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CHURCH HILL PICTURES
electronic press kit

Shadow of
THE UNNAMABLE

a film by *Sascha Alexander Renninger*

www.the-unnamable.com



The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind
is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind
of fear is fear of the unknown.

H.P. LOVECRAFT



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New England in the late 1920ties. The two friends Randolph Carter and Joel Manton spend a sunny autumn afternoon on an old far off 17th century cemetery. An argument arises, concerning the horror stories written by Carter. Especially one story draws Manton`s sarcasm: The Unnamable...

Encouraged by the atmosphere of the old burial ground Carter tells his friend about the origin of that novel. He claims it to be based on a more than 200 years old local legend. Manton listens with increasing fascination, while darkness descends on the cemetery. And suddenly both of them become part of the legend as well...



SHORT SYNOPSIS

New England in the late 1920s. The two friends Randolph Carter and Joel Manton spend a sunny autumn afternoon on an old far off 17th century cemetery. An argument arises, concerning the horror stories written by Carter. Especially one story draws Manton's sarcasm. It's centered around a creature so horrifying, that it cannot be named or described: the Unnamable...



Manton, as a schoolteacher and firm believer in science, can't imagine anything could be truly unnamable. Encouraged by the atmosphere of the old burial ground Carter tells his friend about the origin of that novel. He claims it to be based on a more than 200 years old local legend.



A legend about a strange old man, who was rumored to have a terrible creature locked up in his attic. Manton listens with increasing fascination, as darkness descends on the cemetery. And suddenly they become part of the legend as well...

FULL SYNOPSIS

Weeks later, both men meet again at a city hospital. While Manton desperately tries to remember what happened that night, stormclouds gather over the hospital...

Cast

Joel Manton:

Jeff Motherhead

Randolph Carter:

Robert Lyons

nurse 1:

Nina Kasper

judge:

Matthias Hahn

doctor:

Matthias Hahn

hunchback:

Erich Kunkel

shootist in parsonage:

Markus Grimm

clergyman:

Frank Müller

nurse 2:

Stephanie Krug

Shadow of the Unnamable

Germany, 2011, Color

running time: 16 minutes

aspect ratio: 16:9

language: english

sound: PCM stereo

screening format: DCP

BLURAY

Crew

writer, director & producer:

Sascha Renninger

co producer:

Wilfried E. Keil

co producer:

Martin Jaehnert

co producer:

Roger Leuenberger

director of photography:

Wilfried E. Keil

music / sound design:

**Andreas Meyer
(Forma Tadre)**

editing:

**Sascha Renninger
Florian Eisner**

color grading:

**Andreas Brückl
Sascha Renninger**

production design:

Sascha Renninger

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BLURAY

From the first time Sascha read the short story "The Unnamable" by the American author H.P. Lovecraft, he was hooked.

„I wanted to bring the images and impressions to the screen, that I had every time I read it. I love the surreal setting and thought it should be turned into a movie.“

The film is a very faithful adaptation. However, certain events that the short only hints at are more fleshed out in the movie to equal the impressions Sascha had when he read the story.

In the tradition of classic movies like "The Haunting" and "The Innocents" the idea was to create tension for the viewer by slowly building up an atmosphere of approaching doom. Since an old graveyard is the main setting of the film, a lot of time was spent designing and building the necessary props. Overall 50 artefacts were created, gravestones, tombs, monuments and a statue. Most of the designs are based on real tombs and gravestones from the seventeenth century.

When Sascha met Wilfried E. Keil, he knew he had found the right DoP for the project. Wilfried also took on the task of co-producing the film. It was decided to shoot on Super 16mm filmstock, to attain a classic film look, with deep shadow areas and bright colors.

MAKING OF



For the shooting, they gathered a crew of highly motivated people from all parts of Germany. Sascha enlisted the American actors Robert Lyons and Jeff Motherhead for the leading roles. The film was shot in English to make it accessible to Lovecraft fans around the world.

After principal photography had ended, the footage was scanned in 2K resolution as a digital intermediate. As visual effects supervisor Sascha managed the digital postproduction. Being a low budget project, it took a lot of time to finish the more than one hundred visual effects. They were done by professionals, many of them working at renowned German visual effects companies.

Composer Andreas Mayer did the music and a lot of the sound design. He is a big fan and released several albums with Lovecraft themed music tracks and soundscapes under the project name „Forma Tadre“. On „Shadow of the Unnamable“ he created a haunting mix of simple melancholic melodies and experimental soundscapes.

It was a long journey, but now the UNNAMABLE finally haunts the screens of film festivals all around the world.

At the world premiere, at the H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival in Los Angeles, the film won its first festival prize:

Best Short Lovecraft Adaptation
2011 H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival®

Sascha Alexander Renninger

He graduated from the university of applied sciences in Würzburg with a diploma in communication design. His main focus was animation and experimental film.

He has been working for twelve years in the film industry, as production assistant and as storyboard artist. For six years he worked as production coordinator at Naumann Film GmbH. During that time he worked worldwide on a plethora of national and international commercials and corporate films.

He also worked as assistant to the production designer on the motion picture „Beyond the limits“ (directed by Olaf Ittenbach) and a Korean TV series.

Sascha has plans for a second and maybe a third Lovecraft adaptation. He has already picked the stories and wrote the treatments and is currently working on the first storyboards and concept drawings.

„Doing this movie was sometimes a nightmare, but in the end it's a dream come true. I hope a lot of people will enjoy our film!“



BIOGRAPHY

SASCHA ALEXANDER
RENNINGER

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION SHORTFILMS & MOVIES)

2011	„Shadow of the Unnamable“	short film: director, producer, production designer
2008	„Der Yalu fließt“	TV-movie: production design
2002	„Beyond the limits“	motion picture: production design
2002	„Fenster der Zeit“	music video: director
2001	„Der Elchtest“	short film: director
2001	„An die Musik“	experimental video: director, dop
1999	„Der Brief“	short film: director
1999	„Two tough guys“	animation: director
1998	„Zap!“	short film: director
1997	„38“	short film: director
1996	„Visions“	short film: director

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION COMMERCIALS & CORPORATE FILMS)

2009	Liebherr, mehrere Drehs	corporate film: production
2009	BZgA: Richtig niesen. Richtig husten.	TV commercial: production, production design
2009	BZgA: Kenn Dein Limit	TV commercial: production
2008	Liebherr, mehrere Drehs	corporate film: production
2008	Zukunftsagentur Berlin-Brandenburg	TV commercial: production
2007	PricewaterhouseCoopers: Dimension	corporate film: production
2007	Fujitsu Siemens: Street Crossing	TV commercial: production, production design
2007	MAN: V8 Trailer	TV commercial: production
2007	MAN: TGX in Action	corporate film: production
2007	Elektrohandwerke: e-Markenfilm	corporate film: production
2007	Max-Planck-Institut: Fusion 2100	corporate film: production, production design
2007	Erdinger Weißbier: Wir beim Erdinger	TV commercial: production, production design
2007	BZgA: Beleidigte Kondome	TV commercial: production, production design
2006	Asiana Airlines: Masterpiece	TV commercial: production, production design
2006	Lupse+Lupse	corporate film: production
2005	Erdinger Alkoholfrei	TV commercial: production
2005	MAN: MAN in Action	corporate film: production
2005	MAN: Mobility	TV commercial: production
2005	Erdinger Weißbier	TV commercial: production
2005	SWM: Poker	TV commercial: production
2004	Alpina-BMW: Roadster S / B7	TV commercial: production
2004	Exquisa: Babyjogger	TV commercial: production, video operator
2004	Fujitsu Siemens: Glider	corporate film: production, grip

Wilfried E. Keil

Wilfried E. Keil graduated as Film- und Fernsehwirt (business administration in film and television industry), at the Werbe- und Medienakademie Marquardt (WAM) in Dortmund. The broad range of study subjects contained all relevant topics of the film and television industry. His personal focus was in the areas of camera and film production.

Thereafter he studied art history, philosophy and classical archaeology in Munich.

Since 2002 he is active in the film industry mainly as director of photography and electrician. For several short films he worked as both director of photography and co-producer, so he had enough time in advance for planning the camera activity together with the directors.

Although open for modern techniques with their various possibilities a personal focus in his work is based on approved traditional film making for example shooting on film material. He also develops his own photographic films and works as a photographer of architecture and sculpture also using medium format equipment.

The aim is to find the right material and workflow for a project: for the "Shadow of the unnamable" the advantages of modern analogue and digital techniques were used and combined to obtain the best possible end-product.



BIOGRAPHY

WILFRIED E. KEIL

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

2011	„Shadow of the Unnamable“	short film: director of photography, co-producer
2009	Landessternwarte Heidelberg	documentary film: co-director, director of photography
2007	PricewaterhouseCoopers: Dimension	corporate film: gaffer
2007	Max-Planck-Institut: Fusion 2100	promotional film: gaffer
2006	Colloseum: VIB-Collection	TV commercial: electrician
2004	Alpina-BMW: Roadster S / B7	TV commercial: electrician
2004	Poison (Trailer)	promotional film: 3rd unit cameraman
2003	If	short film: assistant cameraman
2003	Exil	short film: electrician
2003	C`est la vie	short film: electrician
2003	Sahar	short film: director of photography
2002	Espresso	short film: director of photography, co-producer
2002	Mantis Religiosa	short film: gaffer
2002	„Beyond the limits“	motion picture: electrician
2001	Frontloop: Realize	music video: director of photography
2001	Das Klassentreffen	short film: grip
2001	Blue Hope	short film: director of photography, co-producer
2000	VS.	short film: director of photography, co-producer

Howard Phillips Lovecraft was born 1890 in Providence/Rhode Island, where he also died in 1937. During his lifetime he was only known to a small fan base who followed his publishings in pulp magazines like weird tales.

Today he is considered, along E.A. Poe, to be America`s most influential writer of classic weird fantasy and horror.

His sinister visions are still a popcultural phenomenon and his stories, poems, essays and letters have been translated into more than 15 languages and are read around the world.

The movie industry discovered Lovecraft rather late. Still, there have been several filmic adaptations over the years. Apart from a few exceptions those adaptations don`t even come close to do the atmosphere of the source material justice.

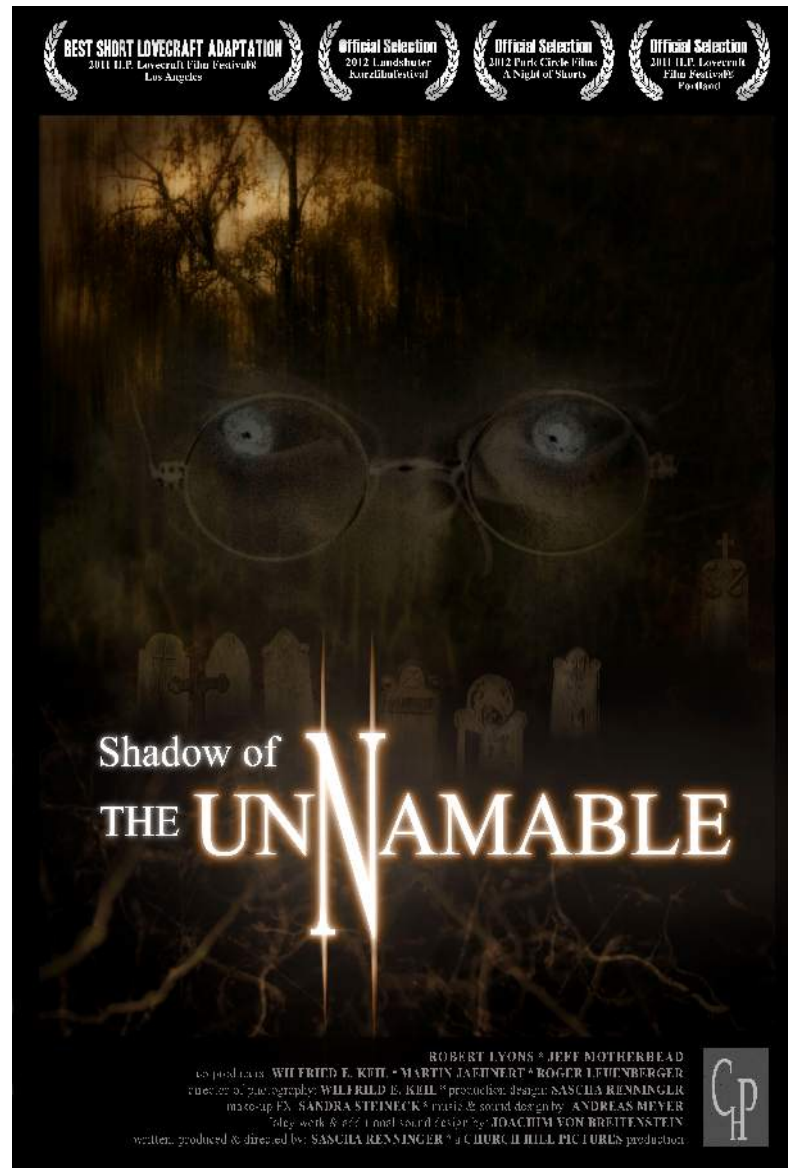
The main element in Lovecraft`s literary style is creating a diffuse premonition of approaching and inevitable doom.

The feedback from countless websites around the world is univocal: the fans want authentic, stylish and professional filmic adaptations.

Church Hill Pictures aims to produce exactly those kind of movies.



H.P. LOVECRAFT
MASTER
OF
HORROR



POSTER

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