

ELEAMOR



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a horror feature screenplay by Jim Eshom & Matt DeNoto

LOGLINE: When a group of college kids break into their town's infamous Murder House to party, they fall victim to the semi-feral woman living in its walls.

SYNOPSIS: Everyone in town knows the story of the Murder House, where 20 years ago home invaders brutally slaughtered an entire family. Only the youngest daughter, four-year-old ELEANOR, was never accounted for. These days, the empty house has gained a reputation for odd occurrences, like the regular disappearance of neighborhood pets.

Which is exactly why JEN, BRIAN and their friends break into it to party. Jen wants Brian to loosen up to make sure they enjoy their summer back from college. The booze flows, games are played, they're having a great time.

But watching them is Eleanor, who has been living like a feral, malnourished animal inside the walls of the house ever since that fateful night two decades ago. Now, seeing another set of invaders break into her home, she starts having flashbacks to the night her family died. Just seeing the parties makes Eleanor growl with rage, except for Brian, who she seems to fixate on in a different way.

One couple sneaks off to a bedroom to fool around. Eleanor watches through a heating grate, flashing back to when her sister was raped in that very bed by one of the home invaders. Eleanor sneaks in and draws her jagged fingernails across the boy's throat, opening his jugular vein. The girl, freaking out, smacks Eleanor, who responds viciously. And so the evening goes. As the friends explore the house, they get taken out by the childlike, animalistic Eleanor. The annoying girl gets a face full of nails; the gay nerds get stabbed; the German Shepherd gets its brains eaten. Eleanor displays no mercy, except to Brian, who is instead kidnapped and taken to Eleanor's lair in the attic. By the time the others figure out something strange is going on, only Jen is able to escape. She runs across the street and the cops are called.

Along with Brian's father STAN, a few deputies head back into the house to track down Eleanor and see who they can save. They instead discover that Eleanor has posed the corpses of her victims in grotesque tableaux matching old family pictures. Eleanor attacks, taking them all out in a vicious, kinetic fight. Jen rushes back in, having realized who Eleanor is. She calls Eleanor by name and tells her to stop being bad. Eleanor rushes up to the attic, and Jen follows. Jen breaks in and frees Brian. Jen seems to be getting through to Eleanor, but Brian won't forgive her for what she's done. He sets Eleanor on fire and escapes the flaming house with Jen.

As the sun rises and the fire department sifts through the ashes of the Murder House, we see that a small, charred figure has escaped into the backyard's treehouse, and that she is clearly still obsessed with Brian.

REFERENCES: SLUMBER PARTY MASSACRE, ORPHAN, SCREAM, HELL NIGHT, THE COLLECTOR

WRITERS' STATEMENT: From FRIDAY THE 13TH to HATCHET, the slasher genre has delighted fans of horror for over three decades, including ELEANOR's writers. Its unique blend of humor, scares, gore, and noteworthy antagonists has carved out a niche in film for producers looking for a dependable return on their investment, as well as franchise opportunities. But a recent dearth of quality slashers, along with a change in tone overtaking the rest of the horror genre, has left a vacuum that ELEANOR is perfectly poised to fill.

Twenty years ago, SCREAM reinvigorated the slasher genre with its clever, self-aware humor and iconic 'Ghostface' villain. But since then, horror films have become darker and more serious in tone. Recent franchises like SAW, INSIDIOUS, THE CONJURING, and PARANORMAL ACTIVITY have lost the sense of fun that permeated the slashers of the 80s. Though much of the humor may have been unintentional, those 80s slashers established a light-heartedness that, when combined with the sometimes over-the-top gore, gives an endearing charm to films that revel in acts of violent depravity. ELEANOR aims to recapture that tone through its likable characters, genuine (not campy) humor, and shocking plot twists.

Slashers have brought us unforgettable villains such as Jason Vorhees, Mike Meyers, Freddy Kruger, and Chucky the doll. What's missing? A female! (Even the 'female' killer in SLEEPAWAY CAMP turned out to be a boy.) ELEANOR presents the opportunity to establish a new name in the annals of horror history; a monster for the 21st century. Female horror fans (and make no mistake, there are plenty of them) yearn for better representation, and will come out in droves to support a girl who is every bit as brutal as the classic slasher foes. But our story goes even farther in breaking tired cliches. We also have a female hero and a male 'damsel-in-distress'. These simple (yet all too rare) tweaks to the formula generate positive press for projects willing to take chances. (See also: the all-female production team of the new Broadway hit WAITRESS, or the upcoming all-female-directed horror anthology XX.)

An original take on a beloved genre, ELEANOR takes the best elements of the slasher and updates them for modern audiences. Written to be made with a modest budget, with an open-ended conclusion that sets up possible sequels, ELEANOR is a great opportunity to make exactly the kind of film horror fans have been waiting for.

DREAM DIRECTORS

David Robert Mitchell
IT FOLLOWS

Julia Ducournau
RAW

Christopher Landon
SCOUTS GUIDE TO THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE, PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE MARKED ONES

The Soska Sisters
SEE NO EVIL 2, AMERICAN MARY

DREAM CAST

'JEN'

Zoey Deutch



WHY HIM?
DIRTY GRANDPA
VAMPIRE ACADEMY
imdb.com/name/nm3614913

Lucy Hale



PRETTY LITTLE LIARS
HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER
SCREAM 4
imdb.com/name/nm1423955

Arden Cho



TEEN WOLF
HAWAII FIVE-0
RIZZOLI & ISLES
imdb.com/name/nm3036914

'BRIAN'

Dylan O'Brien



TEEN WOLF
DEEPWATER HORIZON
THE MAZE RUNNER
imdb.com/name/nm3729721

Keiynan Lonsdale



THE FLASH
ALLEGIANT
THE FINEST HOURS
imdb.com/name/nm2920533

Lucas Till



MacGYVER
X-MEN: APOCALYPSE
STOKER
imdb.com/name/nm1395771

'ELEANOR'

Jonica Patella



A slasher flick is only as good as its slasher. Jim & Matt have known Jonica for over a decade, through her countless performances at Zombie Joe's Underground Theatre, which specializes in dark, macabre works of art. Tiny, ageless and fearless, Jonica was part of the inspiration for the character of Eleanor, and you will not find a more perfect actor for the part.

The supporting adult roles provide an excellent opportunity to cast staples of the horror genre. They are easily gender-swapped, so here is an overview of the kinds of faces horror fans would be excited to see.



Bruce Campbell



Jamie Lee Curtis



Robert Englund



Linda Blair



Tony Todd



Heather Langenkamp



Bill Mosley



Dee Wallace



Tom Savini



Neve Campbell



Kane Hodder



Caroline Williams