

A person is walking away from the camera down a path in a dense forest. The scene is very dark, with a thick mist or fog that obscures the background. The trees are tall and thin, their silhouettes visible against the lighter, hazy background. The ground is covered in fallen leaves, and there is a large puddle in the foreground that reflects the person and the surrounding trees. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

# The Night Man

*"Not everything that is faced can be changed,  
but nothing can be changed until it is faced."*

**~James Baldwin**



## LOGLINE

In this horror story a strange creature threatens the residents of a small all-Black town on Founder's Day, and local handyman and good-guy Jeff Dowdy decides to take on the monster, but discovers he must also confront his own unresolved past with the beast.



## SYNOPSIS

It's Founder's Day in Eulan, Ohio and JEFF DOWDY, the town's most reliable dude, couldn't be more excited. After the mysterious disappearance of a child 25 years ago, the community has decided to celebrate its legacy once again and Jeff was integral to making that happen. But Jeff has another reason to be amped—today is also the day he plans to propose to his girlfriend LISA. However, Jeff and the town's plans come to a halt when a vicious bear attack is reported and the STATE POLICE deem Eulan unsafe until further notice.

While most of Eulan's residents take refuge in the local church, Jeff and his brother BIRD foot it to their mother JEWEL's for safety. When they stumble upon the bear attacking a good friend they realize the situation is grimmer than imagined. But it's the other things Jeff sees that alarms him more—the town's church aflame, barricaded roads. Everything feels orchestrated. Bird is the first to mention the Night Man, but Jeff ignores him. Whatever is happening, he has a fiancée and a mother to find. Monster legends are not helpful.

By the time they reunite with their mother Jewel and Lisa it's too late. Half of the town has been attacked and something they didn't expect—the creature shows up at the house and chases them into the woods. A move to make them vulnerable for attack. Luckily, MR. PICKNEY, the town's conspiracy theorist, springs out of nowhere and pulls them into his underground bunker.

It's there where he shares the secret that's haunted Eulan for 150 years—a battle over oil rights that left the white community poor and the black community well-off. The Night Man appeared soon after. Always the fix-it guy, Jeff volunteers to destroy it. But Bird doesn't think it's a good idea, nor does Jewel. The child who disappeared 25 years ago was their little brother Chris and they believe the Night Man took him.

Knowing the risks, Jeff drags along Bird into the woods to lure the creature to its demise. He owes it to his town. But in a fit of anxiety, Bird reveals a darker secret. Jeff was responsible for their brother's disappearance. That he was a jealous kid and despised the attention Chris got for being smart. That he let the Night Man take Chris because of jealousy. While Jeff is feeling the sting of truth, the Night Man sneaks up and snatches away Bird. What started out as a day of celebrating Eulan's pride and proposing to the woman he loves has become a day of redemption. Jeff realizes he must finally face his truth and kill the Night Man.





**JEFF [Sterling K. Brown]**

Good guy known for his reliability. The boy-next-door and handyman wrapped in one. The type of guy with a steady smile, but you know there's something haunting him. Beneath his charm, is a fighter and survivor.



**BIRD [Lakeith Stanfield]**

Jeff's little brother. Vulnerable small town guy beneath seemingly rough edges. Unable to hide his trauma. Often impulsive. Despite his bravado, he's a follower. He blames his brother for everything wrong in life.



**LISA [Jurnee Smollett]**

Smart, warm and has the ability to be steady even when things are bumpy. A teacher and love-interest of Jeff. She likes him but senses he's not completely available. Independent and a quiet fighter.



**MR. PICKNEY [Danny Glover]**

Eccentric. Wise. Quick-witted. Survivalist. No interest in bullshit. Big-hearted but everything translates through his actions.



**SERGEANT GRIFFITH [David Harbour]**

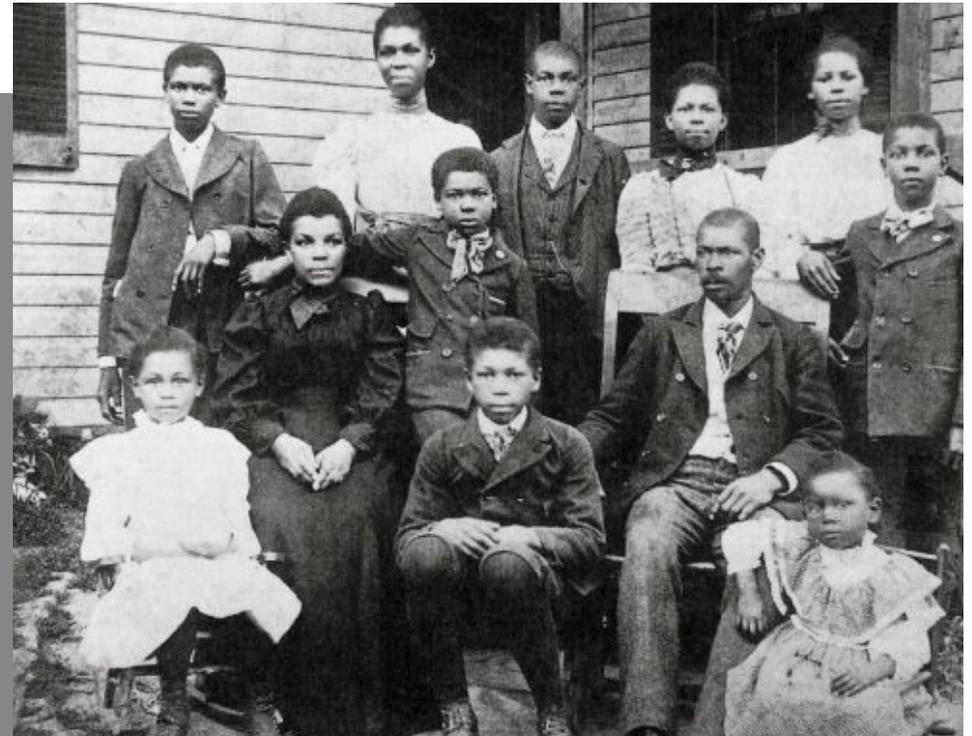
Self-assured alpha. Task master. Cares about his community. Willing to put his life on the line for his town and its legacy. Loved by all. Much smarter than he let's on.

## ARTISTIC STATEMENT

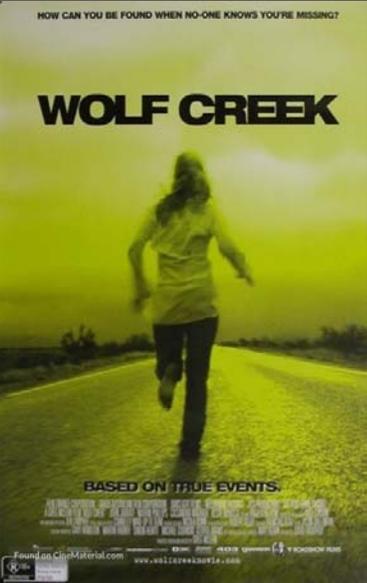
It is no secret that the real horror of society is black and brown people fighting against racism. Films like *Halloween*, *Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>* and *Cloverfield* often depict a person or society battling some monstrous creature or force, but never are black people central to those movies. Our stories of conflict are relegated to historical movies and urban dramas, but every person of color would testify that the daily assault against their humanity is the purest form of horror. That's why it's important to tell this story.

The national conversation about economics and race have increased since Trump's presidency. Racist statements like, "Why don't they go back and help fix... crime infested places from which they came" or a young man shooting at hundreds of people because of xenophobia, stirs up more contention in our society. Our country's history shows that black and brown people have often been made to feel unsafe within their own communities. From the Emanuel AME Church Massacre to the 1921 Tulsa Riots, the presence and successes of black and brown people have often been a target of hate.

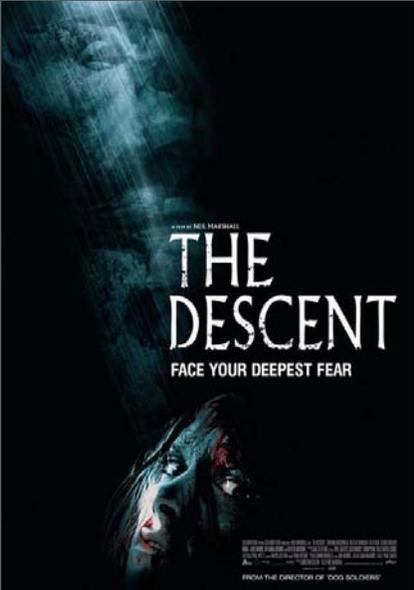
As storytellers of African descent we believe a movie like *The Night Man* can shed a light on contemporary white disdain for black success and show how a family struggles to survive despite the impact of a complicated history.



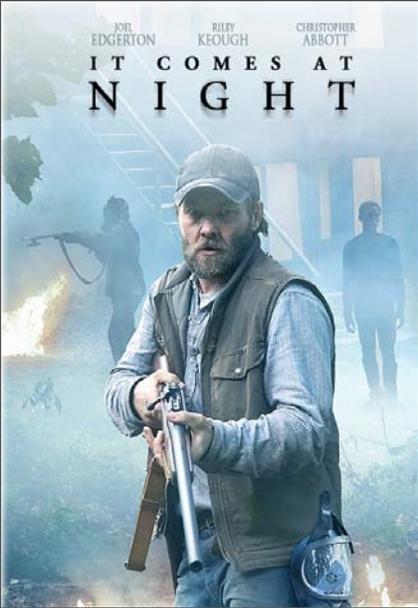
COMPARABLE FILMS



Budget: \$1M  
 WWBO: \$30.75M  
 ROI: 31%



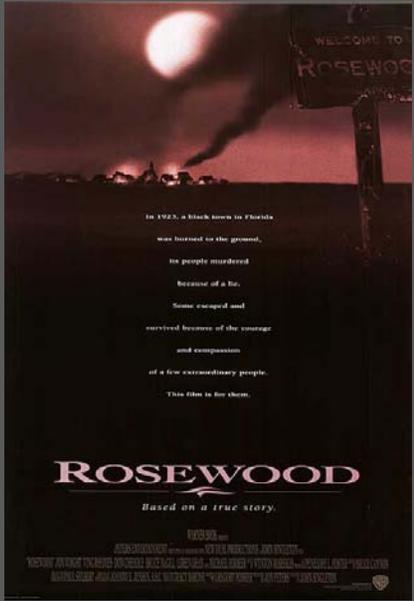
Budget: \$4.25M  
 WWBO: \$57M  
 ROI: 13.4%



Budget: \$5M  
 WWBO: \$19.25M  
 ROI: 4%



Budget: \$2.5M  
 WWBO: \$1.6M  
 Sold to Netflix for: \$4.75M  
 ROI: 3.5%



Budget: \$25M

# AUDIENCE and BOX OFFICE TRENDS

**TABLE 3: Median Box Office and Audience Demographics, by Overall Cast Diversity (2017)**

Percent Minority	N Films	Global Box (000,000s)	White Share	Black Share	Latino Share	Asian Share
<11%	48	\$40.9	64.3%	9.8%	16.9%	9.0%
11%-20%	38	\$57.2	60.4%	11.2%	19.7%	8.7%
21%-30%	32	\$74.3	57.4%	13.1%	19.5%	10.1%
31%-40%	17	\$169.8	53.5%	15.1%	21.0%	10.4%
41%-50%	17	\$61.6	49.0%	18.9%	23.7%	8.5%
Over 50%	15	\$123.1	38.7%	24.6%	27.0%	9.8%



Movies with casts that were less than 11 percent minority made up a plurality of all movies in 2017 and had the lowest median global box office



## Box Office Performance for Horror Movies in 2019

Summary for all Years

Rank	Movie	Release Date	Theatrical Distributor	MPAA Rating	2019 Gross	Tickets Sold
1	Annabelle Comes Home	Jun 26, 2019	Warner Bros.	R	\$72,594,382	7,968,647
2	The Curse of La Llorona	Apr 19, 2019	Warner Bros.	R	\$54,733,739	6,008,094
3	Pet Sematary	Apr 5, 2019	Paramount Pictures	R	\$54,724,696	6,007,101
4	MA	May 31, 2019	Universal	R	\$45,373,120	4,980,583
5	Scary Stories to Tell in th...	Aug 9, 2019	CBS Films	PG-13	\$42,741,841	4,691,749
6	Crawl	Jul 12, 2019	Paramount Pictures	R	\$38,663,480	4,244,070
7	Child's Play	Jun 21, 2019	Orion Pictures	R	\$29,208,403	3,206,191
8	Midsommar	Jul 3, 2019	A24	R	\$25,951,681	2,848,702
9	Hellboy	Apr 12, 2019	Lionsgate	R	\$21,903,748	2,404,363
10	BrightBurn	May 24, 2019	Sony Pictures	R	\$17,259,427	1,894,558
11	The Prodigy	Feb 8, 2019	Orion Pictures	R	\$14,856,291	1,630,767
12	The Dead Don't Die	Jun 14, 2019	Focus Features	R	\$6,563,605	720,483
13	The Church	May 24, 2019	Indican Pictures	PG-13	\$771,645	84,703
14	The Possession of Hannah Grace	Nov 30, 2018	Sony Pictures	R	\$153,478	16,847
15	Clinton Road	Jun 14, 2019	Nocturnal Features	Not Rated	\$50,400	5,532
16	Killer Unicorn	Jun 11, 2019	Indican Pictures	Not Rated	\$33,901	3,721
17	The Wind	Apr 5, 2019	IFC Midnight	R	\$28,611	3,140
18	The Witches of Dumpling Farm	Aug 9, 2019	Nocturnal Features	Not Rated	\$21,600	2,371
19	The Hole in the Ground	Feb 26, 2019	A24	R	\$21,072	2,313
20	Piercing	Feb 1, 2019	Greenwich	R	\$15,856	1,740
21	Starfish	Mar 15, 2019	Self Distributed	Not Rated	\$15,850	1,739
22	Hagazussa	Apr 19, 2019	Doppelganger Rele...	Not Rated	\$13,253	1,454
23	Made Me Do It	Apr 12, 2019	Indican Pictures	Not Rated	\$11,151	1,224
24	I'll Take Your Dead	May 7, 2019	Breakthrough Ente...	Not Rated	\$7,692	844
<b>Total Gross of All Movies</b>					<b>\$425,718,922</b>	
<b>Total Tickets Sold</b>						<b>46,730,936</b>



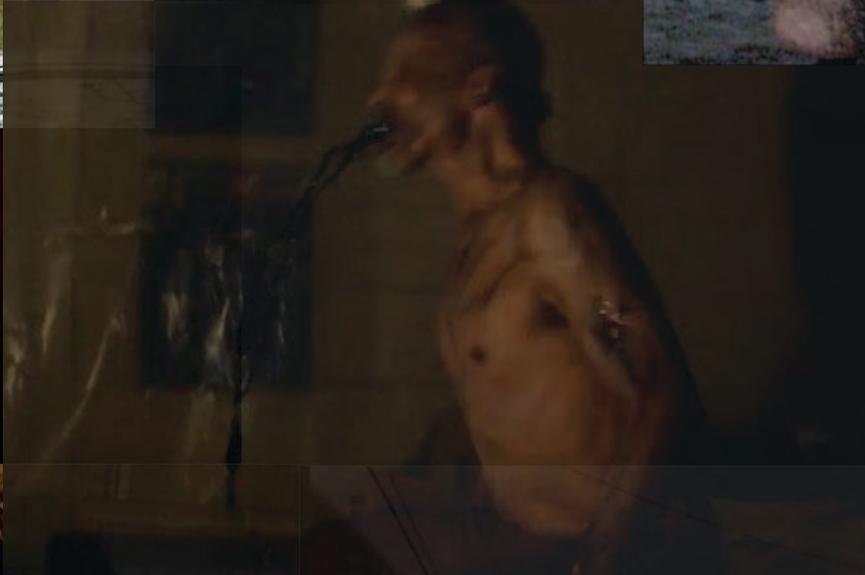
## FILMMAKER BIOS

**Keith Josef Adkins [co-writer, co-director]** is a screenwriter and a playwright. He currently writes for Netflix's new TV drama *Outer Banks* and Katori Hall's new TV drama *P-Valley* for Starz. He also wrote for *Shondaland's For The People* on ABC and CBS All-Access' *The Good Fight*. His feature script, *The Turnpike*, was a finalist at the 2016 Urbanworld Film Festival. Some of his plays include *The West End*, *The People Before The Park*, *Pitbulls*, *Safe House*, among others. Keith directed the popular sci-fi horror short, *The Abandon*, starring Sterling K. Brown [*This Is Us*]. He received his M.F.A in Playwriting from the prestigious University of Iowa Playwrights Workshop.



**DEVIN E. HAQQ [co-writer, co-director]** – IFP alumni and Semi-Finalist for the HBOAccess 2020 Directing Fellowship. His feature film, *Ambition's Debt*, won the 2017 Grand Jury Award for Best Narrative Feature at the prestigious American Black Film Festival (ABFF) and the 2018 Paul Robeson Award-Honorable Mention at the Newark Black Film Festival. *Ambition's Debt* was also selected for the prestigious 2018 Newport Beach Film Festival. Devin was also a Finalist for the 2019 SAG Indie Fellowship at Stowe Story Labs and his short horror script, *Wildin' Out*, was a Finalist in the 2019 PAGE International Screenwriting Awards Competition. He holds an MFA in Classical Theatre and Acting from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Professional Actor Training Program.







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