

WAKE THE WITCH – CONTACT INFO

Title: Wake the Witch

Production Company: Unfiltered Entertainment, Inc.
and Girl Meets Monster Productions

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Address: 1916 Sumner St., Suite 201, Lincoln, NE 68502

Distribution: Wake the Witch was distributed via Gravitass Ventures, Inc. (Video on Demand - USA/Canada/Puerto Rico) and Eagle One Media (Digital - UK/Ireland, DVD – USA/UK/Ireland) in 2010.



WAKE THE WITCH – CAST/CREW/FILM INFO

Cast:

"Deb Allen": Stefanie Tapio

"Mark Allen": Martin Kenna

"Trixie Gaize": Rachel Lien

"Karen Hall": Karis Yanike

Crew:

Director: Dorothy Booraem

Producers: Dorothy Booraem, Chad Haufschild, Andrew Johnson,
Pete Lipins

Screenwriter: Dorothy Booraem

Cinematographer: Chad Haufschild

Editor: Chad Haufschild

Composer: James Oliva

Makeup/Effects: Rose Staley

Film:

Runtime: 114 minutes

MPAA rating: unrated

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Format: HD Video

Year Production Ended: 2009

Movie Website: <http://www.wakethewitchmovie.com>



WAKE THE WITCH – SYNOPSIS

In 1910 Lincoln, Nebraska is bustling Midwestern town on the edge of nowhere. It's a friendly town. A family town. But when one child after another disappears from neighborhoods and streets and homes, the townsfolk begin to turn on each other. And when children's bodies are found in the nearby woods, hacked and torn almost beyond recognition, the town seeks justice. One night an angry mob, desperate for someone to blame, hunts down a lonely, eccentric woman nicknamed the "Witch of the Woods" by the local children. They hang her from a tree near her home at the edge of the forest, then wrap her body in chains and bury it deep in the woods. No more children are taken or killed after that night. The town is safe again. Or is it....

2010 - Lincoln, Nebraska. During a photo shoot, Deb and her friends, Karen and Trixie, stumble upon a web of chains criss-crossing the wooded "Wilderness Park" on the outskirts of Lincoln. Unknowingly, they open the door to death, literally waking the witch, when they play an innocent childhood game on her wooded grave. As the witch's curse begins to sweep across the town, Deb's brother, Mark, becomes patient zero for a strange illness. Meanwhile, unaware of the evil they have unleashed, the girls go back to the woods to find a lost cell phone. While in the woods, Trixie is infected, and Deb's world begins to fall apart. As Mark spirals deeper and deeper into the darkness, Karen and Deb are hunted by creatures that were once human but are now mindless minions driven by bloodlust. When Karen is taken by the creatures, and Deb realizes the authorities will not believe her, she turns to her friend Brent for help to undo the curse. But as the town comes under siege by the creatures, Deb realizes she must face her brother, and what he has become, alone. Her search for answers leads her back to Wilderness Park and reveals an evil beyond anything she could have imagined.

WAKE THE WITCH – CAST BIOS



Stefanie Tapio - "Deb Allen"

Stefanie fell in love with performing on the stage of Central High School in Omaha, NE. She went on to spend hundreds of hours with the Rose Theater as a student, intern, and performer. She also spent a year in San Francisco where she performed with the Exit Theater. Stefanie's film credits include *Franky Four Eyes* from Whitmore Productions, *Random* from King Penguin Productions, and *At Bat* by Andrew E. Nelson.



Martin Kenna - "Mark Allen"

Martin, an Omaha native, honed his acting skills at Millard South High School and the Omaha Community Playhouse. Martin's film credits include *Evan's America* and *ITK*, both from Skyline Entertainment Productions.



Rachel Lien - "Trixie Gaize"

Rachel was a regular onstage at the Bellevue Little Theater in Omaha, NE when she was a pre-teen. In her teens she received the Mary Peckham Award for her role in *The Miracle Worker* and Theater Arts Guild Best Youth Actress Awards for her roles in *Gypsy* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. Her recent film credits include *April Showers* by Women On Top Productions, *Barstool Cowboy* by 600films and *For Love of Amy*, directed by Ted Lange.



Karis Yanike - "Karen Hall"

Karis began her acting career in musical theater. A vocal music scholarship at Nebraska Wesleyan University brought her to Lincoln, NE. A filmmaker herself, Karis's comedy/horror short, *Treehuggers*, about drug-crazed hippies protecting a forest, premiered in Lincoln in 2007.

WAKE THE WITCH - CREW BIOS

Dorothy Booraem – Writer/Director/Producer

Dorothy is a commercial producer at Time Warner Cable. Her commercial for the Lincoln Children's Zoo won "Best in Division" and "Best in Show" at the 2006 Cable Advertising Awards. Her short, *The Deadly Bridal Shower*, starring fashion dolls, was an official selection of the 2008 Omaha Film Festival.

Chad Haufschild – Cinematographer/Editor/Producer

Chad has been involved in various capacities on over 40 short films, music videos, and industrial projects. His screenplay "The Search for Wendell" placed 4th in the 2001 Nebraska Screenplay Competition. In 2007 he completed a feature, *Declaration of Independents*, a comedy about a group of friends who are trying to make a movie.

Andy Johnson - Producer

Andrew has helped produce and complete five short films, one feature length production, and has written and produced the short, *5840 V2*, about a home that becomes self aware. Recently Andrew has turned his attention to animation and visual effects, streamlining the animation production process for high definition digital films and video games.

Pete Lipins - Producer

Pete's first feature film, *Killer*, premiered in Lincoln, NE, in June 2008. His credits in the local filmmaking community also include acting, camera work, prop creation and production design.

James Oliva – Composer

James is a Lincoln, NE native but currently attends Middle Tennessee State University, majoring in the Recording Industry. He operates a recording studio, The Music Office, and a publishing company, The Music Office Midwest, writes, records, and scores sound for film and theatre, and performs with musical groups all over Tennessee.

Rose Staley – Makeup Effects

After developing a passion for makeup in the Lincoln High School theatre department, Rose moved to Los Angeles in 2006 to work with award winning makeup artist Kenny Myers. She assisted on *Charlie Wilson's War*, the *Back to the Future* Direct TV commercial, Hugh Jackman's promotional tour for *The Prestige* and attended the Makeup Designory in Burbank, CA.

WAKE THE WITCH - PRODUCTION COMPANY BIO

Unfiltered Entertainment, Inc. (UE) began in 2006 as a privately owned Nebraska corporation with a mission to create original entertainment content for theatrical, home video, cable television, IPTV, the Internet, and mobile device distribution. Their low-budget, independent approach to creating original content and the abundance of local talent in Nebraska makes the UE production model possible.

Chad Haufschild and Andrew Johnson developed the concept for UE as a way to take their filmmaking plans to the next level. Dorothy Booraem came on board in 2007. Together, the three producers began building relationships with local consultants, advisers, actors and crew and have positioned UE to take on a variety of projects. In 2008, Greg Kubitschek joined UE. Greg has produced industrial videos, films and shorts locally and nationally and brings a wealth of experience and connections to UE's resource pool.

Unfiltered Entertainment's goal is to be a source for exciting and original stories, in the form of feature films, both live action and animation, as well as video games and graphic novels. Whether it comes in the form of a game, a film, or a graphic novel, to UE, story is everything.



WAKE THE WITCH – PRESS

[http://www.studiodaily.com/filmandvideo/currentissue/Wake-the-Witch-is-a-\\$10000-Horror-Movie_11308.html](http://www.studiodaily.com/filmandvideo/currentissue/Wake-the-Witch-is-a-$10000-Horror-Movie_11308.html)

***Wake the Witch* is a \$10,000 Horror Movie**

Shooting on the JVC GY-HD250U and Editing in Adobe Premiere Pro, There's Nothing Scary About the Budget

By Bryant Frazer

September 24, 2009 Source: Film & Video

As hard as it is to get your ideas onto the page, getting them from the page onto the screen can seem like an unattainable goal. Even if you're a smart scriptwriter who's written scenes and chosen settings that can be recreated on the cheap, the task of the independent filmmaker can seem like a daunting one. But knowledge is power, and a group of DIY movie moguls can get a very long way on several thousand dollars and a lot of goodwill.

Case in point: *Wake the Witch*, an American genre exercise influenced by Japanese horror films and executed by indie filmmakers living in Lincoln, Nebraska. Price tag? A cool \$10,000.

"We did all the research to find out how much people have been spending on independent films versus their return," explains producer/DP Chad Haufschild, one of three partners in Unfiltered Entertainment who have together made more than 20 short films and one previous feature, the Haufschild-directed *Declaration of Independents*. "Eventually we'd like to get paid to do this. None of us have to be rich and famous, but we'd like to not have day jobs. And we want enough of a return to make another one. So we basically self-financed this."

Haufschild already had lighting and grip equipment, as well as a JVC GY-HD250U HDV camcorder that he bought specifically for filmmaking. The bulk of the budget went to craft services — a form of payment for the film's crew members, who were essentially donating their time in exchange for the experience of being part of a Nebraska-based feature-film shoot. "This was the first project where we actually did full-blown auditions and talent searches," he says. "We knew from the script that we needed pretty good talent, and we found amazing talent locally. With the exception of gas money to drive in from Omaha, they donated every moment of their weekends for three months."

Photo: Chad Haufschild with the JVC GY-HD250U

Haufschild had been planning to direct a second feature, but those plans got put on hold when his Unfiltered Entertainment colleague Dorothy Booraem banged out a horror-film script that could be shot right away last fall. Pre-production

lasted about two months before the shoot began in late August, stretching into early October, with Booraem directing. The film shot in a small wooded, hiking-and-biking area near Lincoln called Wilderness Park. “You can see by the footage that it’s very wooded and untamed,” Haufschild says. “And free. Which is always a nice thing when you’re shooting a low-budget movie.” And there was no money for dedicated audio recording, so the crew took the utmost care to make sure the in-camera audio was as good as it could possibly be.

Photos: The cavern descent as it appeared on film, and as it looked during the shoot

Wilderness Park was suitable for the bulk of the film’s exteriors, and the production took advantage of interior locations that were available to it, including everything from cast member’s apartment buildings to a gymnasium that was dressed with spider-webbing and styrofoam to resemble a deep, man-made cavern at the bottom of a well. And then there’s the “witch room,” which was built in the basement of a local metal-fabrication shop where the production shot for two weekends. “We created a seven-by-10-foot wall, with a crevice broken out of it, from styrofoam and plywood,” he recalls. “We had some really good effects people paint it up to look like it belonged in the space. That’s where we got the climax of the film.”

Photo: A wall made from styrofoam and plywood

Post-production was a similarly slender affair, with Haufschild and Booraem sharing editorial duties and the third Unfiltered partner, Andrew Johnson, handling VFX work. Video and audio were both recorded straight to miniDV tape in camera, then brought into Adobe Premiere Pro using CineForm’s intermediate format for editing on built-from-scratch PC rigs. “I’d love to have gone tapeless, but quite honestly if you shoot it right and light it right, if you take it seriously, HDV can look fantastic,” Haufschild says. “And there’s nothing wrong with the .M2T files if you’re not going to do color-correcting and compositing, but you need the intermediate file format if you’re going to do that. So CineForm is a permanent part of my workflow. And because you don’t need a massively expensive computer to edit in real time, we build our own machines and save some money that way.”

The editing process was another exercise in low-budget collaboration, with Haufschild and Booraem sharing an E-SATA drive to move data back and forth. “I would do the assemblies in the first edit, and then Dorothy would do some tweaking,” he says. “It all ended up back in my lap to conform and color-grade and do all that craziness. It was a nice workflow, and we were basically editing in our free time.”

Relationships with the local arts community helped, too. Haufschild notes that two local bands contributed music for the soundtrack and local artists created some digital matte paintings and graphic-design work for promotion, marketing,

and DVD labeling. “We took promotion very seriously from the beginning,” he says. “We brought on Greg Kubitschek, one of our mentors in the film and video community here in Lincoln, as our set photographer and behind-the-scenes producer. We even had a crew member writing weekly blogs during production. Indies need to think about this stuff up front. You can’t go back and get it after the shoot is over.” Kubitschek ended up joining Unfiltered Entertainment as a lead producer.

At the time of this writing, *Wake the Witch* was missing just two VFX shots and was angling for an October premiere. That will involve a hoped-for local screening followed by the film’s immediate availability via indie-distribution hubs Filmbaby and Amazon.com. And, because the film was shot and finished in HD, he sees a Blu-ray version being available somewhere down the road.

Because this film was produced so inexpensively, Haufschild and his partners hope filmmaking can be a sustainable business – starting with the planned shoot next spring of Haufschild’s script for *Last Ride*, a production that will be influenced by classic Italian *gialli* (and maybe some American slasher movies for added flavor) just as *Wake the Witch* took some cues from J-horror. While the Unfiltered team is up-front about its goals, many indie filmmakers try to be a little cagier about money. “We’re finding that a lot of filmmakers don’t like to talk about budget,” he says. “Some people tend to correlate the amount of money with the quality of the end product. But if you take into account donations of time, props, and that kind of thing on our film, we figure it’s about a \$56,000 budget. We did it all in hard cash for 10 grand, and you couldn’t tell by looking at the movie.

“So what I think is most interesting about us, as a story, is the perception that the amount of money you spend on a project equates to the quality of the product. Slowly, people will begin to realize, especially with the returns on indie-film distribution continually going down, that’s not necessarily the case. You can spend a little bit of money on a well-written script with as much production value as you can muster and still come up with a dynamic, interesting, and entertaining piece of cinema. The picture quality is there, the audio quality is there – and the story and performances will be there, too.”

<http://www.independentfilm.com/technology/jvc-gy-hd250-independent-film.shtml>

INDEPENDENT HORROR FILM 'WAKE THE WITCH' UNLEASHES ON-SCREEN TERRORS WITH JVC GY-HD250U CAMCORDER

Written and directed by Dorothy Booraem.

By the staff of IndependentFilm.com
Published Oct 5, 2009

WAYNE, NJ (October 1, 2009) – JVC Professional Products, division of JVC U.S.A., announced today that Unfiltered Entertainment, Inc., used the JVC GY-HD250U camcorder for principal photography of *Wake the Witch*, an unrated, direct-to-DVD release that is expected to be distributed through Amazon and FilmBaby.com.

Inspired by Japanese horror, the 90-minute feature tells the tale of three friends who unwittingly release the vengeful spirit of a witch from her resting place. Written and directed by Dorothy Booraem, the low-budget film was shot on location in Wilderness Park in Lincoln, Neb., and other locations in the surrounding area last fall. Post production was completed earlier this year using a PC-based Adobe Premiere Pro NLE system.

Handheld shots were used to “amp up the energy” during some sequences, according to Chad Haufschild, producer, cinematographer, and lead editor for *Wake the Witch*. He said the compact shoulder-mount GY-HD250U was “fantastic” for the handheld shots because of its excellent balance. “Going handheld was easier compared to smaller cameras,” he explained.

Although the camcorder features a 1/3-inch bayonet mount and can accommodate a variety of lenses, Haufschild used the standard 16:1 Fujinon zoom lens that comes with the GY-HD250U to help keep the shoot on schedule. “It’s the perfect lens for this kind of project,” he said. “It gave us the depth of field we needed to pull off the composition we wanted – and helped keep the pace of the shoot fast.”

Haufschild appreciated the GY-HD250U’s built-in Focus Assist feature and color viewfinder during the shoot, and captured the action in 720p/24. “I was impressed with the image from the beginning,” he added. “When you see the image and its shot correctly, it is actually pretty fantastic.”