

HOW FAR WOULD YOU FALL
TO FEEL ALIVE?

FEAR ITSELF

A PITCH DECK

FEAR ITSELF

SYNOPSIS

Fear Itself follows Liam, Zara, Erin, Harry and Callum — a close-knit crew of thrill-seeking content creators whose lives are built on danger, adrenaline and online notoriety.

After a near-fatal tandem jump with Peter Hawthorne, a legendary extreme sports icon left paralysed by his own obsession, the group are given coordinates to what Peter claims is the most terrifying jump he ever discovered.

Deep in the Scottish Highlands, hidden beneath an abandoned military bunker, they find it:

**A perfect black shaft
descending into the earth.**

Peter's only instruction:

Jump. Count to eight. Pull.

But the fall doesn't obey physics.

One by one, the group descend into a living nightmare — a place where fear takes shape, trauma becomes real, and every jump forces them to confront the truths they've spent their lives outrunning.

As the others are consumed by the darkness below, Erin fights to survive and uncovers the terrible truth:

**The shaft doesn't kill you.
It feeds on sacrifice.**

And Peter has been feeding it for years.

FEAR IS FREEDOM.
FREEDOM IS SURRENDER.

DIRECTED BY

CHRISTOPHER SMITH

VISIONARY STORYTELLER.
MASTER OF GENRE.

Acclaimed British filmmaker Christopher Smith is known for his distinctive voice in horror, thriller and dark comedy. A director who fearlessly blends genres and challenges audiences, Smith crafts films that are visceral, intelligent and unforgettable.



DISTINCTIVE VOICE

Blending horror, thriller and dark comedy with a bold, original style.



CULT FOLLOWING

Films that resonate deeply and endure long after the credits.



GLOBAL REACH

His films have sold worldwide and screened at top festivals.



VERSATILE FILMMAKER

Seamlessly moving between feature films and premium TV series.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2004 | CREEP – His feature debut, a hit horror film set in the London Underground. |
| 2006 | SEVERANCE – Horror-comedy with a satirical edge. Sold worldwide and the first horror film to screen at the Telluride Film Festival. |
| 2009 | TRIANGLE – A mind-bending psychological thriller exploring time loops and alternate realities. Now a cult classic. |
| 2010 | BLACK DEATH – A medieval horror epic set during the plague, starring Sean Bean and Eddie Redmayne. |
| 2011 | DETOUR – A stylish neo-noir thriller starring Tygo Gernandt and Bel Powley. |
| 2020 | THE BANISHING – A chilling gothic horror starring Jessica Brown Findlay. |
| 2022 | CONSECRATION – A chilling return to horror, starring Jena Malone. |

UPCOMING

VIDEO NASTY (TV) – Six-part series completed, releasing in 2024.

UP NEXT

SPIDER ISLAND – Upcoming comedy-horror feature, currently in production.

“

I love genre because it allows you to explore the extremes of human nature – and have a little fun doing it.

”

– CHRISTOPHER SMITH

FEATURE FILMS



CREEP
2004



SEVERANCE
2006



TRIANGLE
2009



BLACK DEATH
2010



DETOUR
2011



THE BANISHING
2020



CONSECRATION
2022

FESTIVAL RECOGNITION

- Severance was the first horror film to screen at the Telluride Film Festival.
- Smith's work has screened at TIFF, Sitges, Fantastic Fest and many more.
- A consistent presence in the world's leading genre film festivals.

Telluride
Film Festival

tiff
Toronto International
Film Festival

SITGES
Film Festival

LIAM

25 YEARS OLD

ADRENALINE SEEKER.
ALWAYS CHASING THE FEELING.

Liam lives for the rush. Base jumping. Skydiving. Pushing limits. Anything to silence the numbness he can't shake. Once full of purpose, something changed—something he can't quite put into words. Now he's searching for a feeling real enough to bring him back to life.

Loyal, protective and deeply intuitive, Liam hides more pain than he lets on. The extreme isn't just a thrill—it's a way to feel something at all.

DRIVES:

To feel alive. To find meaning.
To break free from the emptiness that won't go away.

ZARA

23 YEARS OLD

DIGITAL CREATOR. SURVIVOR.
ALWAYS ON. ALWAYS FIGHTING.

Zara is Ukrainian. Just before the war broke out, her online presence was exploding—she was on the verge of TV stardom. Then everything changed. She and her mother fled to the UK as refugees, leaving her father behind to fight.

Now she rebuilds her life one upload at a time. Charismatic, ambitious and driven, Zara hides the heartbreak behind filters, likes and constant content. She's tougher than she lets on, but the fear of losing everything again never leaves.

DRIVES:

To create. To be seen.
To build the life she lost.
To make her father proud.

HARRY

38 YEARS OLD

**FORMER PARTY LAD.
PRESENT FOCUS. FUTURE DRIVEN.**

Harry used to live for the night—parties, chaos and pushing every limit he could find. But becoming a dad changed everything. He walked away from the lifestyle, went straight edge and committed to rebuilding a life he's proud of.

Now he's determined to be the kind of father and husband his family can depend on. Adventure still calls to him, but Harry weighs every risk against what really matters. He's the calm at the centre of the storm—the mentor, the voice of experience, and the one who always looks out for the team.

DRIVES:

To be a better father and husband.
To live with integrity.
To inspire others without losing himself.



ERIN

24 YEARS OLD

**ADRENALINE JUNKIE.
SMARTER THAN SHE LETS ON.**

Erin lives for speed, risk and the rush that comes with pushing her limits. Mountain biking, climbing, high places—she's all in. But behind the fearless exterior is someone who calculates every move.

Erin is the team's strategist. She knows when to send it and when to hold back. She keeps everyone grounded, questions the dumb ideas and makes sure adrenaline never turns into carelessness. Loyal, sharp and quietly intuitive—Erin sees more than she says.

DRIVES:

To experience life to the fullest.
To make smart choices.
To protect the people she rides with.
To keep growing, not just surviving.





PETER HAWTHORNE

62 YEARS OLD

THE LEGEND.

Once the undisputed rockstar of extreme sports, Peter Hawthorne was the name every young thrill-seeker knew. BASE jumps, wingsuits, impossible drops — he did not just push limits; he made them look beautiful.

Then one bad jump changed everything. Paralysed from the waist down, Peter was forced out of the sky, but never out of the culture he helped create.

To Zara and Liam, he remains mythic: mentor, icon, proof that the rush was real. Erin sees the pull he still has over the group — and notices Harry's silence around him.

Because Harry does not worship Peter. He has history with him. History he would rather leave buried.

Now Peter watches from the sidelines, living through the crew he inspires. Beneath the wisdom and dry humour is a dangerous ache: one more fall, one more taste of the air, one last reminder of who he used to be.

DRIVES:

To feel the rush again.

To prove he is still Peter Hawthorne.

To be remembered as more than his accident.

To pass the flame to the next generation.

PAUL ANIELLO

FOUNDER & PRODUCER
TARTAN BRIDGE FILMS

Scottish film producer and founder of **Tartan Bridge Films**, based at its own studio in Livingston, Scotland.

Recent credits include the 2023 feature **Damaged**, starring Samuel L. Jackson, Vincent Cassel and John Hannah, and most recently James McAvoy's directorial debut, the award-winning music biopic **California Schemin'**.

Premiering at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2025, the film has already garnered critical acclaim and festival recognition.

Paul is known for developing distinctive, high-quality films with global appeal, supporting bold storytelling and emerging talent across the UK and internationally.



MICHAEL KNOWLES

PRODUCER

Michael Knowles is a UK film producer with over two decades of experience developing and producing acclaimed independent features through **NoW Films**.

His recent work includes **Spider Island**, directed by **Christopher Smith** and produced with Vertigo, sold by Protagonist, alongside **Book of Love** starring **Sam Claflin** and **Veronica Echegui**, which reached No.2 on Amazon US and won the Imagen Award for Best Primetime Movie.

Previous productions include **The Pebble and the Boy**, which opened in over 100 UK cinemas and reached No.1 on iTunes, **Running Naked**, directed by Emmy and Oscar-nominated **Victor Buhler**, and **Away**, starring **Timothy Spall** and **Juno Temple**.

Away premiered at the Edinburgh Film Festival, was nominated for the Michael Powell Award and won the Hitchcock Award at Dinard Film Festival.

Earlier work includes **The Messenger**, **Birthday**, **Best Laid Plans** and **A Boy Called Dad**, continuing a career built on bold, character-driven independent cinema.

CONTACT US

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now films

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SOME PLACES ARE BETTER LEFT UNDISCOVERED