

DRAFT



SHRIEKFEST FILM FESTIVAL

October 19-23

New York City

Tribeca Cinemas



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For tickets and more information, visit our website:

[WWW.SHRIEKFEST.COM](http://www.SHRIEKFEST.COM)

ABOUT

The New York City Shriekfest has blossomed into one of the nation's pre-eminent showcases for independent horror features and shorts from around the world, and will again hold its event October 19-23 in New York City as Tribeca Cinemas. Two theaters will run concurrently. A festival like this one is a chance to see great movies that may never find a major release, to speak with people at the top of a field too few respect as valuable, and to discover environments where film, particularly the horror film, is seen as something other than cheap and exploitive.

The opening gala and premiere party on Thursday, October 19 will honor legendary director Tobe Hooper. Hooper will be in attendance to accept his award and introduce the East Coast premiere of his latest film, "The Toolbox Murders." The festival will close October 24 with a screening of Hooper's 1974 masterpiece, "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre." Past festival honorees include horror film icons George Romero and Tom Savini.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, 10/19

Opening gala and premiere of the Toolbox Murders

Friday, 10/20

Review of short films (see next page)

Saturday, 10/21

Review of short films (see next page)

Sunday, 10/22

Screening of Hooper's 1974 masterpiece
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre

FEATURED SHORT FILMS

Black Gulch (Michael Strode, USA, 15min.)

A group of bank robbers roll into a factory with larceny in mind only to find the place deserted except for a frighteningly ghoulish 12-year-old boy with a nasty pal and a grudge against humanity. The special effects are minimal but well-executed.

Red Lines (Frazer Lee, UK, 7min.)

Brilliant and understated, Frazer Lee's *Red Lines* finds a girl in detention at the mercy of a power-drunk schoolmaster (Doug Bradley of *Hellraiser* fame) who discovers that grammar school transgressions are really just small potatoes. Shot with style, edited with heat, and genuinely frightening, the picture is a calling card of a bright talent: Lee's one to watch.

On Edge (Frazer Lee, UK, 15min.)

Frazer Lee's first short preys on dental fear, with the charming Doug Bradley as the dentist you hate to hate even though he has some distinct ideas about the limitations of the flesh. Funny and occasionally brilliant as Lee juxtaposes the initiation of the doctor/patient relationship with a fetish for automobiles (the patient/victim is a car salesman). *On Edge* is to the point and the very definition of resourceful and inventive. The payoffs a scream, too.

Repossessed (John Coven, USA, 10min.)

Juliet Landau, the creepy undead girlfriend of vampire Spike's in TV's "*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*" reprises her role somewhat as a prospective homebuyer with an ulterior motive. A real estate agent played by JoBeth Williams with the correct level of cheerful unctuousness makes for a surprisingly sympathetic foil, but the climax of *Repossessed* is unsurprising - if extremely well executed.

Ice Cold (Frédéric D'Amours and Luke Bélanger, Canada, 26min.)

The unreasonably beautiful Caroline Néron stars in

this French Canadian tale of fear about a hillbilly family who lives in a run-down shack with no heat in the middle of nowhere. Unspeakable terrors haunt the family and the deeply effected children later make a rocky transition into adulthood.

The Fine Art of Poisoning (Bill Damon, USA, 6min.)

A young woman unsuccessfully attempts to poison her husband as he sleeps. The violent outcome and twist in the plot is terrifying.

Health Hazard (Pascal Trottier, Canada, 4min.)

A lot like the "Lonesome Death of Jordy Verrill" segment of Creepshow (infinitely better-performed, it shouldn't need to be added.) Health Hazard is a slapstick sort of one-act gross-out involving some sort of fire-activated toxic sludge.

Toss of the Coin (Patrick Steele, USA, 12min.)

Surprisingly funny, undeniably intelligent, Toss the Coin tells a story of a wacky afterworld mix-up that has resulted in an equal claim by both celestial sides on the soul of a man recently deceased. A crack about The Promise Keepers is hilarious as are several other well-timed ripostes (a busy network server slew me); it's lightweight, no question, but a message about ultimate morality runs a little deeper than first impressions might suggest and Toss of the Coin suggests a comedic talent on the rise.

Hyperion (Athena Macier, USA, 8min.)

Hyperion is the tale of seven people who make a pilgrimage to a terrifying creature called the Shrike in an attempt to save mankind. Stunningly written and beautifully crafted, Hyperion resonates with technical achievement and the excitement and wonder found only in the best short film.