduating from Chapman University in 2014, Jason has worked as a post-production coordinator at Blumhouse Productions (on films such as *GET OUT*

and THE PURGE: ELECTION YEAR) and the Gotham Group. His latest script, “Hare”, has just been included in the Hollywood **Black List**.

His segment will be an amblin-esque horror film that takes place on the beginning of Hanukkah, adding a unique flavor to our anthology. Jason says he was *“immediately drawn to DEATHCEMBER by its fun and nostalgic framework, and all of the wonderful folks involved. Among the holly jolly horror of Christmas, they’ve given me an awesome opportunity to explore Jewish traditions and the subtle strangeness of Hanukkah. Can’t wait for you all to see it!”*



**Sam Wineman** is an LA-based filmmaker whose award-winning film, THE QUIET ROOM, has been an official selection of 40 festival and showcase screenings. He recently directed 2nd Unit on Fangoria’s SATANIC PANIC and is currently curating Fangoria’s Holiday Horror Countdown. Sam graduated from Chapman University in 2017 with an MFA in Film Production and holds a bachelor’s degree from UC Berkeley, where he taught a class on slasher films. In 2016–2017, Sam interned for Blumhouse Productions where he won the Intern Short Film Challenge two semesters in a row.

His DEATHCEMBER short “Milk and Cookies“ is about the darker side of Christmas – a boy with a tough home life and a wish that only Santa can bring. Sam says that when he heard about our anthology, *“I immediately wanted in. I was even more excited when I saw the other directors on board. An Advent calendar of Christmas nightmares told by some of the most talented independent filmmakers I know? SLAY.”*



**Sadrac González-Perellón** is a director, writer and producer born in Madrid who is best known for his feature film *BLACK HOLLOW CAGE* which won the 2017 Jury Award at BiFan and was an official selection at Raindance, Sitges, Neuchâtel, Germany's Fantasy Filmfest, and many more. He studied artistic drawing and later Audiovisual Communication at the Complutense University of Madrid. After shooting a number of shorts, he began to create his first feature film, *MYNA HAS GONE* (2009), which won several international awards.

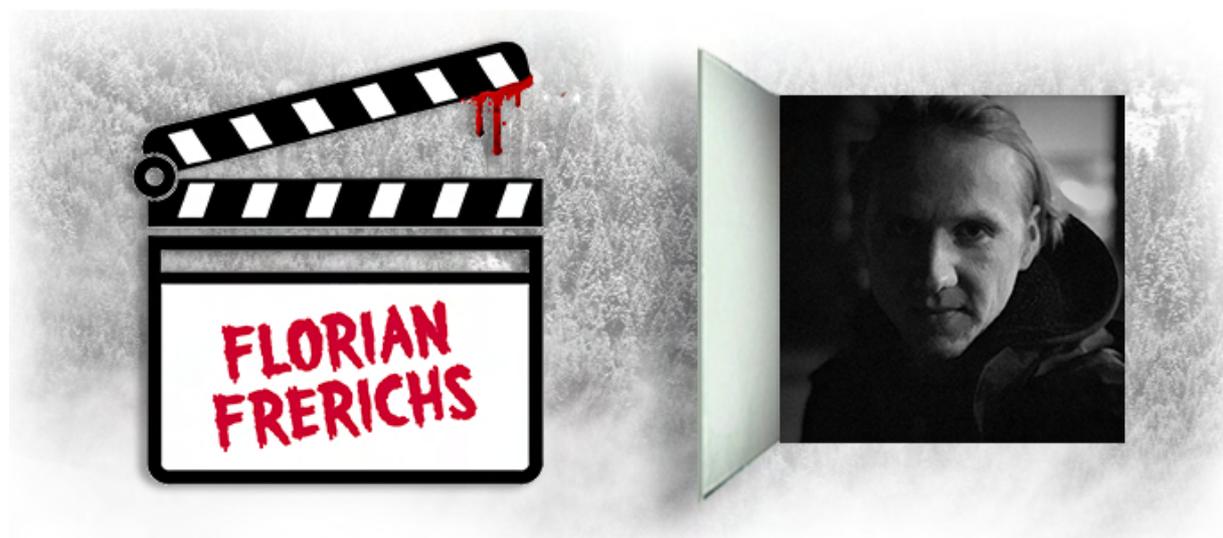
In 2018, he produced *HOUSE OF SWEAT AND TEARS*, chosen to participate in the prestigious "Frontières" at Cannes Film Festival. His short "Kill Santa" was the first DEATHCEMBER segment to be completed. It deals with two sisters shopping at a mall who suddenly meet with an unpleasant surprise. *"As I did in my last movie BLACK HOLLOW CAGE, I talk about one of my favorite themes: the revenge of a child."*



**Pollyanna McIntosh** stars on AMC's *THE WALKING DEAD* as Jadis/'Anne' and was previously best known to horror audiences as the titular character in Lucky McKee's *THE WOMAN*, a role that won her several Best Actress awards. She has

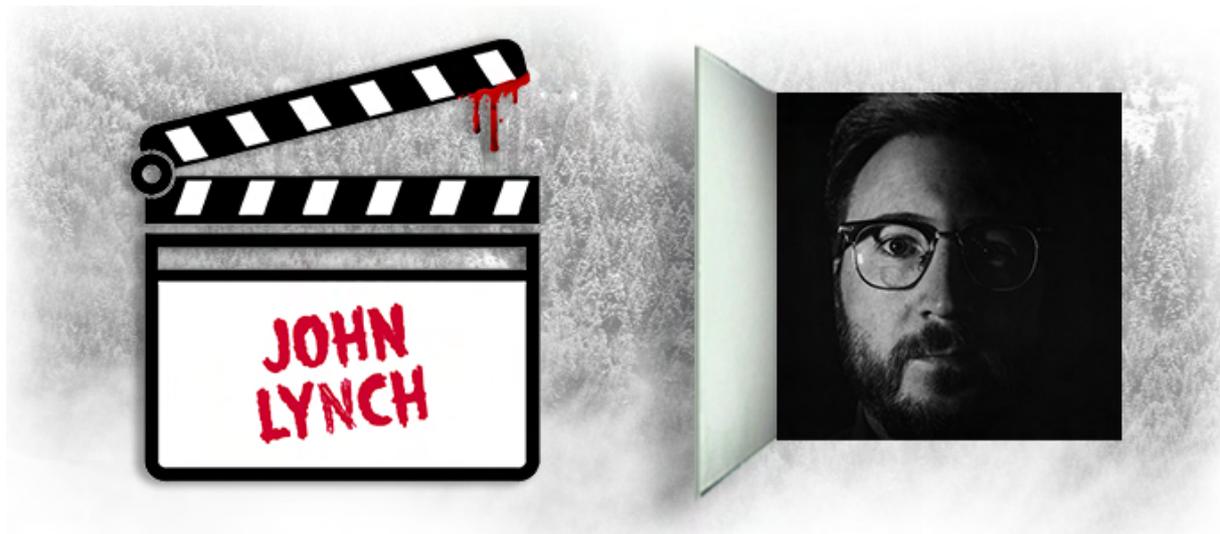
written and directed the sequel in THE WOMAN's trilogy titled DARLIN', which will be released in 2019.

Her work as a director began creating theatre in London and LA, directing actors such as Anne Dudek, David Dayan Fisher, and Kelly Lynch. Having written a black-hearted comedy feature script PERFECT, Pollyanna directed a 35-minute version of the film, which is now being developed as a series. Another film currently in development is the gritty, bloody, crime drama BOIL that she co-wrote with Tomer Almagor who will direct. She says she's *"thrilled to be taking part as a writer/director in the upcoming anthology DEATHCEMBER. Long having been an admirer of German cinema and always excited by a challenge, I can't wait to share my short with you as part of this intriguing anthology."*



**Florian Frerichs** is a dedicated and very talented filmmaker from Berlin whose first feature film DAS LETZTE MAHL ("The Last Supper") will get a wide theatrical release in early 2019. After producing many short films, music videos and commercials and working as a line producer, he directed his first short, the fake trailer ALEX, which gave the impression that a sci-fi reboot of A CLOCKWORK ORANGE was in the works. With PHOENIX and IN THE RUINS, he continued to create dystopian science fiction that scooped over 30 awards at international festivals.

His DEATHCEMBER short "X-Mas on Fire" is a bow to classic action and gangster movies – but with a humanistic twist. Florian feels that our anthology is *"every movie maniac's dream come true ... It unites great talents from all around the world and I'm extremely happy, grateful and honored to be part of such an illustrious group!"*



**John Lynch** is a London-based director whose 2016 debut short EDDIE became a hit at genre film festivals around the globe, winning 7 awards. His 2018 VR music documentary, CRACKLE POP, world premiered at Raindance Film Festival and was nominated for a UK Music Video Award. John's career in film production has spanned documentaries, commercials, music videos, the Olympics and even Bollywood. He loves 80s science fiction and dark humour, and it shows in the script for his short film for DEATHCEMBER.

John was one of the first directors to become attached to our anthology. We met him at Landshut Short Film Festival 2017 and after seeing EDDIE, we just had to have him on board. He says he is *"delighted to be a part of the project"* and is looking forward to creating what he calls *"SCANNERS... if it were directed by Douglas Sirk"*.



**Ama Lea** is well-known among horror fans as a photographer of genre legends like Roger Corman and Wes Craven, and as the director of award-winning short film, FROM HELL SHE RISES. She started out as a celebrity photographer for top magazines such as Inked, AP, Revolver, and Zink, and first worked within the horror industry shooting a fine art photo series entitled "The Bloody Best". This led to her accepting the position as photographer for Fangoria Magazine.

Meanwhile, she kept her toe in filmmaking by writing and directing several shorts and participating in ABCs OF DEATH 2.5 for Alamo Drafthouse. Ama has a huge soft spot for Christmas horror and says she is thrilled to be part of the DEATHCEMBER anthology, with her segment entitled "Five Deaths in Blood Red", a *"stylized giallo thriller centering around a family colder than the winter air."*



**Annika Marx** is a young German filmmaker who has mainly worked in TV and advertising so far, creating videos and web content for brands such as Volkswagen, Heineken, Chanel, and Smirnoff. After receiving her B.A. in film directing, she started working for TV giant Endemol, producing YouTube Original Channels and TV shows. Living in Berlin, Annika is a true "digital native" and genre film lover who hosts a successful True Crime blog while working as an independent videographer and podcast producer.

Annika impressed us with her heavily J-Horror-infused script for a DEATHCEMBER short titled "Christmas Corp.(s)" that will play out as a homage to Asian ghost movies, taking place in actual hell: at a typical office Christmas party. A paranormal "Karōshi" tale; things are about to get really creepy with this one...



**Julian Richards** is one of the biggest names in European horror. His debut DARKLANDS won a 1996 Méliès D'Argent for Best European Fantasy Film. In 2002 he directed big-budget thriller SILENT CRY, followed by acclaimed shocker THE LAST HORROR MOVIE, which won a second Méliès D'Argent. SUMMER SCARS won two BAFTA Cymru awards in 2008. In 2012 Julian directed SHIVER starring Danielle Harris, John Jarratt and Casper Van Dien, and in 2017, DADDY'S GIRL starring Jemma Dallender and Costas Mandylor. His latest feature REBORN, starring Barbara Crampton and Michael Paré, world premiered at FrightFest Halloween 2018.

*“When I was approached to participate in DEATHCEMBER I remembered a painting I did at school depicting a demonic Santa Claus carrying a machine gun and riding in a sleigh pulled by two hounds of hell. The idea of an evil Santa has been with me since childhood, and now I will get the chance to bring it to life, via a story about an inquisitive young boy who dares to try and prove that Santa doesn't exist.”*



**Sonia Escolano** is a Spanish director with a unique visual style – who is also an award-winning poet. Her first short film MR. LONG-NECK (2005) won 2nd prize at Alcine film festival and was followed by a number of further shorts, such as INVISIBLE OLD PEOPLE (2009), which was an official selection at Vancouver Film

Festival. Also in 2009, she directed experimental feature MYNA HAS GONE together with Sadrac González-Perellón, which won awards at several international festivals including Austin Film Festival.

In 2018 she wrote and directed HOUSE OF SWEAT AND TEARS, which was presented to rave reviews in “Frontières“ at Cannes and participated in Fantastic Fest in Austin. Her DEATHCEMBER short “Joy to the Girls”, which is already completed, talks about female empowerment, with lots of black humor: *“There are guys who think that a beautiful girl can be prey, but sometimes that pretty girl is the predator. In this case, three beautiful girls”.*



**Jürgen Kling** is a stop-motion animation creator from Hessen who is best known to German audiences for the amazing monster puppet trailers he made for acclaimed Fantasy Filmfest between 2007 and 2011. Jürgen has been devoting himself to stop-motion techniques since as early as 1999 and began his professional career soon after at Madbox Animation, where he worked on productions for federal German ZDF television. He’s been self-employed since 2002, and has been creating a ton of award-winning music videos and commercials with his own studio Weirdoughmationfilms ever since, as well as motion-control special effects for films such as sci-fi feature NYDENION (2010).

His DEATHCEMBER short “Crappy Christmas 3” tells the story of a kid that is abducted and tortured by catholic clerics... but gets his bloody revenge. Jürgen feels that *“stop-motion and Christmas are a perfect match. We’re super psyched to be on board!”*



**Vivienne Vaughn** is a screenwriter, director and horror fan based in LA, California. She attended NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she majored in Film and TV Production. During this time, she also wrote for Fangoria Magazine. After moving to LA, Vivienne worked at Blumhouse Productions assisting the President of the company, on films such as GET OUT and SPLIT. She is currently a screenwriter/showrunner's assistant. Vivienne has made several horror shorts, and her giallo-inspired SATANICA has been the official selection of 25+ film festivals. Her work typically possesses themes of isolation, alienation and, of course, death.

Her DEATHCEMBER short will embody these motifs as well: it is about a woman who suffers a gruesome late-term miscarriage, and finds herself coping alone on Christmas morning. Vivienne says she is *"just as excited to see what the other filmmakers have in store as I am to create my own project."*



**Lee Sang-woo** is a director who, ever since the release of TROPICAL MANILA in 2008, has made a name for himself as the enfant terrible of Korean cinema with his dark and controversial body of work that digs at the heart of Korean society. He has earned wide acclaim at festivals through films such as MOTHER IS A WHORE, FATHER IS A DOG and BARBIE, picking up prizes at various international festivals

along the way. Earlier this year, Lee became the first Korean filmmaker to work with HBO, as one of the directors of their horror series FOLKLORE. He is currently developing the horror-comedy CANNIBAL GRANNY.

Frequently exploring taboo themes within dysfunctional family dynamics, Lee's films exhibit a raw style that taps even rawer nerves, but never without humor, empathy and beauty in the most unexpected of places. His DEATHCEMBER short "Santa is coming" will leave a lot of viewers disturbed, that's for sure.



**Dominic Saxl** is a filmmaker based in Frankfurt, Germany who has spent most of his professional life as a creative in the advertising industry. He has developed countless campaigns and commercials for global brands during the last two decades and scooped a few international awards, e.g. for AUDI's promo campaign for Will Smith blockbuster I, ROBOT. His first short film ZIELGERADE ("Home Stretch") was featured at a number of festivals and on Pay-TV, and made it to the DVD bonus segment of acclaimed, infamous Austrian serial killer film ANGST.

After coming up with the original concept for DEATHCEMBER, Dominic knew very soon what his anthology segment would have to be about: *"a TWILIGHT ZONE infused tale about a boy, an Advent calendar, and what can happen to you when you choose to be an ass."*



**Bob Pipe** is a London-based writer, director and horror fan who has won several awards for his short film THE MONSTER, which played at over 50 film festivals, and his web series THE DAY THEY CAME TO SUCK OUT OUR BRAINS! Bob is currently putting the finishing touches to his first feature film, SOUL REAPER – due for release May 2019. He was recently 2nd Unit Director on Marc (COLIN) Price’s feature NIGHTSHOOTERS, and he also directed a short film segment in the world’s first crypto-currency feature film, KEVCOIN: THE MOVIE.

Bob will be directing “A Christmas Pardon” for our anthology – an old-school monster tale inspired by FRANKENSTEIN, about a monster accused of a crime he didn’t commit and now about to be burnt on the stake, praying for a Christmas miracle... Bob says he’s *“extremely chuffed to be part of DEATHCEMBER – it’s always been my dream to be involved in a horror anthology film.”*



**Chelsea Stardust** is an LA-based filmmaker who, after working for comedy legends Ivan Reitman and Judd Apatow, found her horror home at Blumhouse Productions. She served as the executive assistant to Jason Blum for years, working on films such as Academy Award winner WHIPLASH and franchises PARANORMAL ACTIVITY, INSIDIOUS, THE PURGE. Today, Chelsea directs full time. Her first short

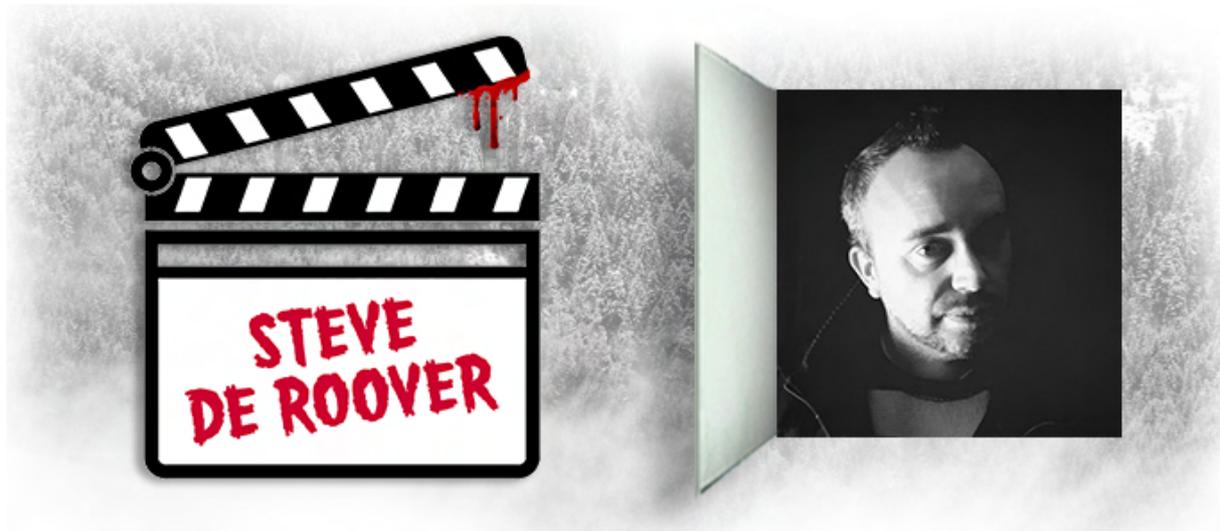
film was part of the 2016 Etheria World Tour; followed by four shorts on Crypt TV and horror-musical-comedy SLASHED!, which was nominated for several awards. Her 2017 holiday-horror radio play CHRISTMAS EVE had over 10K downloads. In January 2018, she directed her first feature, ALL THAT WE DESTROY for Hulu/Blumhouse.

She is currently in post-production on her 2nd feature, Fangoria/Cinestate's SATANIC PANIC. *"I couldn't be more excited to be a part of DEATHCEMBER with my short film, "Kringle Klub", which I like to say is my love letter to FIGHT CLUB and MIRACLE ON 34th STREET."*



**Lazar Bodroža** is a director from Belgrade, Serbia whose sci-fi feature film debut EDERLEZI RISING has just had an amazing festival run, winning several awards and stunning audiences everywhere with its breathtaking visuals and dense atmosphere. Lazar is also a visual artist, founder and creative director of the independent design studio METAKLINIKA. In 2010, he created the interactive movie UBER LIFE and in 2011, he was selected as one of the world's top 20 visual artists under the age of 30 by PRINT magazine.

His DEATHCEMBER short "Aurora" will be *"dealing with the pathological relationship of man and nature, an innate fear of the unknown in a totalitarian ideological setting. Waiting for a big holiday, such as the one that awaits us on December 24th, for me will be merely an alibi for exploring the subconscious and the occult."*



**Steve De Roover** is a filmmaker from Belgium, who first made its bones as film journalist for a wide array of publications. His directorial debut was the 2013 vampire short film UN HOMME BIEN, which premiered at BIFFF. Together with Kevin Hoed, Steve founded independent production company Skladanowsky in 2015, which led to ambitious short films like SKAI BLUE by Guido Verelst and Méliès D'Argent winner MUIL by Jasper Vrancken.

In his 2017 documentary FORGOTTEN SCARES, which made its European premiere at BIFFF, Steve digs into the history of Flemish horror cinema. The follow-up SURREALISTIC NIGHTMARES, starring the likes of Guillermo Del Toro and Pascal Laugier, will be produced in 2019. Together with Jasper Vrancken, Steve came up with “Family Matters” for DEATHCEMBER , a story that brings *“nasty parasites and gruesome body horror to the 'happy happy joy joy' of the holidays. Be ready!”*



**Andreas Marschall** is one of the most important directors in current German genre cinema. After directing dozens of music videos he made his feature film debut in 2004 with multi award-winning TEARS OF KALI, now considered an indie classic; followed by stylized thriller MASKS in 2011, a *“loving tribute to the Italian genre*

*cinema of the 70s*". In 2015 Marschall collaborated with Jörg Buttgerit (NEKROMANTIK) and Michal Kosakowski on the acclaimed anthology movie GERMAN ANGST. His segment, the surreal erotic thriller ALRAUNE, transferred the mystic legend of the Mandragora plant into modern Berlin.

Marschall's films display a self-confident, idiosyncratic style that adopts and updates traditions of German silent film expressionism and European genre excesses of the 60s and 70s.



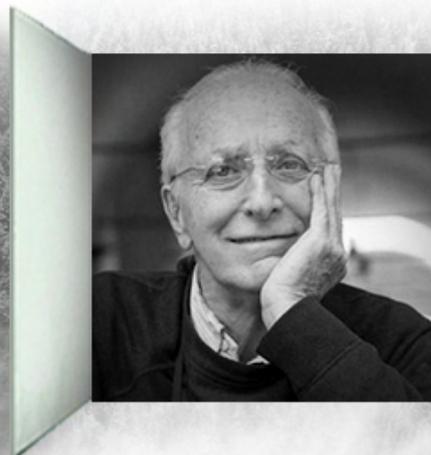
**Rémi Fréchette** is a Montreal-based filmmaker and a member of the alternative filmmaking movement "Kino". He has directed and produced over 50 short films in the last 14 years, in addition to larger-scale projects, such as his horror-comedy LES JAUNES (2013) and the paranormal mockumentary series L'ÉTRANGE PROVINCE (2015). In 2018, he brought together the work of 17 fellow Quebec filmmakers in order to produce the independent horror anthology MONTREAL DEAD END, which is just beginning its tour of the festival circuit.

Rémi is also a programmer of Fantasia Film Festival and lends his voice to episodes of the movie podcast "Point de Vues". He views DEATHCEMBER as *"a great opportunity to showcase the heritage of Canadian genre films, all while rubbing shoulders with the new generation of filmmakers entering this realm of cinema."*



**Isaac Ezban** is a filmmaker from Mexico whose first feature *THE INCIDENT* premiered at Cannes 2014 to much praise from Guillermo del Toro. It played at Fantastic Fest & Sitges, and over 45 further festivals around the world, winning 16 awards. His next feature *THE SIMILARS* also premiered at Fantastic Fest & Sitges, making Isaac the first director in Mexican history to have 2 films as Official Selection of the 2 most important genre festivals worldwide, 2 years in a row. It won in Sitges as Best Latin American Film, and also played at over 45 festivals, winning 10 awards. In 2016, Isaac was hired by Bron Studios to direct his third movie, the English-language *PARALLEL*.

He has recently been hired by Sony Pictures to direct the long-awaited adaptation of Dan Simmons' horror novel, *SUMMER OF NIGHT*. His *DEATHCEMBER* segment is called "Villancicos" and is precisely about those singing boys that are around all the time in these holidays...



**Ruggiero Deodato** has single-handedly rewritten horror history with his infamous shocker *CANNIBAL HOLOCAUST* (1980) – regarded as the first found-footage horror film, predating the likes of *BLAIR WITCH PROJECT* by two decades. Deodato

has been called a major influence on directors like Oliver Stone, Quentin Tarantino and Eli Roth, and made a cameo appearance as “The Italian Cannibal” in the latter’s HOSTEL: PART II. Before leaving a permanent mark on the genre with his cannibal films, and fan favorites such as controversial “video nasty” HOUSE ON THE EDGE OF THE PARK or CUT AND RUN, he worked as a 2nd unit director for famous names such as Roberto Rossellini and Sergio Corbucci, e.g. on the latter’s milestone DJANGO (1966).

He has since made about three dozen films and TV series, in many different genres like action, comedy, drama, “poliziottesco” and science fiction, and has cemented his status as a living genre legend, with 60 years of experience in the art of filmmaking.



**Lucky McKee** is widely regarded one of the most gifted and versatile filmmakers in present-day American genre cinema. An early testament to his capabilities was his inclusion in the TV series MASTERS OF HORROR, alongside such icons as John Carpenter, Dario Argento, and Joe Dante. After the splatter comedy ALL CHEERLEADERS DIE, he wrote and directed his first full-fledged feature film MAY (2002), starring Angela Bettis, Jeremy Sisto, and Anna Faris, which premiered at Sundance and went on to win an impressive amount of awards at festivals worldwide. It has since garnered a cult following. In 2005, he directed THE WOODS, starring Patricia Clarkson and Bruce Campbell; followed by RED (2008) and THE WOMAN (2011), both adaptations of Jack Ketchum novels.

After a remake of ALL CHEERLEADERS DIE, Lucky participated in esteemed anthology TALES OF HALLOWEEN, and directed John Cusack thriller BLOOD MONEY (2017). Lucky McKee has just finished shooting KINDRED SPIRITS starring Thora Birch and Macon Blair, and says that he’s *“excited to be part of the team”* of DEATHCEMBER. So are we!



**Zach Shildwachter** and **BJ Colangelo** are the duo behind the independent film company, Sickening Pictures, located in Cleveland, OH. Together, they have created a variety of short genre films that have played festivals all across the globe, and recently premiered their debut feature film, POWERBOMB starring Lucha Underground's Matt Cross and Ring of Honor's Britt Baker. Before joining forces, Zach spent a decade working on projects like LAW & ORDER: CRIMINAL INTENT, RESCUE ME, I SELL THE DEAD, and the Sundance Grand Jury Prize-winning SANGRE DE MI SANGRE. During that time, BJ has established herself as a prolific horror journalist, having been published in places like Vulture.com, Playboy.com, Blumhouse.com, Birth.Movies.Death., Fangoria Magazine, HorrorHound Magazine, Dread Central, Bloody-Digusting, and more.

With their darkly comedic and gory DEATHCEMBER segment, they *“hope to capture some of the dark magic of Cleveland, the home of A CHRISTMAS STORY.”*



**Michael Varrati** has written several critically acclaimed horror projects, including TALES OF POE and FLESH FOR THE INFERNO, as well as a number of television holiday films for networks like Hallmark, Lifetime, and Ion, such as A CHRISTMAS

REUNION starring Denise Richards and Jake Busey, BROADCASTING CHRISTMAS starring Melissa Joan Hart, and A CHRISTMAS IN VERMONT starring Chevy Chase. His recent short film, HE DRINKS, premiered this past year at Outfest, before embarking on a festival run. He also recently directed the award-winning SOCIAL JUSTICE STRANGERS, which became a viral video sensation for the popular “Enemies of Dorothy” comedy team. He serves as the host of DEAD FOR FILTH, a podcast about the intersection of queer identity and horror, and is the on-camera host of HISTORY OF FRIGHT for GammaRayTV.

His DEATHCEMBER short film “All Sales Fatal” serves as a critique on consumer culture, detailing how a trip to the gift exchange counter devolves into garish, Grand Guignol bloodshed... and how murderous materialism might be the real reason for the season.