

The midnight section of Cinematik is back, presenting independent horror films by Larry Fessenden

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One of the most sought-after sections of the Cinematik IFF is the "midnight section" called Beyond the Cult. After last year's break, the 16th Cinematik Festival will present the work of American independent filmmaker Larry Fessenden.

Larry Fessenden (born 1963, New York) is a real Renaissance man of independent film - a screenwriter, editor, cameraman, director, actor and musician in one person. Since 1985, he has also supported talented young filmmakers such as Kelly Reichardt, Ti West, Jim Mickle and Adam Wingard in his production company Glass Eye Pix. Cinematik will present Larry Fessenden primarily as a director via six of his feature films.

Since childhood, Fessenden was fascinated by classic horror characters such as Frankenstein's monster and Dracula. In his work, he draws on these archetypes, which he skillfully inserts into contemporary everyday life.

No Telling (1991) is the story of a surgeon who comes to the countryside to do animal experiments as a part of a secret program. He hides the content of his work from his own wife, who only gradually finds out what a monster her husband has become over the process of chasing scientific success. Fessenden's latest film, ***Depraved*** (2019), also has a Frankenstein theme. The main character is a brilliant surgeon who revived a dead comrade during his service in Afghanistan. He continues with terrifying scientific experiments even after returning home: He creates the homunculus Adam, to whom he breathes life.

The main character of ***Habit*** (1995) is the alcoholic Sam (played by Fessenden himself), who, after the break-up with his girlfriend and the death of his father, finds solace in the arms of a mysterious woman. However, the wild relationship and deepening dependence leads him further and further away from reality, into the dark world between dusk and dawn. In ***Beneath*** (2013), six classmates go to a lake emblazoned with legends about a huge carnivorous fish which, of course, soon shows up.

The attacks of this predator, however, are only a catalyst for the transformation of young main characters - they become real monsters under pressure...

In **Wendigo** (2001), the family of photographer George travels to the snowy countryside to take a break from the busy city. However, the idyll dissolves when they knock down a deer along the way, angering the local hunter. **The Last Winter** (2006), an ecological horror film set in Alaska, also takes the viewer into the white wasteland, where an oil company accidentally causes an awakening of a sleeping dark force.

The seventh "bonus" in Larry Fessenden's profile section is Glenn McQuaid's horror comedy **I Sell the Dead** (2008). Fessenden played a grave robber who one night bounces on a living corpse with a wooden stick in his heart. Instead of fear, however, he will feel excitement and a great business opportunity.

Accreditations for the 16th year of the International Film Festival Cinematik are on sale on the official website of the festival www.cinematik.sk.

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