

Devilish (6 episode podcast) – Horror – Suspense

2nd-Rounder - Austin Film Festival / Fiction Podcast

Logline: When the existence of the Jersey Devil is re-ignited after a prominent land developer is mysteriously killed in the Pine Barrens, a group of college students set out to find his killer and reap the reward, but their search reveals a centuries-old secret and a shocking truth.

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In the heart of New Jersey lies a vast wilderness area called the Pine Barrens, virtually untouched by east coast development. Among its preserved habitat of birds, reptiles and a variety of four-legged species, there exists a creature of lore that for centuries has garnered the area's most intrigue and mystery -- the Jersey Devil.

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When a prominent land developer RICHARD GETZ (60s) is attacked on a quiet stretch of highway while returning from the Pine Barrens, a large reward is offered that triggers a throng that invades the Pine Barrens in the hope of capturing the killer and the bounty. LUCY STEELMAN (21 African/Anglo American, as smart as she is strong-willed and feisty), who attends a small liberal arts college in the area -- and whose father LAWRENCE, mysteriously disappeared in the Barrens a year earlier -- is rocked by report of Getz' murder. At the time of his disappearance, Lawrence was employed by Getz and the news accelerates Lucy's need to seek out what happened to her father. Armed with new information Lucy found among her father's belongings, she enlists the help of PROFESSOR REX THOMPSON (45) at the college whom is well versed in the lore of the JERSEY DEVIL.

When a crowd of gun-toting, cellphone flashing thrill-seekers is attacked by a mysterious entity in the forest, local News Reporter KRISTIN MARTIN (30s) runs with the speculation that this may be the Devil's work. The incident pushes Kristin who is looking for a career-changing story to dig deeper. She interviews Professor Thompson, but his rendition of the Devil's deeds is inconsistent which leads Kristin to the conclusion he is concealing something. The encounter rattles Prof. Thompson and stirs up memories of his own pursuit of the Devil during his college days. His recounting of his past is piqued again when he and Lucy are approached by a new Adjunct Professor JAPHET LINDSTROM with keen knowledge of the Devil and fanboy admiration for Prof. Thompson.

Lucy is reluctantly dragged into the fray by her college pal BRIAN LARSON (21) and his Aussie sidekick ANDY DOTSON (22) -- who are all too happy to join in the bounty hunt. They set out on their own path to find Getz' killer. Brian storms into the night forest after a campfire spat and his foray leads him to a small chapel nestled deep in the forest and nearly inaccessible from the outside world. With concern for Brian's inebriated state, Andy and Lucy track Brian to the chapel but are stopped as they witness a horrifying exchange between a group of Pineys and a bat-like creature that leaves all the Pineys dead. Lucy and Andy escape the carnage but fear that Brian may be among the dead.

As Lucy lay semi-conscious in the hospital, Andy's drunken retelling of what they witnessed to AGENT SIMPSON is quickly discounted until later, when his interview with Kristin corroborates distinct pieces of their story. Kristin and Agent Simpson merge their investigations to take a closer look into Lucy and Andy. When they trail them to Prof. Thompson's home, the link raises Kristin's hope that she has found the breakout story she has long coveted.

Based on what he found in Lawrence's notes and Lucy and Andy's account of what they saw, Prof. Thompson accompanies them back to the church to search for Brian and what he is convinced to be the Jersey Devil. Unaware of Kristin's and Agent Simpson's lurking presence, they make their way into the forest toward the church when they are attacked by the Devil. They appear doomed until the Devil's attention is diverted by an all-too-familiar person to Lucy -- her father, Lawrence.

Lawrence lures the Devil back to the church where, in the small clearing surrounding the church an unbelievable transformation takes place, exposing a centuries-old secret and the Devil's true being. A confrontation between the would-be Devil leaves Lawrence mortally wounded. Lucy's anger and newfound resolve propels her to act, and her actions uncover a shocking truth about herself and the unthinkable collaboration that spawned the Jersey Devil's existence.

View Teaser:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqdQw_penJY

