

LYNN LOWRY!
Schism



HIDDEN FILMS PRESENTS

LYNN LOWRY ROBERT YOUNGREN JANET TRACY KEIJSER

"SCHISM"

JASON WITTER JOSHUA NELSON POLINA GOROKHOVSKAYA EMILY GRIFFIN RONALD THOMAS AND LAUREN SUSAN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DEVON O'HARA MUSIC BY POWER SKELETON

PRODUCERS LYNN LOWRY DEREK PURTELL WRITTEN BY LYNN LOWRY DEREK PURTELL ERIKA PURTELL

DIRECTED BY DEREK PURTELL

Production Notes

Running Time: 90 minutes

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Website: www.intouchwithinsanity.com Facebook/Myspace: schismmovie

SCHISM

CAST

Linda/Betsy/Jackie/Lola..... LYNN LOWRY
Dr. Fuller..... ROBERT YOUNGREN
Anna the Agoraphobe..... JANET TRACY KEIJSER
Kent the Psychopath..... JASON WITTER
Jonathan the "Vampire"..... JOSHUA NELSON
Sally the Manic Depressive..... POLINA GOROKHOVSKAYA
Judy the Kleptomaniac..... EMILY GRIFFIN
David, Betsy's Ex..... RONALD THOMAS
Stacy the Vampire's Girlfriend..... LAUREN SUSAN
Carrie the Paranoid Schizophrenic..... RACHEL WERBEL
Sira the Prostitute..... ERIKA PURTELL
Susie the Prostitute..... SYLVA MERCEDES
Mr. Mondo..... RICK LUANDA
Barfly..... STEVE DEVITO
Bartender..... TONY GALTIERI
Crank Caller..... LLOYD KAUFMAN
Cricket the Artist..... DARCY RAE
Ted the Tourette's Sufferer..... KARL SCHWABAUER
Larry the Obsessive Compulsive..... BOB SOCCI
Beth the Suicide..... HEATHER WAGGHELSTEIN
Male Neighbor..... MIKE ZONE
Linda's Father..... RIK BILLOCK
Young Linda/Betsy/Jackie..... HAILEY SKELLEY

SCHISM **CREW**

Director..... DEREK PURTELL

Producers..... DEREK PURTELL
LYNN LOWRY

Story..... LYNN LOWRY
DEREK PURTELL

Screenplay..... ERIKA PURTELL

Director of Photography..... DEVON O'HARA

Editor..... DEREK PURTELL

Assistant Director..... ALAN HOOVER

Special Makeup Effects Supervisor..... ANTHONY JONES

Special Makeup Effects Artist..... EHREN HERTEL

Costume Designer..... PENELOPE MCSWOOTS

Set Decorator..... CHRYSTA CHANDA LEAR

Art Director..... JENNIFER FINKELSTEIN

Production Designer..... TED STECKLER

Casting..... MARYANNE FARRELL

Camera Operators..... DEVON O'HARA
DEREK PURTELL

Key Grip..... AHMED HAWARI

Grip..... KARL SCHWABAUER

Gaffer..... REBEKAH NELSON

Best Boy.....	SHAWN BARRON
Custom Camera Support.....	RICH DAMA
Graphic Designer.....	ERIC BERKOW
Website Designer.....	MONICA RUCK
Still Photographers.....	JANET TRACY KEIJSER ERIKA PURTELL
Sound Recording.....	CHRIS SHAVER
Additional Sound Recording.....	CHAD DJUBEC JOHN TRYGAR
Boom Operators.....	CHRIS VECCHIO EHREN HERTEL
Script Supervisor.....	ERIKA PURTELL
Medical Consultant / Injector.....	RAY SALVAGIO
Catering.....	CASEY POWELL
Original music written and performed by..... © 2009 Power Skeleton / Laser Lizard Records	POWER SKELETON
Guitars, Keys, Drums/Percussion, Vocals, Theater Organ, Ambience, Various Permaculture Applications.....	TOBIAS CRON
Synth, Keys, Bugle, Wooden Frog, Percussion.....	KEVIN DOYLE
E-Bow Guitar, Laptop, Samples.....	TJ DUNBADEN
Guitar, Drums, Keyboards, Effects.....	ANDREW HOUCK
Percussion, Accordion, Keyboards.....	LUCIEN MARRS CRON
Vocals, Keyboards.....	SCARLET CAMELLIA CRON
Strings, Keys, Samples.....	SLEEPY

SCHISM SYNOPSIS

If you have a mental illness, but accept it and find a way to use it to your benefit, are you still sick? Will medication help you or just make you normal and dull? What if you are sane and society itself is sick? These are some of the questions posed in the talk show *In Touch With Insanity*, hosted by Linda, a woman with multiple personalities (cult icon LYNN LOWRY of *The Crazies* and *Shivers*.) Her main personality is Betsy, a sweet Southern belle. Then there's Jackie, a tough-as-nails tomboy. Last is Lola, the sexy nightclub singer.

Callers to the show run the gamut of mental illness from psychosis (JASON WITTER of *Pretty Dead Things* and *Beyond The Dunwich Horror*), agoraphobia (JANET TRACY KEIJSER of *House on Haunted Hill* and *The Halfway House*), and even a man who believes he is a vampire (JOSHUA NELSON of *Pink Eye* and *Skinned Alive*). Callers speak about their own mental problems and how they live with them. If they need help Linda refers them to the doctor who is treating her. Unbeknownst to Linda, viewers of her show are being murdered. Is the murderer a psychopathic viewer? The doctor? Or one of Linda's own personalities?

Schism is a horror film shot in New York City. By basing the film around a talk show where viewers call in via webcam, it was possible to bring a wide variety of characters into the central storyline. Though their illnesses vary, they are united in their desire to express themselves without fear of being judged. However they soon find that revealing their conditions publicly can result in opening themselves up to being victimized and in the end, having to fight for their very lives.

SCHISM

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Schism was a collaboration between actress Lynn Lowry and filmmaker Derek Purtell. “We each put up half the money, came up with the characters, and wrote the story together,” says Purtell. “Then my wife Erika wrote a screenplay from the story and we began casting. The cast was a mixture of actors Lynn had worked with, actors I had worked with, and others who came from your standard auditions. I auditioned actors in New York and sent the tapes to Lynn in LA. We selected the final cast together. So we each had equal influence over preproduction.”

This dynamic changed somewhat during production. “When Lynn came to New York for the shoot she focused 100% on the character she was playing and left the production to me,” states Purtell. “Since she was only available for 10 days we had to shoot very quickly. I had already rehearsed the actors and planned every shot, so very little time on set was wasted. We didn’t have the time to discuss every detail so Lynn trusted me to get what we needed. She had enough to worry about, playing three different personalities.”

“The role was very challenging,” adds Lowry, “and I didn’t fully realize how difficult it was until I got there and we started doing it. I really created three people once I got there, which was kind of scary and challenging, but I feel really good about it. I think we got a lot of really good stuff.”

One of the unique aspects to *Schism* is the variety of mental illnesses on display. “Almost all the characters have some type of insanity,” says Purtell, “and the actors took it seriously no matter how small their parts. They did a lot of research, and while we were not making a documentary, the little touches of reality they brought to the parts really added to the overall effect.”

Schism is first and foremost a horror film. “I’ve always thought the most effective scenes of violence are those the audience can relate to,” says Purtell. “People often do not react strongly to someone being shot on screen - they don’t know what it feels like. But if someone gets an injection or cuts their tongue the audience gets completely creeped out. That’s what we went for. We had a real pro, Anthony Jones, doing the effects, and he put a lot of care into them. I couldn’t be more pleased with how they turned out.”

While the film was shot quickly, post production was extended. “I like to take my time editing since it doesn’t cost much and there are many ways to improve the film,” says Purtell. “Our first cut came in at over two hours, which is overlong for a horror film, and Lynn was instrumental in finding ways to shorten the film without hurting it. Lynn also sings three songs in the film – another of her many talents. We had a great group called Power Skeleton providing the soundtrack and they eventually recorded over 10 hours of music, using a wide variety of instruments. So I had many choices for each scene. I often layered several tracks of music together to build levels of tension. Music is crucial in horror films to accentuate scares and suspense. *Schism* would be pretty lifeless without the contribution of Power Skeleton.”

Summarizes Purtell: “All in all the experience was a great one. We didn’t have a lot of money, but we did have a lot of dedicated people who were passionate about what they were doing. They all pitched in and delivered. Morale was very high despite the hard work and long hours. I was working with one of my favorite actresses and she couldn’t have been easier to work with. I can’t wait to do the next one.”

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ABOUT THE CAST

LYNN LOWRY (Betsy/Lola/Jackie/Linda)

Lynn Lowry was raised in Atlanta, GA. Her first film appearance was in *I Drink Your Blood* in 1970 where she played a mute hippie with rabies. She later appeared in two key 1970s horror films, George Romero's *The Crazies* in 1973 and David Cronenberg's *Shivers* (aka *They Came from Within*) in 1974. Afterward, she had a sixteen month role on NBC's short lived *How to Survive a Marriage* playing the adulterer-cum-heroine, Sandra; and a brief stint on *Another World*. Lowry was also one of the two female leads in Radley Metzger's *Score*. She moved to Los Angeles in the early 1980s and has recently been singing jazz and show tunes with her band. She has several films due out in 2009/2010 including *The Crazies*, *Splatter Disco*, *Beyond the Dunwich Horror*, *Basement Jack*, *George's Intervention*, and *Torture Chamber*. An extensive bio can be found on her website, www.LynnLowry.com.

JANET TRACY KEIJSER (Anna the Agoraphobe)

Janet Tracy Keijser is a native of Vernon, a very small town in rural Canada. She claims there were no Cineplex Odeon 5 complexes or live theaters growing up in this cattle ranch/lumberjack community. Happily, Janet lived for her pets; Billy the goat, Whitie the attack rooster, Ducky the stray duck, multiple horses and a menagerie of dogs, cats, turtles, snakes and toads. In this idyllic splendor and beauty, Janet was the only neighborhood kid whacked out enough to hop the fence and ride any bull in the pen, until she got her own steed at age eight. From then on out, Janet was the fastest cowgirl in the rodeo circuit in all of the Okanagan Valley. Janet claims this and shoveling horse shit to be her critical "Ivy League" actor training. Janet's credits include *House on Haunted Hill*, *Dead 7*, *The Zombie Chronicles*, *Demon's Kiss*, a starring role in *The Halfway House*, *Psychon Invaders*, *Parasomnia*, and *Mister Dissolute*, as well as many television projects.

ROBERT YOUNGREN (Dr. Fuller)

Robert Youngren hails from Long Island. He has over a hundred credits under his belt including *Internal Beat*, *Nightmare*, *The Forest Hills*, *Spuyten Duyvil*, *The Harbormaster*, and the upcoming *The Third Testament* and *Playing Doctor*. He has a recurring role as Dr. Family in *Family Practice*, a web series he writes and produces.

JASON WITTER (Kent the Psycho)

Jason Witter lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico where he teaches theatre. He played a bisexual ex-porn star vampire in *Pretty Dead Things*, Froggy in *Splatter Disco*, and acted alongside Lynn Lowry in *Beyond the Dunwich Horror*. He wrote and starred as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet vs. the Living Dead* which premiered at the 2009 Edinborough Film Festival. He also wrote *Hamlet the Vampire Slayer* and a children's play called *Cap'n Hook*.

JOSHUA NELSON (Jonathan the "Vampire")

Joshua Nelson has written and starred in several horror movies including *Savage Roses*, *Addiction*, *Aunt Rose*, *Pink Eye*, and *Eat Your Heart Out* (aka *Skinned Alive*). He also has a recurring role as Officer Rios on *Law and Order*. His upcoming films include *Gallery of Fear* and *Hellfire*.

POLINA GOROKHOVSKAYA (Sally the Manic Depressive)

Polina Gorokhovskaya studied dance and theatre and performed for five years with Andrey Ivanov's dance company before relocating to New York. Currently she can be seen in the feature films *No Love in the City* and *Cold Souls*, starring Paul Giamatti and directed by Sophie Barthes.

LAUREN SUSAN (Stacy the Vampire's Girlfriend)

Lauren Susan was born and raised in Brooklyn. She started her career at age six as a dancer and began acting in her teens. She has performed in numerous stage productions in New York City and is currently being documented in *Life of an Actress*, directed by Paul Chau. He is documenting the lives of 11 very diverse actresses over the period of one year. Her upcoming film, *Vampires of Zanzibar*, is scheduled to be released later this year.

RONALD THOMAS (David, Betsy's "Ex")

Ronald Thomas hails from Pittsburgh. He has acted in many films including *The Minority*, *Project 7*, *Plasterhead*, *Silent*, and *Day Zero*. His new projects include *The Shriven*, *Where are you Sophia*, and *Children of Invention*.

LLOYD KAUFMAN (Crank Caller)

Lloyd Kaufman has directed 34 films, written 28, produced 71, and acted in 160. President of Troma and the creator of the Toxic Avenger, this busy man has also written four books on filmmaking.

EMILY GRIFFIN (Judy the Kleptomaniac)

Emily Griffin was born in Alabama and has been acting since she could walk. Since graduating from the Stella Adler Conservatory she has been involved in many theatre productions. This is her first movie experience.

RACHEL WERBEL (Carrie the Paranoid Schizophrenic)

Rachel Werbel lives in New York City with her dog Kiki and cat Luca. She has worked on and off stage with Fatchance Productions, The Barrow Group Theater, Improvolution and the Magnet Theater. She also acted in one of Derek Purtell's short films, *Beyond Yesterday*.

ERIKA PURTELL (Sira the Hooker)

Erika Purtell (Sira) moved to New York in 1997 and acted in *Mondo Manhattan* with her husband Derek about a year later. She performed several shows with Improvolution before meeting Lynn Lowry and writing *Schism* and is known as "The Wrong Girl" on Youtube. She is currently writing a novel for young adults.

ROBERT SOCCI (Larry the Obsessive Compulsive)

Robert Socci has acted in over 100 films. Recent parts include Troma's *Poultrygeist*, *Silent*, *Pink Eye*, and *Family Practice*. He will be in the upcoming *Playing Doctor* with Robert Youngren.

RICK LUANDA (Mr. Mondo)

Rick Luanda is the lead singer of the band (el) Chain Gang and the director and star of the movies *Mondo Manhattan* (20 years in the making) and most recently, *Mondo Cool*. He lives in the Lower East Side.

HEATHER WAGGHELSTEIN (Beth the Suicide)

Heather Wagghelstein has appeared in two short films from Jump Cut Productions and has acted in many stage plays including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest*. This is her first movie experience.

STEVE DEVITO (Barfly)

Steve DeVito is an accomplished character actor who has performed on *Law and Order* and in the films *Godzilla* and *Seige and the Associate*. He also performs in off Broadway dinner theater and plays the saxophone and guitar.

TONY GALTIERI (Jimmy the Bartender)

Tony Galtieri has acted in films such as *Night Watch*, *Draw*, *The Castle*, and *Underneath it All*. He has performed on the TV show *The Sopranos* and plays drums in the band Takin' Out the Trash.

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