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BEREAVEMENT

Bereavement is the wrenching story that examines the horrific case of Martin Bristol, kidnapped from a backyard swing and forced to witness the brutal crimes of a deranged madman. Taking place 5 years earlier, it documents the tragedy of Martin's transformation from innocent victim to cold, emotionless killer. Bereavement is a dark and frightening examination of the cyclical and long term effects of violence, with deep thematic elements not usually found in a horror film of this type.

Bereavement is a prequel to the international hit, Malevolence (2005), with a built in audience of devoted horror fans the world over. Bereavement is bigger in every way, including the cast, which stars Michael Biehn (the Terminator), Alexandra Daddario (Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief), Brett Rickaby (The Crazies), and John Savage (The Deer Hunter).

Bereavement is sure to generate excitement and young crowds at the box office, and it's a brand new story, epic in scope, not another horror remake. Shot on beautiful Super 35mm, it is a film that has been crafted over 2 years to be a landmark 2nd entry in the horror genre.

****Bereavement recently won Best Feature and Stevan Mena won Best Director at the July 2010 Long Island International Film Expo!**

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ALEXANDRA DADDARIO

Alex has exploded overnight, with the lead role in Chris Columbus' blockbuster Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief, and now in the new Farrelly Bros Movie Hall Pass.

Alex has quickly made a name for herself, we are thrilled that we can say we found her first when we cast her as Allison in Bereavement.

Alex has also enjoyed starring roles in other film and television projects, including Law & Order, Nurse Jackie, Life on Mars, White Collar, The Attic, The Babysitters and the Sopranos.

You might also recognize Alex from her Yellowbook commercials, which became a Youtube sensation Thanks to her irresistible good looks and piercing blue eyes. And her starring role as Annabeth in Percy Jackson has given her legions of devoted fans that are sure to see anything she stars in.

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MICHAEL BIEHN

Michael Biehn is a fixture in genre films, and his casting made for a perfect father figure in Bereavement.

There are many shocks and surprises in Bereavement, and Michael's presence is key to a successful twist in the narrative.

Michael has starred in numerous genre smashes over the years, including The Terminator, The Abyss, Aliens, Tombstone, and many others.

Like Alex and Nolan, Michael brings his own stable of genre fans that will watch anything he stars in. His fans tend to skew older, providing a nice balance of young and old to the appeal of the ensemble cast.

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JOHN SAVAGE

John Savage plays the wheelchair bound father of William in Bereavement. True to form, John got lost in the character. John's sad but humorous turn as Ted adds some lighthearted humor to a very dark film.

John rounds out this unique cast with his superb talent and pedigree. John is most famous for his turn as Steven in The Deer Hunter. He is also known for roles such as: The Onion Field, Do the Right Thing, White Squall, The Thin Red Line, Summer of Sam and Carnivale.

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NOLAN GERARD FUNK

Nolan has become a teen sensation similar to Zac Efron. He made his splash debut in the Nickelodeon film, Spectacular! Which was designed to go head to head with Disney's High School Musical. He has since been compared to Efron, and the debate amongst teenage girls continues to rage.

Nolan, not content to be just a teen heartthrob on TV, decided to test himself by taking on the lead in Broadway's Bye Bye Birdie.

Nolan was an unknown when cast in Bereavement, and once again proves that the casting agent was a Clairvoyant genius. Nolan's star power is yet another solid draw to the youth market, and will contribute fans at the gate based on his presence alone.

Nolan has also starred in Film and TV projects such as Lie to Me, Deadgirl, Aliens in America, Warehouse 13, House at the End of the Street, Supernatural, Smallville, and Taken.

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BRETT RICKABY

Brett has many TV roles under his belt, and recently made a splash on the big screen. After smaller film roles like *Zodiac*, and *On the Doll*, Brett's breakthrough role came as Bill Farnum in *The Crazies*. Brett was the standout, which even led to a comic book based solely on his character in the film.

Bereavement marks Brett's debut as the lead in a feature, and he pulls it off with a performance for the ages. His turn as Graham Sutter is sure to frighten and at the same time create empathy with the audience. Sutter is a complicated character to pull off, and Brett succeeded. He is sure to become a staple of genre entertainment.

Brett's other notable roles include *The Good Guys*, *Southland*, *CSI: Miami*, *NCIS*, *Mental*, *Samantha Who?*, *ER* and many others.

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EARLY BEREAVEMENT REVIEW:

“One of the beauties of horror is that sometimes it takes you to dark places and tells you, you don’t ever want to go here. BEREAVEMENT does exactly that. While MALEVOLENCE played the slasher card, and did a nice job at it, this prequel delves far deeper into grimness and despair, plunging its audience into those horrifying depths without ever letting them up for air. Before I go further, I’ll say this. The best horror films have a way of making us feel unsafe in our own world, and BEREAVEMENT does exactly that.

After the death of her parents, teen Allison has come to live with her uncle John his family. As John tries to establish the patriarchal authority over his new charge, Allison rebels. Staying out late and hanging out with local teen William (whose own family is a shattered mess, his father wheelchair bound, his mother a suicide), she seems all too willing to escape her new family, as much as they try to accommodate her. A high school track star in Chicago, she constantly running, a nice motif for her desire to run from the many troubles of her life. When she catches sight of Martin in a window, she can only run into despair. Alexandra Daddario performance holds the film together, and Mena gets a nice performance out of her, as well as Michael Biehn as John. As Mena develops his technique, he’s starting to fulfill the promise that MALEVOLENCE suggested. He’s coming into his own as a director. For a young talent, his shot selection is superb, and he knows how to build tension to a crescendo of madness. The terror is relentless, and he makes the most of his setting, the grim, real-life slaughter house he also used in MALEVOLENCE, including his creative use of a carcass hook, a furnace and a freezer unit. As a writer, he proves he’s also capable of creating a much more textured world than about 99.9 percent of the new horror film directors; he balances this against a constant sense of dread. We know from seeing the first film that none of these characters are going to live, yet Mena finds ways to stun and shock. For this, I applaud him.

Horror been in a rut for a while, over saturated by derivative remakes and backyard zombie flicks. Stevan Mena challenges the system with his output, and offers fresh hope for the genre. If he’s any indicator of a new wave of horror, we have a lot to look forward to. He’s a talent on the rise, and if you consider yourself worth your salt, you must see BEREAVEMENT. It’s a dark place, and I’m telling you, you should go there.”

--Phil Fasso, IconsofFright.com

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Stevan Mena

Writer / Producer/ Director

- Stevan has been compared to directing icons John Carpenter and Sam Raimi, and is being hailed as one of the top up and coming horror directors to watch. Stevan began making films in his backyard at age 11. While other kids were playing sports, he was making movies. He also spent many years honing his craft as a screenwriter.
- Stevan's much heralded debut feature, *Malevolence*, was truly a remarkable achievement. Shot on a shoestring budget, with the actor's and crew all taking deferred payments, including himself, Stevan wrote, produced, directed, edited and even composed the score for *Malevolence*. When the film was completed, distributors estimated its production cost at 1.5 to 2 million. Discovering the budget was under \$200,000 shocked many in the industry. *Malevolence* went on to win several Film Festivals, including best feature at the Long Island International Film Expo, and Best Feature at the NYC Horror Film Festival. It was awarded best screenplay at the 2004 internet choice awards, and was listed on numerous "best horror film of the year" lists. The highest selling DVD rollout in Anchor Bay Entertainment's history of 3500 titles.
- His latest feature, *Bereavement*, is a bold departure from the standard cliché ridden horror film, offering genuine scares and shocks. With stellar Performances from Genre Veterans like Michael Biehn and John Savage, to rising stars such as Alexandra Daddario (*Percy Jackson, Hall Pass*) and Peyton List (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2*) and Brett Rickaby (*The Crazies*).

