

SINISTER CINEMA

PART VII

**NIGHT OF
THE 90S**

**2025 HORROR
FILM FESTIVAL**

**CURATED BY
TREVOR ALMY**

SINISTER VIDEO





FLING ON YOUR FLANNEL, SLINK INTO YOUR BAGGY JEANS, AND SLIDE ON YOUR AIRWALKS. ON A FALL FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE 90S, THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE TO BE. BUSTLE THROUGH THE DOORS OF YOUR LOCAL BLOCKBUSTER TO FIND IT EERIE IN ITS EMPTINESS. FUMBLING TOWARD THE EXIT, YOU RATTLE THE HANDLE TO A LOCKED DOOR. STUMBLE THROUGH THE SHELVES TO THE HORROR SECTION WHERE A STACK OF FILMS TEETER. THESE ARE NO DIRECT-TO-VIDEOS THAT SPARE YOU THE SCARES. POP IN THE FIRST TAPE. PENNYWISE PROWLs FROM THE STORM DRAIN. CANDYMAN CALLS FROM BEYOND THE MIRROR. LELAND LINGERS BEHIND THE COUNTER. CLING TO YOUR CHOKER. DROWN OUT THE SCREAMS WITH YOUR DISCMAN ONLY TO FIND THAT IT SPINS IN SILENCE. CLUTCH THE CORDLESS TO YOUR EAR, AND GHOSTFACE RASPS, "DO YOU LIKE SCARY MOVIES?" THE RECEIVER CLICKS; THERE IS NO TONE.

FOR SINISTER CINEMA: PART VII, WE ARE TRAPPED AT A RENTAL STORE FOR A NIGHT OF THE 90S. IF YOU SNEAK OFF TO THE BATHROOM, REMEMBER RANDY'S RULE FROM SCREAM (1996), AND DON'T SAY "I'LL BE RIGHT BACK" BECAUSE YOU WON'T.

IN THE AGE OF METAFICTIONAL COMMENTARY AND TECHNOLOGICAL ANXIETY, POSTMODERN NARRATIVES BLUR THE LINE BETWEEN FICTION AND REALITY. MOVIES OF HEIGHTENED SELF-AWARENESS SATIRIZE THE MEDIA SATURATION AND MORAL PANIC OF THE DECADE AS WELL AS INVITE THE VIEWER TO ANTICIPATE A FORMULA THAT THE DIRECTOR CAN EITHER FULFILL OR SUBVERT. THE TRANSITION FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL SIGNIFIES THE EROSION OF EMBODIED PARTICIPATION, REPLACING THE TACTILE WITH THE ABSTRACT. THE 90S ARE A LIMINAL PERIOD THOUGH, AND—FOR ONE MORE NIGHT AT LEAST—PRESENCE PREVAILS OVER PROXY. SHARED SPACES, LIKE OUR VIDEO STORE, ARE NOT SHUTTERED YET. STARE AT THE BEIGE DESKTOP COMPUTER, THUMPING THE MOUSE IN DESPERATION TO LOG ONTO THE INTERNET, BUT THE SERVICE LAGS.

IN SHORT, THE CHIRP AND PING OF THE DIALUP MODEM WARBLER AND WHINES, AND IT IS NOT CONNECTING YOU WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

TO SURVIVE THE NIGHT, CONGREGATE WITH THE OTHER KIDS OF DERRY AND PROCESS THROUGH THE SEWERS. CHANT THE SURSUM CORDA INSTEAD OF THE NAME OF CANDYMAN. INTONE THE APOSTLE'S CREED, BUFFETING YOU FROM THE WORDS OF SUTTER CANE. SADAKO SLITHERS THROUGH THE TELEVISION. THE FISHERMAN RAKES THE WALL WITH HIS HOOK. THE BLAIR WITCH SNAPS TWIGS AND SKITTERS ROCKS. AS THE SUN EMERGES TO A NEW DAY AND A NEW MILLENNIUM WHILE THE FINAL REEL OF TERROR FLICKERS, SIP THE CUP OF THE EUCHARIST RATHER THAN DRAIN THE DREGS OF Y2K PARANOIA.



THE RULES

THE VIEWER MAY WATCH THE
FILMS ON ANY DAY THEY CHOOSE
BUT FORM MATTERS.

THE ORDER OF THIS RITUAL
MUST BE OBSERVED IF THE
PARTICIPANT IS TO BE THE
FINAL GIRL (OR GUY).

AS YOU TOUR THE DECADE
OF GOTH AND GRUNGE,
REMEMBER THE RULE:

YOU KNOW YOU ARE IN A
HORROR MOVIE. AWARE
OF THE TROPES, STAY
OUT OF THE BASEMENT.
FIND FRIENDS AND
DON'T SPLIT UP.

IGNORE THE CAR AND
FLEE ON FOOT. YOU
KNOW IT WAS NEVER
GOING TO START.



THE LITURGY





**“LET GO. BE AFRAID. YOU ALL
TASTE SO MUCH BETTER WHEN
YOU’RE AFRAID”**



1990



IN 1960, SEVEN PRETEEN
OUTCASTS FIGHT AN EVIL
DEMON THAT POSES AS A
CHILD-KILLING CLOWN.
THIRTY YEARS LATER, THEY
REUNITE TO STOP THE DEMON
ONCE AND FOR ALL WHEN IT
RETURNS TO THEIR
HOMETOWN.

DIRECTOR
TOMMY LEE WALLACE



67%

Tomatometer



64%

Popcornmeter

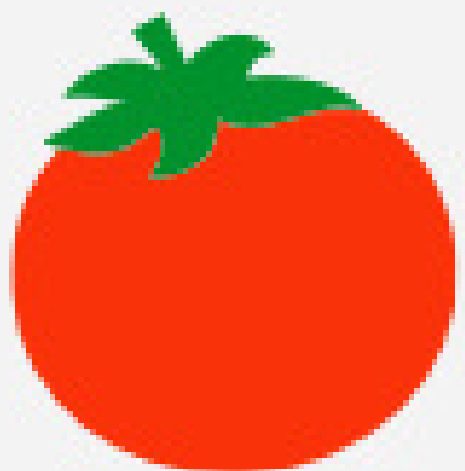
1991

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER JIM NORMAN RELUCTANTLY RETURNS TO HIS HOMETOWN TO PURSUE A JOB. JIM IS HAUNTED BY THE CHILDHOOD MEMORY. WHEN HIS STUDENTS START DYING OFF, JIM BECOMES THE PRIME SUSPECT.



DIRECTOR
TOM MCLOUGHLIN

"TIME TO ROCK, JOCK!"



67%

Tomatometer



61%

Popcornmeter

1992

SKEPTICAL GRADUATE STUDENT HELEN LYLE LEARNS ABOUT THE CANDYMAN, A KNIFE-WIELDING FIGURE OF URBAN LEGEND THAT SOME OF HER NEIGHBORS BELIEVE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A RECENT MURDER. AFTER A MYSTERIOUS MAN MATCHING THE CANDYMAN'S DESCRIPTION BEGINS STALKING HER, HELEN COMES TO FEAR THAT THE LEGEND MAY BE ALL TOO REAL.

**DIRECTOR
BERNARD ROSE**



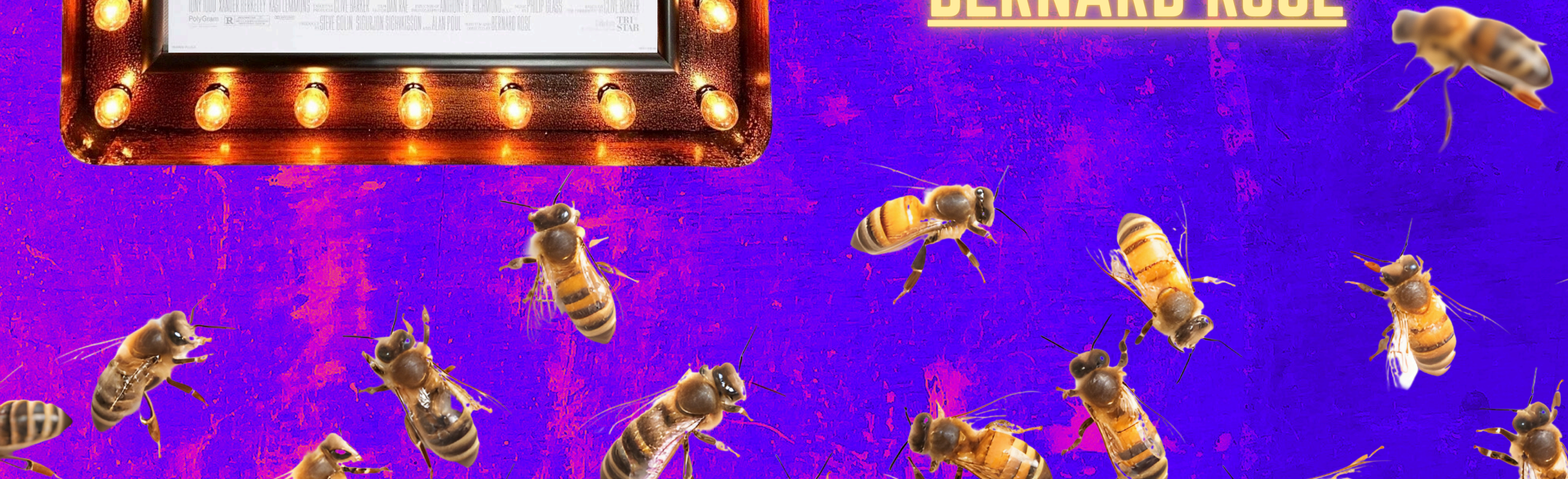
79%

Tomatometer



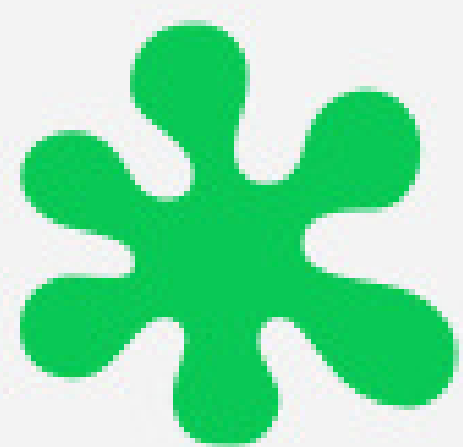
63%

Popcornmeter





100%



33%

Tomatometer



44%

Popcornmeter



DIRECTOR
FRASER C. HESTON

WHEN A CREEPY OLDER MAN NAMED LELAND GAUNT MOVES TO A SMALL TOWN IN MAINE AND SETS UP AN ANTIQUE SHOP, BAD THINGS SOON FOLLOW. GAUNT HAS THE REMARKABLE ABILITY OF SELLING PEOPLE EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT MOST, BUT HIS IDEAL PURCHASES COME AT A PRICE THAT INVOLVES MORE THAN JUST MONEY. THROUGH GAUNT'S MANIPULATION, THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN GRADUALLY TURN ON ONE ANOTHER, RESULTING IN VIOLENCE THAT SHERIFF ALAN PANGBORN STRUGGLES TO CONTAIN.

WHEN HORROR NOVELIST SUTTER CANE GOES MISSING, INSURANCE INVESTIGATOR JOHN TRENT SCRUTINIZES THE CLAIM MADE BY HIS PUBLISHER, AND ENDEAVORS TO RETRIEVE A YET-TO-BE-RELEASED MANUSCRIPT AND ASCERTAIN THE WRITER'S WHEREABOUTS. ACCOMPANIED BY THE NOVELIST'S EDITOR, LINDA, AND DISTURBED BY NIGHTMARES FROM READING CANE'S OTHER NOVELS, TRENT MAKES AN EERIE NIGHTTIME TREK TO A SUPERNATURAL TOWN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

1994



DIRECTOR
JOHN CARPENTER



59%

Tomatometer



73%

Popcornmeter

PRIVATE EYE HARRY D'AMOUR TRAVELS TO LOS ANGELES AND MEETS WITH A NEW CLIENT, DOROTHEA SWANN REVEALS THAT SHE AND HER HUSBAND, FAMED MAGICIAN PHILIP SWANN, HAVE BEEN TARGETED BY A RELIGIOUS CULT EXPERIMENTING WITH REINCARNATION. AFTER PHILIP DIES ON STAGE IN THE MIDST OF A DANGEROUS TRICK, D'AMOUR MUST STRUGGLE TO PROTECT DOROTHEA FROM THE RUTHLESS CULT MEMBERS AND THEIR NEWLY REANIMATED RELIGIOUS LEADER, NIX.



1995



54%

Tomatometer



53%

Popcornmeter



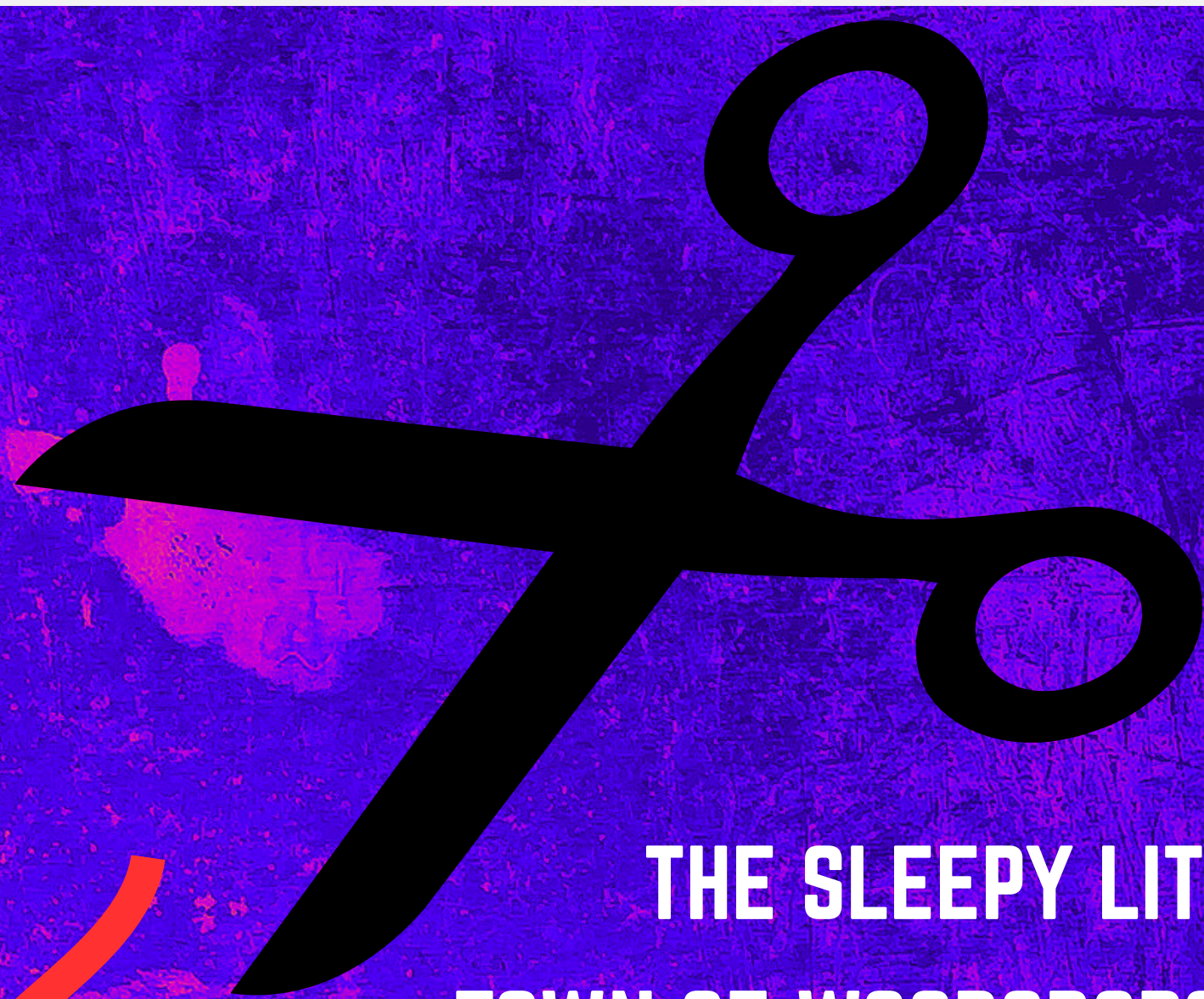
78%

Tomatometer



80%

Popcornmeter



**DIRECTOR
WES CRAVEN**

**THE SLEEPY LITTLE
TOWN OF WOODSBORO
JUST WOKE UP SCREAMING.
THERE'S A KILLER IN THEIR
MIDST WHO'S SEEN A FEW
TOO MANY SCARY MOVIES.
SUDDENLY NOBODY IS
SAFE, AS THE PSYCHOPATH
STALKS VICTIMS, TAUNTS
THEM WITH TRIVIA
QUESTIONS, THEN RIPS
THEM TO BLOODY SHREDS.
IT COULD BE
ANYBODY...**



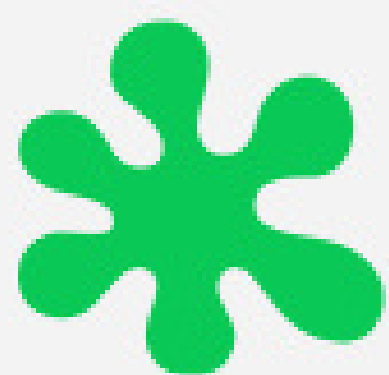
1996

1997



A YEAR AFTER RUNNING OVER A FISHERMAN AND DUMPING HIS BODY IN THE WATER, FOUR FRIENDS RECONVENE WHEN JULIE RECEIVES A FRIGHTENING LETTER TELLING HER THAT THEIR CRIME WAS SEEN. WHILE PURSUING WHO HE THINKS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LETTER, BARRY IS RUN OVER BY A MAN WITH A MEAT HOOK. THE BLOODLETING ONLY INCREASES FROM THERE, AS THE KILLER WITH THE HOOK CONTINUES TO STALK JULIE, HELEN, AND RAY

DIRECTOR
JIM GILLESPIE



46%

Tomatometer



41%

Popcornmeter



98%

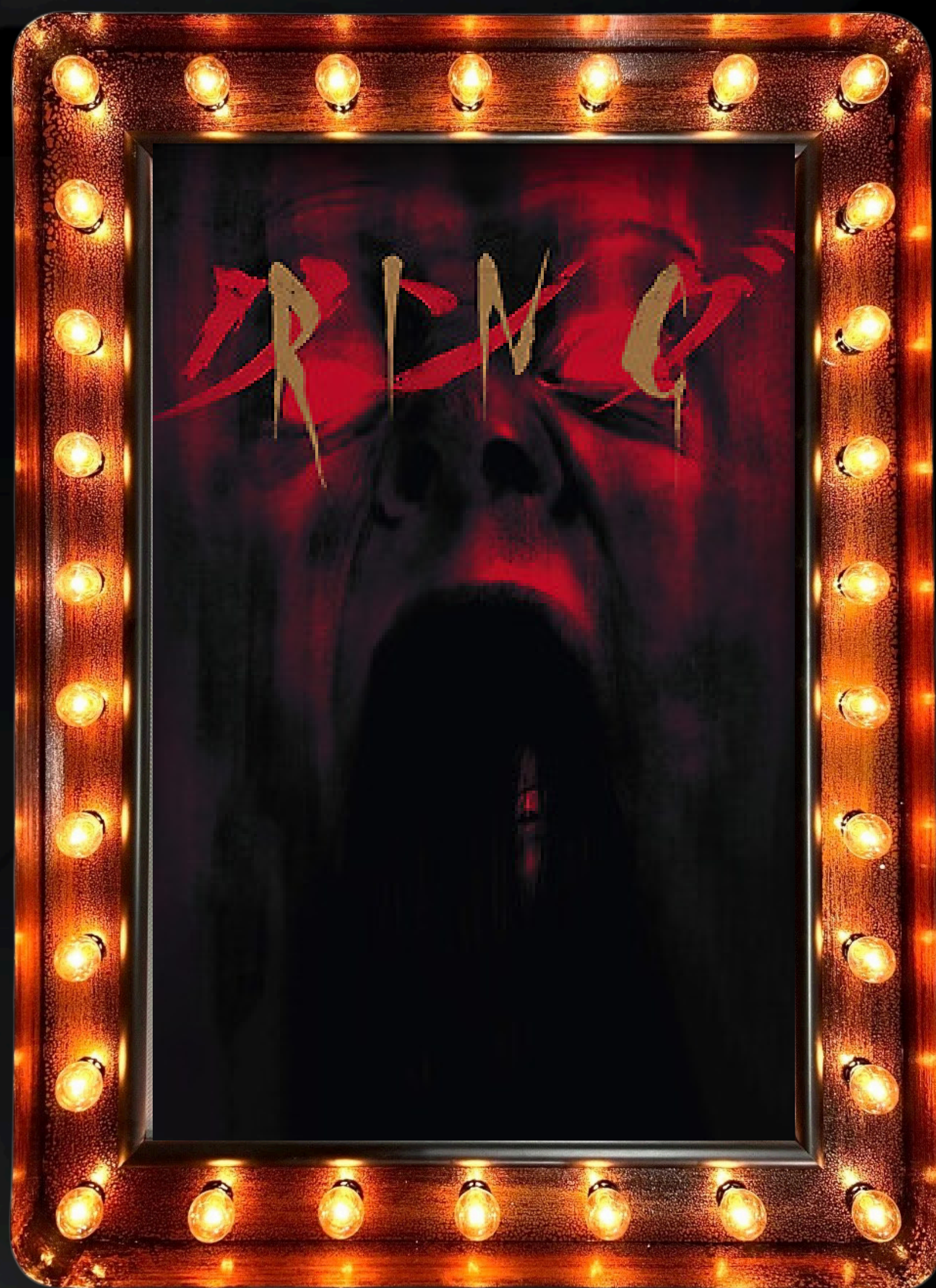
Tomatometer



81%

Popcornmeter

WHEN HER NIECE IS FOUND DEAD ALONG WITH THREE FRIENDS AFTER VIEWING A SUPPOSEDLY CURSED VIDEOTAPE, REPORTER REIKO ASAKAWA SETS OUT TO INVESTIGATE. ALONG WITH HER EX-HUSBAND, RYUJI, REIKO FINDS THE TAPE, WATCHES IT -- AND PROMPTLY RECEIVES A PHONE CALL INFORMING HER THAT SHE'LL DIE IN A WEEK. DETERMINED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CURSE, REIKO AND RYUJI DISCOVER THE VIDEO'S ORIGIN AND ATTEMPT TO SOLVE AN OLD MURDER THAT COULD BREAK THE SPELL.



DIRECTOR
HIDEO NAKATA

1998





FOUND VIDEO FOOTAGE TELLS THE TALE OF THREE FILM STUDENTS WHO'VE TRAVELED TO A SMALL TOWN TO COLLECT DOCUMENTARY FOOTAGE ABOUT THE BLAIR WITCH, A LEGENDARY LOCAL MURDERER. THE PROJECT TAKES A FRIGHTENING TURN WHEN THE STUDENTS LOSE THEIR WAY IN THE WOODS AND BEGIN HEARING HORRIFIC NOISES.

**DIRECTOR
DANIEL MYRICK,
EDUARDO SÁNCHEZ**

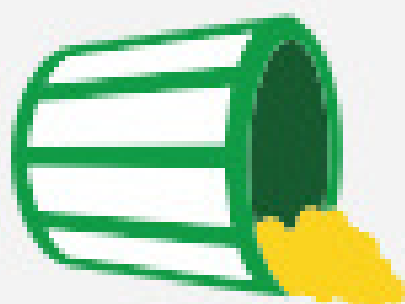
1999

MISSING



86%

Tomatometer



57%

Popcornmeter