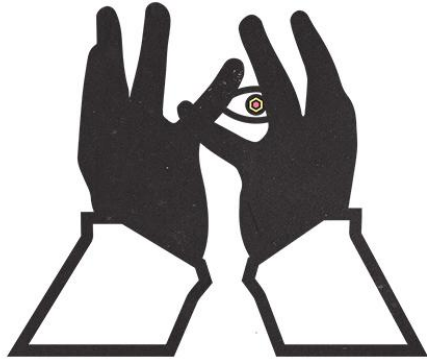


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact

Laura Molinari - The Right Now
laura@therightnow.co



A 4-DAY CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS HORROR

**THE
OVERLOOK
FILM FESTIVAL**

COME PLAY

MARCH 30TH-APRIL 2ND
2023

NEW ORLEANS

**OVERLOOK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES JURIED AWARDS, AUDIENCE AWARDS
AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR RECORD-BREAKING 2023 EDITION**

***Violet Butterfield: Makeup Artist for the Dead, Night of the Bride, FROM.BEYOND
and Late Night With the Devil Among the Films Honored***

**Festival Features All-Time Highs in Attendance, Sold Out Screenings and Special Guests
Including Nicolas Cage, Chris McKay, Jim Jarmusch, Joe Dante and John Goodman**

April 6, 2023 | New Orleans, LA – The [Overlook Film Festival](#), the seventh annual celebration of all things horror, announced today the winners of the 2023 juried competition along with the Audience Award recipients.

The **Best Short Film** honor was awarded to ***Violet Butterfield: Makeup Artist for the Dead*** by Brooke H. Cellars. Fidel Ruiz-Healy and Tyler Walker's ***Dead Enders*** received an honorable mention in the category. The award for **Scariest Short** went to Virat Pal's ***Night of the Bride***, and the **Special Jury Prize for Creative Vision** was awarded to ***FROM.BEYOND*** by director Fredrik S. Hana.

The 2023 Overlook Film Festival **Short Film Jury** was composed of filmmaker **Greg Gilreath** (Divide/Conquer), Sundance Film Festival programmer **Ash Hoyle** and journalist **Angel Melanson** (FANGORIA).

In awarding these films, the jury stated: "This year's slate of Overlook short films were marvels of ingenuity. Genre is a liberating organizing principle for filmmakers, and the range of complete creative visions on display was inspiring and invigorating."

The feature film **Audience Award** went to **Late Night with the Devil** by directors Colin Cairnes and Cameron Cairnes, with the runner-up being Alexis Jacknow's **Clock**. The short film to receive the 2023 Audience Award was **Violet Butterfield: Makeup Artist for the Dead**. The runner-up in the shorts category was **Snatched** by Michael Schwartz.

Taking place March 30 through April 2 in America's most haunted city, New Orleans, LA, the 2023 festival welcomed 110 filmmaker guests, the highest number to date, for a four day celebration of all things horror. This year also marked the addition of a fifth day of screenings dedicated to local audiences and the expansion to the Uptown location of the Prytania Theatres – which was added to the Canal Place, Downtown location.

Filmmakers and special guests from around the globe converged in New Orleans for a record-breaking edition with 45 sold out shows and approximately five thousand audience in total attendance – the festival's highest to date.

Celebrated director **Chris McKay**, who attended the festival along with Oscar®-winner **Nicolas Cage** to present the world premiere of **Renfield**, stated: "We had the immense pleasure of screening *Renfield* as the Opening Night film at the Overlook Film Festival in New Orleans. Overlook showcases an incredibly diverse body of films that reflect the entire spectrum of horror. The historic Prytania theater, built in 1914, was the best place to show our movie because of its connection to the past – one can easily imagine *Nosferatu* or Tod Browning's *Dracula* playing there. The festival staff were great partners and took such good care of us. It was a truly unforgettable experience."

Jim Jarmusch and **Carter Logan** of **SQÜRL** added: "Bloody hell! We love the Overlook Film Festival! There's nowhere else in the world that could make our strange band of vampires feel so welcome. We send our undying respect to everyone from the organizers to the fans who make this festival the coolest place on this or any planet."

SQÜRL, the enthusiastically marginal rock band composed of Jarmusch, Logan and Erik Sanko, performed at the Opening Night Vampire Ball. The festival also presented a special screening in celebration of the 10th anniversary since the premiere of **Only Lovers Left Alive**. Directed by Jarmusch, the film was co-produced by Logan and scored by SQÜRL, in collaboration with Dutch lutenist Jozef Van Wissem.

Masterful genre director **Joe Dante** said: "This was not my first Overlook experience, but the first in New Orleans, and a memorable one. The movie love is palpable, and the staff is great. My double bill of *Matinee* and *The Tingler* was a joy – it was like seeing them both for the first time."

Dante, who attended a special 30th anniversary screening of *Matinee* along with legendary actor **John Goodman**, also selected William Castle's horror classic *The Tingler* to be screened at the festival. Introduced by **David Dastmalchian**, appearing as his TV horror host persona **Dr. Bartholomew Fearless**, and with a special appearance by Dante himself, the film was presented in Percepto!, featuring a wealth of spooky surprises.

Film highlights also included the Opening Night world premiere of *Renfield*, the Centerpiece screening of Danny and Michael Philippou's *Talk to Me* – which was presented as a secret screening – and the Closing Night film *Evil Dead Rise*, directed by Lee Cronin. World premiere screenings included Philip Barantini's *Accused*, Alexis Jacknow's *Clock*, Nick Kozakis' *Godless: The Eastfield Exorcism*, Ariel Vida's *Trim Season* and Anthony Penta's *We Kill for Love*.

Showcasing a selection of the best in genre filmmaking for the year (50 films from 12 countries), the 2023 Overlook Film Festival also added new sidebars in Music and Magic programming to a robust slate of immersive and live experiences, including the exclusive *Undersigned* from Yannick Trapman-O'Brien and this year's immersive alternate reality game *Lingering Echoes* presented by guest designers The Ministry of Peculiarities. The game, which for the first time was developed to connect every piece of immersive programming as part of a cohesive festival mystery, was once again an audience favorite. Music programming, including performances by **SQÜRL** and American sludge metal band **Thou**, was presented in partnership with Kickstarter Music. The Magic presentations – including *The Last Magic Show*, created and performed by the renowned **Zabrecky**, and the world premiere of *The Oracle*, from Tarologist and Soothsayer **Jared Kopf** – was curated by the Academy of Magical Arts, the organization that resides in the world famous Magic Castle®.

More information about this year's award-winning short films and the 2023 Overlook Film Festival Jury is available below.

Audience Awards

Winner – Feature Film

Late Night with the Devil

Directors: Colin Cairnes, Cameron Cairnes

Cast: David Dastmalchian, Laura Gordon, Fayssal Bazzi, Ian Bliss, Ingrid Torelli, Rhys Auteri, Josh Quong Tart, Georgina Haig

Australia, 2023

Desperate for ratings, a Seventies-era late night talk show host invites a skeptic, a doctor and a young girl supposedly possessed by the devil for a very special Halloween episode. By the end of the show, his horrified audience would learn one awful truth: Evil doesn't take commercial breaks.

Runner-Up – Feature Film

Clock

WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Alexis Jacknow

Cast: Dianna Agron, Jay Ali, Melora Hardin

United States, 2023

On the eve of her birthday, a woman desperately attempts to fix her broken biological clock, but at what cost? Featuring a powerhouse turn from Dianna Agron (*Shiva Baby*), this cautionary tale warns that when the pressure to conform mounts beyond reason, something's going to break.

Winner – Short Film

Violet Butterfield: Makeup Artist for the Dead, Dir. Brooke H. Cellars, United States, 2022

One night at her mortuary salon, Violet receives a visit from a new client and discovers that sometimes a person feels they cannot authentically live their best life until after they're dead.

Runner-Up – Short Film

Snatched, Dir. Michael Schwartz, United States, 2022

After coming out as gay, a 15-year-old boy must fight for his life when his parents react with otherworldly acceptance.

Juried Awards

Best Short Film

Violet Butterfield: Makeup Artist for the Dead, Dir. Brooke H. Cellars, United States, 2022

One night at her mortuary salon, Violet receives a visit from a new client and discovers that sometimes a person feels they cannot authentically live their best life until after they're dead.

Honorable Mention

Dead Enders, Dir. Fidel Ruiz-Healy, Tyler Walker, United States, 2023

A disaffected, young gas-station clerk on the midnight shift must learn to give a damn about something after malevolent mind-controlling bugs are set loose by irresponsible oil drillers.

Scariest Short

Night of the Bride, Dir. Virat Pal, India, 2022

A young woman's cries for help fall on deaf ears as a family holds her hostage, desperate to get their only son married through whatever sinister means necessary.

Special Jury Prize for Creative Vision

FROM.BEYOND, Dir. Fredrik S. Hana, Norway, 2022

This kaleidoscopic vision portrays mankind's first meeting with alien life, told through faux archival footage combined with practical FX, miniatures and old school in-camera trickery.

Short Film Jury

Greg Gilreath

Greg Gilreath, along with producing partner Adam Hendricks, runs production company Divide/Conquer. The company has produced more than thirty feature films, most notably Universal & Blumhouse's *M3gan* (2023), Focus Features' *Vengeance* (2022), Magnolia's *Lucky* starring Harry Dean Stanton (2017 SXSW premiere), Netflix's *Cam* (2018 Fantasia multiple award-winner), Universal Pictures' *Freaky* (2020), and Amazon's *The Voyeurs* (2021). They have several films to be released within the year including Amazon's *Totally Killer* and *House of Spoils*.

Ash Hoyle

Ash is a Features Programmer at the Sundance Film Festival. He focuses on both fiction, nonfiction and Midnight. He has previously worked at Sundance as an Associate Programmer for shorts and features and to support Director of Programming Kim Yutani. Ash has also worked as the Director of Programming of Damn These Heels Film Festival, run by the Utah Film Center, as well as a Senior Programmer at Outfest Los Angeles and a programmer at Palm Springs Shorts Fest. Ash is a 2021 Project Involve Fellow on Film Independent's programming track and has also been involved in programming NewFest NY, Sun Valley Film Festival, Overlook Film Festival and AFI Fest and worked in production at ABC, Msnng Peces and The Annoyance Theater. Ash is originally from Philadelphia, PA and holds a dual degree in Film & English from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Angel Melanson

Angel Melanson is FANGORIA's Digital Editor and has been roaming the earth for centuries in search of cheeseburgers and the best horror movies humanity has to offer. She's usually doused in blood which can get a bit messy, but hey, it's a living.

Film stills and festival artwork available to download at www.overlookfilmfest.com/press

To keep up to date with The Overlook Film Festival, visit overlookfilmfest.com.

2023 Overlook Film Festival sponsors include PREMIERE SPONSORS Kickstarter, Academy of Magical Arts, XYZ Films; SIGNATURE SPONSORS Dark Sky Films, MUBI, Louisiana Entertainment; PATRON SPONSORS Boutique Du Vampyre, Dark Star Pictures, Fotokem, Film New Orleans, Magnet Releasing, SagIndie, Morty, New Orleans Vampire Cafe; EVENT SPONSORS Cottage Magick, Daily Dead, FANGORIA, Museum Of Home Video ; VENUE SPONSORS Prytania Theatres, Courtyard Brewery, Toulouse Theatre, The Howlin' Wolf. Additional sponsors can be found on our website.

Follow us on Social Media

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/OverlookFilmFestival/>

Twitter – [@TheOverlookFest](https://twitter.com/TheOverlookFest)

Instagram – [@OverlookFilmFest](https://www.instagram.com/OverlookFilmFest)

Join the conversation using this hashtag: **#OverlookFilmFestival**

About The Overlook Film Festival

The Overlook Film Festival is a 4-day celebration of all things horror held in haunted, historic & iconic venues throughout New Orleans. Presenting superior film programming with an expanded focus on experiential events, the festival showcases exciting work in new and classic horror cinema alongside the latest in interactive and live shows for a fully immersive weekend. As a summer camp for genre fans, The Overlook is a community event bringing the best of horror storytelling to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience within an intimate and inspirational environment. Evoking the spirit of the Overlook hotel, horror's most infamous fictional haunt, the 2023 Overlook Film Festival runs from March 30 - April 2, headquartered at the Prytania Theatres at Canal Place in Downtown New Orleans with additional screenings at Prytania Theatres Uptown. The festival advisory board includes Joe Dante (Filmmaker – *Gremlins*, *The Howling*), Karyn Kusama (Filmmaker – *Jennifer's Body*, *The Invitation*), Ryan Turek (VP of Feature Film Development, Blumhouse Productions), Leigh Whannell (Actor / Writer / Filmmaker – *Saw*, *Insidious*), Diana Williams (CEO & Co-Founder, Kinetic Energy Entertainment), Elijah Wood (Founding Partner, SpectreVision) and more.