

# SCARED SHITLESS

DIRECTED BY VIVIANO CALDINELLI



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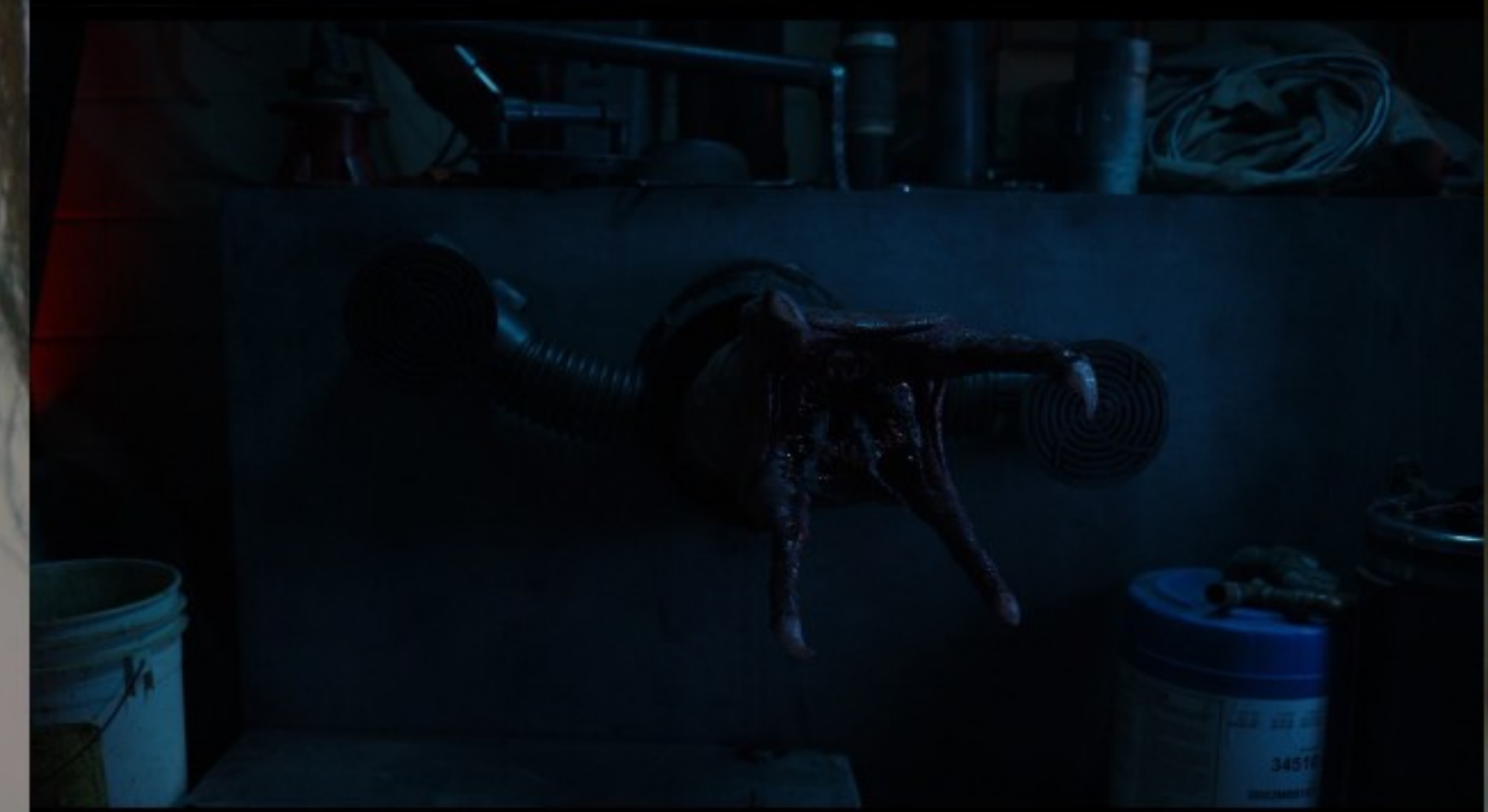
## LOGLINE

A plumber and his germophobic son are forced to get their hands dirty to save the residents of an apartment building, when a genetically engineered, blood-thirsty creature escapes into the plumbing system.

Horror/Comedy | 77 minutes

## SYNOPSIS

Don, a blue-collar plumber and Sonny, his germophobic son, are forced to care for each other after the death of Sonny's mom. To help Sonny overcome both his grief and fear, Don drags him on a routine house-call, where they encounter a plumber's worst nightmare -- a vicious creature that's swimming through the pipes, killing the building's tenants in an increasingly grisly fashion. With the help of the night manager, Patricia, the team vows to stop the monster from escaping into the city's water system. Director Vivieno Caldinelli, whose last film "Seven Stages to Achieve Eternal Bliss" had its world premiere at Tribeca, takes us on a wild adventure that touches on the universal fear of being attacked when we're most vulnerable... on the toilet!





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## **LEAD CHARACTERS**

**DON** - An old school, blue-collar plumber who's a man of integrity. He believes in hard work and earning an honest living. He's used to being elbow deep in a toilet, which has made for a somewhat crass, blue-colour, sense of humour. He's boisterous, likes to "bust balls" while working, and he's used to being the guy who saves the day. He cares deeply for his son Sonny - and even expresses that care from time to time - but all he wants in his simple life is for Sonny to show a little work ethic.

**SONNY** - Former star athlete turned couch-loafer, he's a recent college dropout trying to escape his crippling germaphobia. His anxiety, stemming from the death of his mother, has made getting his life and career off the ground tricky, even with the confidence, bravado, and humour he has left over from his athlete days. Though he's gearing up to take the next steps in his life, without a completed degree, his options unfortunately seem limited to working with his plumber father - not exactly the easiest place to conquer his fear of germs.

**PATRICIA** - A studious and hard-working second-generation immigrant, Patricia has helped her family run the front desk at the Palmer Estate since her dad got sick. She's thick-skinned and not afraid to get her hands dirty, but when her guard is down, she's as warm and friendly as anyone. She's Sonny's former classmate and forms a bond of sorts with him as they - and Don - try to figure out what weirdness is happening in the apartment building's pipes

**MRS. APPLEBAUM** - An aging senior with an ostensible zest for life. She has been on her own for years, and has developed a quirky, and cheerful personality - despite her palpable unhappiness that her son doesn't call her more. Underneath it all, she yearns for a bit of company, hence the semi-frequent calls to her local plumber to come fix her toilet.

**PROFESSOR ROBERT** - A loner, he's a nervous genomic scientist with a chip on his shoulder. He works for some dark-money corporation, developing a creature that he believes will save the planet. After having his credibility and dignity stripped away by his domineering boss, he sets out to prove himself to the world, which backfires horribly.





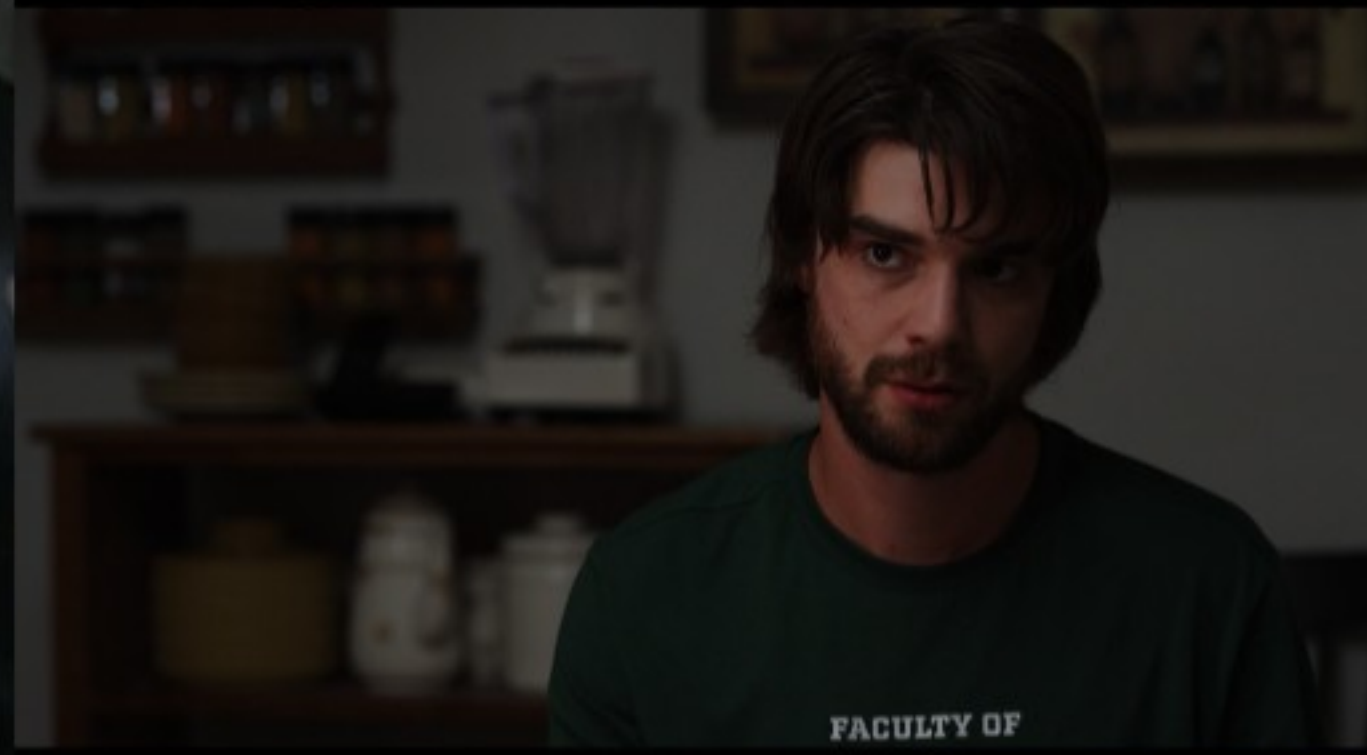
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# LEAD CAST

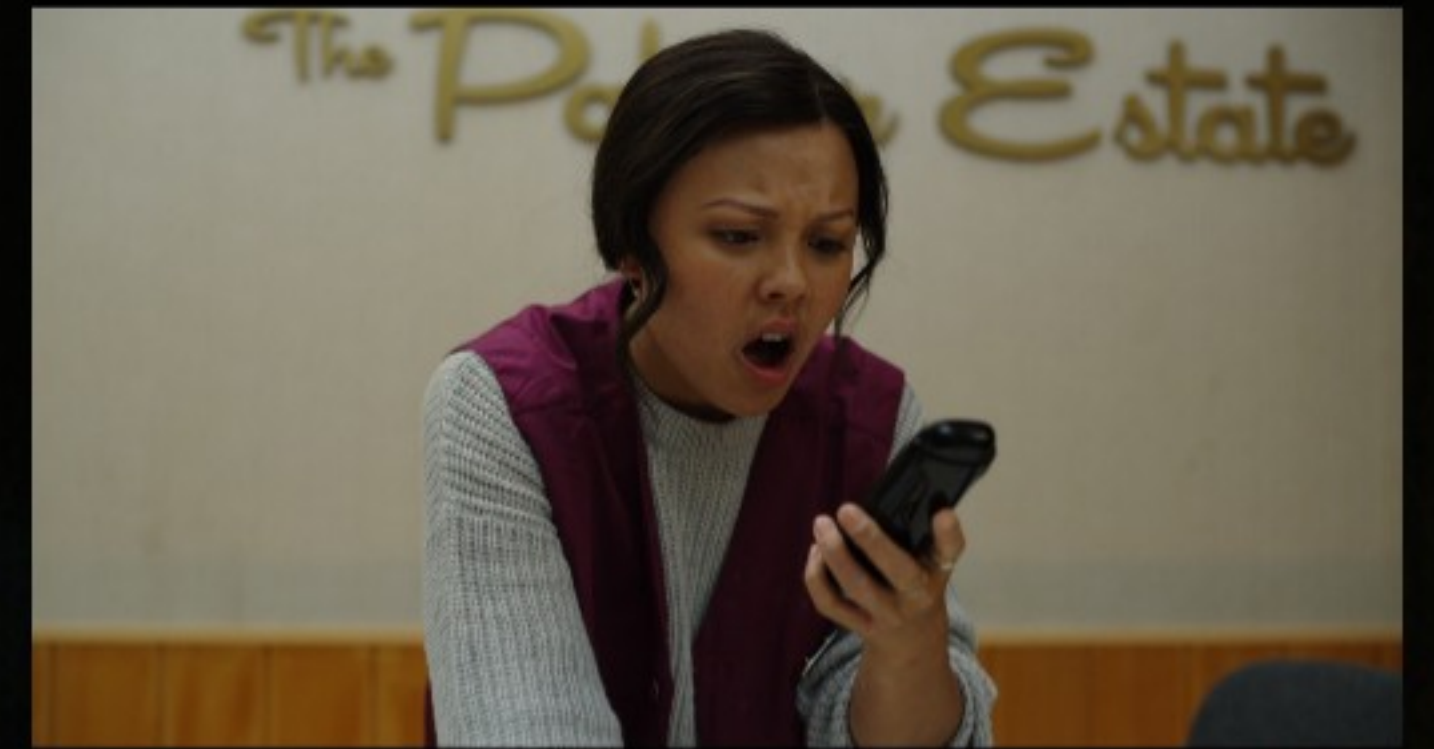
***Steven Ogg - Don***



***Daniel Doheny - Sonny***



***Chelsea Clark - Patricia***



***Mark McKinney - Professor Robert***



***Julian Richings - Dr. Cummings***



***Marcia Bennet - Mrs. Applebaum***





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# ***THE CREATURE***

The brainchild of Canada's most imaginative creature guru, Steve Kostanski, our worm is somewhere between a graboid and a xenomorph. Over the course of the film, we'll see it evolve from a little baby to a body-devouring monster.





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# **BEHIND THE SCENES**





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## ***DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT***

From the opening frame to the post credits tease, the overall vision of *Scared Shitless* is a contemporary spin on the classic "monster in the house" horror genre that oozes 80's and 90's VHS shocker. Complete with hand-crafted practical effects and wryly written dark comedic elements, the tone is a balancing act of jump in your seat scares, laugh out loud set-pieces, and blood splattering gore— All while keeping the audience entertained and engaged in the conflict. At the forefront of the story are our unsuspecting heroes - A blue collar father and son plumbing team thrust into a battle to literally save the world from a mad scientist's experiment gone wrong. From the depths of a secret government laboratory, the perfect apex predator has escaped, only to resurface in the toilets of the unsuspecting residents of the Palmer Estate apartments. One by one, the tenants fall victim to the blood-thirsty monster when they are most vulnerable... on the porcelain throne. Our hero plumbers must put their differences aside and square off with the killing machine, using their tools of the trade in an epic battle for survival-- with the fate of the world hanging in the balance. At a little over 75 minutes in runtime, *Scared Shitless* exchanges quick punches of fun, gory chaos, and one-liners, while moving along at an entertainingly brisk pace, meant to gleefully hit a quick horror fix-- And to rewatch again and again with ease.

## ***THEMES & TONE***

There are no shortages of stress-causing factors stealing our focus these days - from money and politics to wars and walls... People could use a distraction. Something that harkens back to their youth when the b-horror movies of the 80's offered simple escapism and cheap thrills. There's a reason why *Stranger Things* is so popular! *Scared Shitless* is the answer to the current awfulness of the world. It's steeped in nostalgic style, and playfulness. It's unapologetically campy in the best ways - A classic monster flick with great blood and guts, and it's funny because it knows what it is and doesn't try to be something it's not. It's the perfect film to headline a horror festival, play alongside *Sharknado* at a drive-in double feature, or put on at a 12 year-old's birthday sleepover! Yes, there is gore, suspense, and jump-scares, but the film is anchored in something real: a relationship between a disappointed father and his grieving, lost, failure of a son. This is a story about a Sonny learning that working hard, no matter the job, forges character. It's also a story about how a giant worm with bloodlust brings out the best in some people, and the intestines of others.

As much as the premise of an enormous carnivorous arthropod is ridiculous, for these characters, it's real. The danger of playing in the genre world is that some people confuse style for substance. Walking the line between taking yourself too seriously and playing everything as a joke is a challenge, but *Scared Shitless* is aware of this, and does an effective job of balancing both. The film navigates the strained relationship between a father and son who are worlds apart, with the goal of overcoming fears and discovering your true potential.





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## ***Business and Marketing***

Based on market trend analysis, the target audience for **Scared Shitless** are hardcore genre and horror fans, comedy fans, tweens, and video game fans. All gender and ethnicities, predominantly late-teens and early adults. The secondary audience expands to genre fans in the adults 25-45 range, with the younger audience tuning in to see Steven Ogg (Trevor from *Grand Theft Auto 5*), and Chelsea Clark (one of the stars of Netflix's hit series *Ginny and Georgia*). Older fans will tune in to be reminded of the 80s horror films they grew up loving and catch a glimpse of *Kids in the Hall* and *Superstore's* Mark Mckinney

It is widely known that horror movies are successful and lucrative for both audiences and investors, due to their smaller budgets, major returns, and vibrant fan culture. According to [Quartz.com](https://www.quartz.com), "when a horror franchise can find its niche, it can become a reliable source of revenue", and there are many strong examples of this like the long-running *Friday the 13th* and *Halloween* sequels, which span four and five decades respectively, and had independent, low-budget roots. We believe that **Scared Shitless** has similar potential - to be a popular franchise with sequels, merchandising, video games, spin-offs, and TV series.

Horror films are relatively low-cost to produce, which makes them an attractive option for studios and networks to distribute and market to their audiences. According to [thedailybeast.com](https://www.thedailybeast.com), the horror genre became the defining genre of the pandemic, by seizing "its largest share of the box office history in 2020, nearly double than normal, then broke its own record in 2021, proving that its hot streak was no fluke." Furthermore, there has been an increase in popularity of horror content on social media platforms like YouTube and Instagram, which has helped to fuel its growth.

In recent years, studies have shown that the horror genre is becoming more popular and in-demand than in previous years. Shows like *The Walking Dead*, *Stranger Things* and *American Horror Story* are in the top ten most in-demand shows worldwide, indicating the growth of horror themed shows across the market. Typically, these series have larger amounts of seasons and episodes, which allows them to gain a large amount of traction over the years. The **Scared Shitless** team plans to position themselves in this same category to facilitate growth for the movie, idea, and its audience over time.





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## **SEQUEL**

One thought for a potential sequel involves Don taking Sonny on a trip to Ireland to meet his estranged grandfather, Ronald "Ron" Donahue, played by hard-nosed Malcolm McDowell type. Don hasn't spoken to his father since leaving home thirty years ago to escape his difficult upbringing. Ron was a tough father - trying to instill in Don the hard lessons of life in ways that were more common back then. Don has no intention of speaking to his father again, but one day, an invitation arrives in the mail stating that his father is being awarded on St. Patrick's Day at the International Plumber's Convention, held in Ireland this year. Don has no interest in going until Sonny, being the soft-hearted guy that he is, convinces Don to reconcile with his father and not let the resentment fester until it's too late. Once they arrive in Ireland, they discover that Ron's in the hospital, recovering from a heart attack, and he wants Don to accept the award on his behalf.

Meanwhile back in Canada, one of creatures sneaks into the hull of an Atlantic shipping boat and is offloaded in the middle of the night in the port town where the plumber's convention is held. It brutally kills a couple of drunken dock workers before slithering into the convention centre. With the help of Sonny, Don and Ron must reconcile their complicated past and save the plumber's convention. The movie will culminate at a "Banish the Snakes" parade in the town square (a St. Patrick's Day tradition), where the snake-like creature shows up causing bloody chaos!

From a production standpoint, we can use the benefits of the Ireland/Canada Co-Production Treaty.





## CREATIVE TEAM

**Vivieno Caldinelli - Director**



Vivieno Caldinelli is a Canadian director who has managed to apply his childhood obsessions, fears, and rare comedic vision into becoming an award winning director.

He most recently directed the dark comedy feature, SEVEN STAGES. The film's stellar cast includes Dan Harmon, Mark McKinney, Maria Bamford, and Taika Waititi. The film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

In the years prior, Viv was at the helm of four films: the award winning horror-comedy hit PORTAL TO HELL!!! starring the late great Roddy Piper, and the MacDonald Hall Trilogy of feature films, which premiered on NETFLIX in 2017.

Recently, Vivieno wrapped as a director of episodes of BARONESS VON SKETCH season 5 (CBC, IFC) in Toronto, and he directed the epic 2-part episode of the Emmy Award winning series ODD SQUAD. Most notably, Vivieno has directed the last 4 seasons of the Canadian comedy institution THIS HOUR HAS 22 MINUTES (CBC),

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1634758/>

**Lewis Spring - Producer**



Lewis Spring is an award-winning producer and line producer with over ten years of experience, who champions emerging content and creators with bold creative visions. Past line-producing credits include award-winning digital series "True Dating Stories" (LaRue Entertainment/CBC Gem), sketch-comedy series "The Dessert" (Cave/Bell Media), and a "Canadian Heritage Minute" spotlighting Jackie Shane, a black, trans pioneer soul singer in 1960s Toronto. As a producer, his short film "Bait and Switch" screened at numerous international and Oscar-qualifying film festivals, winning best International Short at the LA Comedy Festival. His other shorts have screened around the world and been nominated for multiple awards including Best Picture at the Hollywood North Film Awards.

With a passion for comedy, horror, and sci-fi, Lewis is driven by unique and compelling voices, that take risks in an effort to find a loyal audience.

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5594420/>

**Brandon Cohen - Writer**



Brandon Cohen is a Toronto-based screenwriter known for his award-winning short films.

[https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8407024/?ref\\_=tt\\_ov\\_wr](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8407024/?ref_=tt_ov_wr)

**Steven Kostanski - Creature FX**



Steven Kostanski is a Canadian director, producer, writer, and creature fx artist known for his work on The Divide (2011), The Void (2016) and Psycho Goreman (2020).

[https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2725627/?ref\\_=fn\\_al\\_nm\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2725627/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1)



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**THANK YOU!  
AND DON'T FORGET TO FLUSH**

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