



The shocking story of how a young woman and her psychiatrist ignited the global Satanic Panic with their bestselling memoir *Michelle Remembers*.

GENRE: POV FEATURE DOCUMENTARY, TRUE CRIME, THRILLER RUNTIME: 89MIN



# "They sacrificed babies"

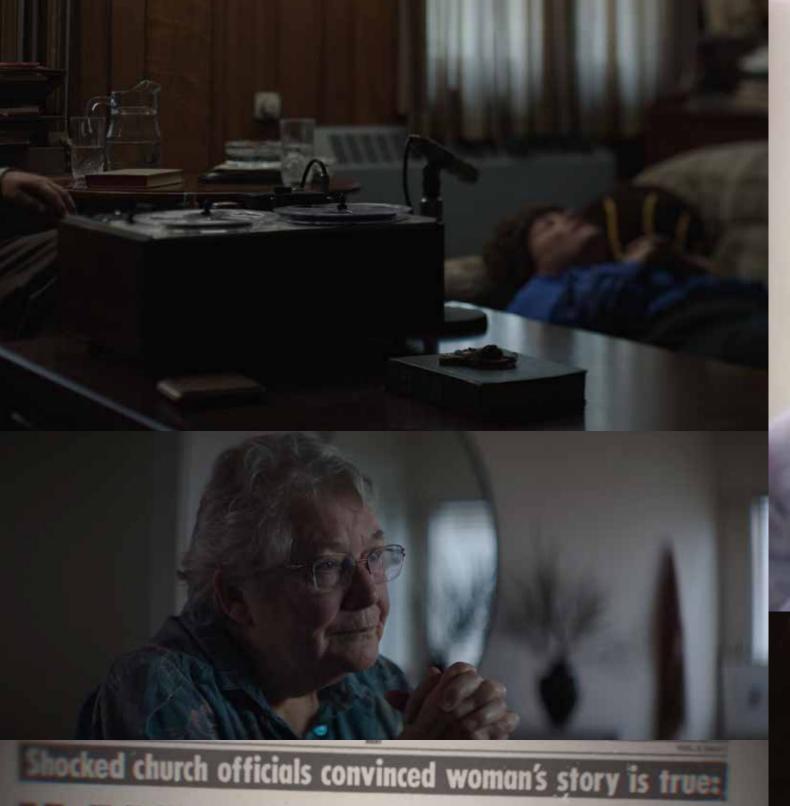
-Michelle Smith

### SYNOPSIS

During the 1980s and '90s the world was gripped by the cultural hysteria known as the Satanic Panic. Ignited by *Michelle Remembers*, a lurid memoir by psychiatrist Larry Pazder and his patient Michelle Smith, rumors of "Satanic Ritual Abuse" spread through panic-stricken communities worldwide. Although Dr. Pazder's methodology relied on controversial recovered-memory therapy to expose Michelle's childhood abduction by baby-stealing satanists, the book became a best-seller and left a wave of destruction and wrongful convictions in its wake.

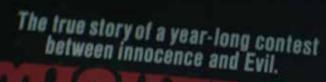
In the feature documentary *Satan Wants You*, filmmakers Sean Horlor and Steve J. Adams dive deep into the untold story of how Dr. Pazder and Michelle Smith became international sensations, supported by the Catholic Church and amplified by law enforcement and America's Daytime TV boom. The film features shocking, never-before-heard audio recordings of the pair's original therapy sessions and interviews with a high priestess of the Church of Satan, a Wiccan police detective, an FBI 'Mind Hunter' as well as the devastated families of both Michelle and Lawrence.

Satan Wants You is a compelling investigation into the roots of moral panics, cult conspiracies, and the making of contemporary legends, revealing how these events still impact and distort our reality to this day.



## I WAS CHOSEN AS THE DEVIL'S BRIDE











## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Michelle Remembers came back into our lives in 2018 when we were directing a ten-part doc series about books and authors—well, back into Sean's life. Steve had never heard of the book before but was hooked as soon as he saw the dust jacket featuring an conservative-looking young woman with a tight '80s perm. For Steve, who grew up in the north, it was an introduction to the Satanic Panic hysteria that swept through the western world in the '80s and '90s. For Sean, it was a window into a forgotten part of his childhood.

Sean is from the same city as Michelle and Larry Pazder. growing up in Victoria in the years following the publication of *Michelle Remembers* was a confusing time to be a kid. Anyone anywhere could be a satanist and tens of thousands of children were allegedly being abducted and murdered every year by satanic cults. It was on the news. On the radio. In the newspapers. It was something Sean's mother worried about at the dinner table. The Pazders and their crazy theory about satanic ritual abuse were everywhere.

What surprised us most when we started the film was the number of experts—police officers, journalists, sociologists, podcasters—who believed the Pazders and their book were responsible for igniting the Satanic Panic of the '80s and '90s, yet no one had ever explored this story in a documentary format. This is the very first time that Michelle's sister, Larry's ex-wife, and Larry's daughter have gone on the record to tell their side of this story. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to combine all these stories together to reveal the true origins of the satanic panic, and show how they connect to the Pizzagate and QAnon conspiracies of today.

This film is also ground-breaking for another reason. In our final month of production, an anonymous source sent us one of Michelle and Larry's original therapy tapes from 1976. This is one-of-a-kind archive material that has never been heard by anyone but Michelle and Larry and the transcribers who worked on their book. It has eluded countless investigators across the past four decades and SXSW audiences will be the very first people to listen to Michelle's first-hand rememberings in Satan Wants You.

As directors, it was important for us to create a film that allowed viewers to experience the Satanic Panic the way it unfolded in the 1980s: through news and daytime TV talk shows that catapulted satan into the mainstream ether. Dark and moody interviews with our key cast compliment the horror-inspired narrative sequences that take viewers deep into Michelle's depths on Dr. Pazder's therapy couch during the late '70s. These creative elements are tied together by an original score that re-interprets the soundtracks to classic horror films like Rosemary's Baby, The Exorcist, and Amityville Horror.

To sum up our directorial approach in one sentence: no matter what you think you know about the Satanic Panic, you won't ever have seen it told like this.

#### CHARACTERS



DR. LARRY PAZDER & MICHELLE SMITH

> Lovers? Believers? Scammers? Victims? Who they are depends on who you ask. The therapy tapes made by this doctor-patient couple were used to write Michelle Remembers and the world has never been the same since it was published in 1980.



**THERESA** 

The second of four children between Larry and Marylyn Pazder. Changed her surname to her mother's maiden name and moved to Ottawa because of the harassment she received about her father and Michelle. This is her first one-camera interview about her father.



Creator and host of the hugely successful You're Wrong About podcast series and a Mi-

chelle Remembers superfan. She did a five-part series on Michelle Remembers and believes the book is the patient zero of Satanic Panic texts.



Michelle's younger sister. Michelle accused their mother Virginia Proby of being a member of the Church of Satan and responsible for Michelle's childhood abuse and eventual marriage to Satan. This is her first on-camera interview about her sister and Larry.



Larry's childhood sweetheart. They married in 1968 and had four children together, traveling through Africa before settling in Victoria, Canada. She debunked Michelle Remembers in order to keep custody of her children. This is her first on-camera interview about her husband.

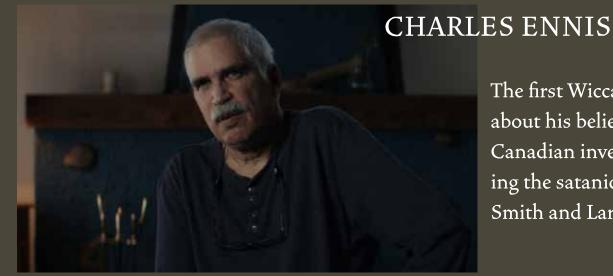


CHEETIE

Michelle's best friend and Larry's literary assistant. Cheetie listened to all the therapy tapes and transcribed them for Larry. She made a promise to Larry to take care of Michelle after he died in 2004.



FBI Special Agent. Part of the original Mindhunters group of special agents for the FBI at Quantico. The first time his phone rang about a satanic ritual abuse case was in 1983. Over the next decade, he would consult on over 300 satanic ritual abuse cases around the world.



The first Wiccan police officer to go public about his beliefs 36 years ago. He was the lead Canadian investigator tasked with debunking the satanic cult claims made by Michelle Smith and Larry Pazder.



Investigative journalist and author who debunked the satanic ritual abuse cases in the 80s. She believes *Michelle Remembers* is responsible for the hundreds of copycat cases that followed its publication in 1980.



A controversial scientist and psychologist who researches the malleability and unreliability of human memory. She was an expert witness for many satanic ritual abuse and false memory cases in the 90s, including the McMartin Trial in 1983.



Former high priestess of the Church of Satan and former lover of its founder Anton LeVay. She was part of a libel lawsuit by the Church of Satan against Larry Pazder and Michelle Smith and their publishers in 1981.



Sociologist and retired professor. Worked with a team of researchers to track and debunk satanic conspiracy rumours in the '80s and '90s and wrote a book about the experience: Satanic Panic: The Creation Of A Contemporary Legend.



Directors, Steve J. Adams and Sean Horlor

#### DIRECTORS

Sean Horlor and Steve J. Adams are the directors, writers, and executive producers of *Satan Wants You*, a thrilling account of the extraordinary story that ignited the Satanic Panic of the 1980s. They are directors and writers of *Someone Like Me*, a critically-acclaimed National Film Board of Canada documentary that won top honors at international film festivals, including the Audience Choice Award at Hot Docs 2021.

Sean and Steve have directed and produced over 20 projects together, including the award-winning *The Day Don Died* (Palm Springs Shortfest 2019). Their path to feature filmmaking began after an appearance on OUTtv's *Hot Pink Shorts* reality series in 2012. They are proud members of the LGBTQ+ community.

#### PRODUCERS



Producer Michael Tanko Grand's most recent work includes feature documentary *SATAN WANTS YOU*, directed by Sean Horlor and Steve J. Adams, which is having its World Premiere at SXSW 2023; feature documentary *THE GRIZZLIE TRUTH*, directed by Kathleen S. Jayme, which won the Audience Award at its World Premiere at VIFF 2022, and *GAME 7*, a feature documentary under ESPN's 30 for 30 banner which will be released summer 2023.

Michael is also known for the 2018 cult hit documentary Finding Big Country (Telus, ESPN, ABC, Sportsnet), 2019's controversial breakthrough mini-series Surviving R Kelly (Lifetime Network, Netflix), 10-part documentary series Abandoned (VICE), and snowboard documentary Unbroken: The Snowboard Life of Mark McMorris (CBC, ABC, ESPN). Michael has also produced critically acclaimed video content for CBC, the New York Times, as well as award winning podcasts, such as This Sounds Serious, and Hindsight.



Melissa James is a producer of *Satan Wants You* (2023), a feature documentary chronicling the untold story of the Satanic Panic. Her previous work includes co-producing the Oscar-qualifying feature documentary *Letter from Masanjia* (2018) which premiered at Hot Docs, and was hailed by the New York Times as a "potent documentary, well told". She was an associate producer on *Human Harvest* (2014) which won the Peabody Award for Documentary.

Prior to this Melissa wrote, directed and produced the critically-acclaimed indie music documentary *No Fun City* (2010), which won Best Documentary at the Victoria Film Festival, screened at CMJ Music & Film Festival, and was broadcast on Superchannel.

Melissa has contributed to many documentary programs such as *The Nature Of Things* (CBC), *The Devil You Know* (OWN/ID), *Holmes Family Effect* (CTV), *The New Corporation* (Crave), *Dark Cloud: The High Cost of Cyberbullying* (Telus), *Precious Leader Woman* (Telus/ESPN), *Dear Reader* (Knowledge Network), *Someone Like Me* (NFB). Most recently she directed and produced a short documentary called *Witch Hunt* (2023) which will be released later this year.

# SATAN THANKS YOU

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KIM GUTIERREZ

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#### SATAN WANTS YOU

Credit List

Produced in association with documentary <b>Channel</b>	CAST	Gaffer	Sound Recordists
CARGO FILM & RELEASING presents	Michelle	Marc O'Reilly	Alex Shamku
a NOOTKA ST. production	Lauren Allen		Taylor Roy
a GRAND SCHEME production			Matt Turner
Produced with the Participation of <b>CANADA MEDIA FUND</b>	Lawrence	Dolly Grip	Tad Chamberlain
Produced with the Participation of TELEFILM CANADA	Jordan Grey	Ryan Fehr	Oscar Vargas
Produced with the participation of Rogers Telefund	Cult Members	1st Assistant Camera	Sam Pappagallo Kevin Sands
White Control by Control of Control Adams	Deborah Vieyra	Ben Hopper	Steven Kavanaugh
Written & Directed by Sean Horlor & Steve J. Adams	John Bates	Dell Hopper	Stevell Navallaugh
Produced by Michael Tanko Grand Produced by Melissa James	Celeste Lyon	Additional Camera Operators	Props Master
Executive Producers: Sean Horlor & Steve J. Adams	Laurin Valentine	Kate Smith	Wesley Horsfall
Director of Photography: Blake Davey	CREW	Peter Planta	
Editor: Graham Kew	Associate Producer		Set Decorators
Composer: Mark Dolmont	Hayley Morin	Additional Gaffers	Lukas Hyrman
Production designer: <b>Juan Gonzalez</b>		Peter Planta	Johanne Michel
EFATUDING	Production Supervisor	Phoenix Simon	Jude Moreland
FEATURING	Melissa James	P1	
Marylyn		Electricians	Art Department Assistant
Charyl	Production Managers	Ben Swan	Stephanie Martinez
Theresa	Hayley Morin	Tom Circo	
Cheetie	Mike Johnston		On Set Dresser
Charles Ennis		Grips	Matthew Drummond
Ken Lanning	1st Assistant Director	Charlie Ozburn	
Sarah Marshall	Tamara Black	Martin Kostian	Costume Designer
Blanche Barton		Cory Tremblay	Oneil Drummond
Debbie Nathan	Main Unit Camera Operator  Jon Thomas	Doug Lyngard	
Elizabeth Loftus		Graham Harrington	Art Buyer
Jeffrey S. Victor			Bonnie Smith

Hair & Makeup Artist	First Assistant Editor	Post Production Assistant	Archival Material courtesy of:
Angelica Nakamura	Mona Fani	Jeremiah Reyes	Charles Ennis
			CBC Archive Sales
Snake Wrangler	Second Assistant Editor	Legal Services	Marylyn
Natascia Tamburello	Shivam Sarda	Nathaniel Lyman   CFA	CBC - The Fifth Estate
			Charyl
Location Manager	Archival Supervisor	Clearance Counsel	СНЕК
Daniel Code	Melissa James	Donaldson Callif Perez	Debbie Nathan
		Chris Perez	Freemantle
Location Liasion	Colorist	Jacqueline Swett	Jeff Victor
Matthew Sparrow	Sam Gilling		BC Archives
		Financial Services	Alex Gotfryd/Jonathan Spitz
Stills Photography	GFX	Debbi-Jo Matias	Getty Images
Elissa Crowe	Graham Kew		Beuford Smith
Mandy-Lyn Antoniou		Production Insurance	KINO Library
	Supervising Sound Designer	Front Row Insurance	Nick Bougas/Alf Wahlgren Collection
BTS Video	Mark Dolmont		Colorado Springs Gazette
Dylan Jacknife		E&O Insurance	Church of Satan
	Re-Recording Mixer	HUB International	POND5
Production Assistants	Mark Dolmont		American Psychiatric Association
Chris Ramos		Tax Credit Consultant	Shutterstock
Vito Taverna	Dialogue Editor	Giuliana Bertuzzi	Footage For Pro
Adam Wanderer	Glen Noseworthy		Newspapers.com
Sam Lin		Accounting Services by	Prelinger Archive
Elis Fowler	Post Production Finishing Services provided by	JWL Accounting & Business Services	Wikimedia
Matthew Carew	Elemental Post	Jessica Louie	
Jade Blair		Sabrina Chan	
Jared Maher	Online Editor		
	Ryan Mance	All Music licensed from	
Post Production Supervisor		Mark Dolmont & Greenlit Sound & Music	

Melissa James

Michael Grand

Finishing Supervisor

Matt Drake

Additional Material by:

20/20/ABC

Donahue/Multimedia Inc.

Nightline/ABC

Larry King Live/CNN

Hour Magazine/Group W Productions

CNN News/CNN

48 Hours/CBS

The World Today/CNN

Saturday Night Live/NBC

Joe Pyne Show/Hartwest Productions

Maury Povich/NBC

The Oprah Winfrey Show/OWN

Leeza/NBC

DW News/DW

The Sally Jessy Raphael Show/NBC

Fox News/FOX

Sybil/NBC/Lorimar/David Petrie

Law Enforcement Guide To Satanic Cults/Gun Video/Devin Dehaven

The Geraldo Rivera Show/NBC

The Longest Hatred/Thames Television/WGBH/Nucleus Productions/

Rex Bloomstein

Frontline/PBS

The Vatican Revealed/A&E/Jupiter Entertainment/Jon Jefferson

Filmed on location in Canada on Vancouver Island, BC, Sunshine

Coast, BC, and Vancouver, BC

Filmed in the United States in Orange County, CA, Buffalo, NY,

Jamestown, NY, and Phillipsport, NY

The filmmakers gratefully acknowledge the traditional territory of

the (Musqueam), (Squamish), and (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations

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SPECIAL THANKS RAW Camera Company

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