



# *Demons*

8 Minutes | Narrative Short | Dark Comedy

Directed by Kelly Fyffe-Marshall

## *Film Synopsis*

*Broke and desperate, an estranged mother and daughter reunite to confront buried trauma and decide if their survival means coming together or walking away from each other for good.*

*Demons* (short) is the calling card for *Demons* the series – a 10 x 30 minutes, Scripted Serial, Dark Comedy, written & created by Preeti Torul.





## CAST

### *PREETI TORUL is* **MADHURI**

Madhuri, or “Mads”, is a charming loner drifting through life at 38, broke and unemployed. She’s a talented actor named after Bollywood legend Madhuri Dixit, but that’s where the glamour ends. No savings, no stability, and no family—unless you count her estranged mother, Kiran.

All her white ex-boyfriends will tell you that deep down she wants the mom she never had. Now that Kiran is back, Mads will go to any length to keep her, even as their traumatic pasts keep crashing the party.

### *SONIA DHILLON TULLY is* **KIRAN**

Kiran is a clever, 56-year-old, lapsed-Hindu woman, who lives to work, exploits her friendships, fucks her boss, and has a knack for fraud. Laid off from her 21-year stint at Porter Investments, Kiran hits rock bottom with a frozen pension.

When she’s not sipping tea and spiralling about her finances, she’s researching ways to get in touch with her estranged daughter, to hatch a scheme to rescue them both. She has invested too much into her job and daughter and she’ll be damned if she doesn’t get paid out.

# PREETI TORUL

## Writer/Lead Actor

Preeti Torul is an actor, screenwriter, comedian, and filmmaker, who started at The Second City in 2013. Her first televised stand-up special at the 2019 Winnipeg Comedy Festival, is now streaming on CBC Gem. Preeti's on-screen performance credits include; 'Bria Mack Gets A Life' (Crave/Roku), 'Ghosts' (CBS), and 'Wedding Season' (Netflix).



As a screenwriter, she has written for CBC's 'Air Farce', 'TallBoyz' and has consulted on several comedy development projects. Her original dark-comedy television project 'DEMONS', was selected for the 2022 Reelworld E20 program and shortlisted for the 2021 Sundance Episodic Lab. 'DEMONS' was also chosen for the 2023 Netflix Diversity of Voices Program and was mentored through the 2023 TIFF Series Accelerator Lab. Preeti was selected for the 2024 Canfro Productions x Warner Bros. Canada Showrunner bootcamp. 'DEMONS' is currently in development with Archipelago Productions (CAN), Marginal MediaWorks (US), with funding support from Ontario Creates.

As a filmmaker, Preeti's short film 'Where You From?', premiered at the 2018 Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival and she has edited and directed for Canadian television. Preeti is passionate about showcasing South Asian characters as lead characters, where their existence in the story doesn't rely on identity, but strictly on their character or humanity, or lack thereof.



# *SONIA DHILLON TULLY*

## *Lead Actor*

Sonia Dhillon Tully is a Canadian actress and fitness instructor best known for her roles in *Wedding Season*, *Locke & Key*, and *The Changeling*. Sonia was born and raised in Toronto - where she debuted in the early drama *Side Effects* episode *Father Knows Best* as "Attendant". She then went on to earn a degree in Fine Arts at the York University before furthering her career and afterwards portrayed several different characters in



in various movies and TV shows, until her acting career came to a halt due to her interest to study classical yoga in 2000. After obtaining a Bachelor of Education in Yoga from the Brahmrisi Yoga Training College - affiliant with Punjab University she then returned to Toronto in 2003 and became a yoga instructor at a private practice. Following this in 2005 she wrote and hosted her own Yoga based TV series *Intimate Yoga*, broadcasted on SunTV. After ending production - she then went on for certifications to become a personal trainer for victims of brain injuries. It was not until 2014 when she picked back up her acting career and remains active to this present day.

# *KELLY FYFFE-MARSHALL – DIRECTOR*

## *Director's Bio*

Kelly Fyffe-Marshall is an award-winning director whose powerful and visually distinct storytelling has firmly established her as a vital voice in Canadian cinema. Her work challenges harmful narratives and reclaims space for Black and historically marginalized communities across the diaspora, using film as a force for innovation, empathy, and social change.



Recognized by prestigious institutions including TIFF, Sundance, SXSW, and the Canadian Academy of Film and Television, Kelly has quickly become a standout voice in the industry. Her acclaimed short films: *Haven* (SXSW 2018), *Black Bodies* (TIFF 2020, Sundance 2021), and *OMI* (SXSW 2022) have garnered awards and critical praise.

Kelly's debut feature film, *When Morning Comes*, premiered at TIFF 2022, earning nominations for Best Canadian Feature and the Jean-Marc Vallée DGC Discovery Award. It was also selected by David Cronenberg as his choice for the Toronto Film Critics Association's Clyde Gilmour Award.

Through every project, Kelly brings a clear vision and a deep commitment to reshaping the cinematic landscape with authenticity, urgency, and heart.

# *KELLY FYFFE-MARSHALL – DIRECTOR*

## Director's Statement

I make films that act as vehicles for truth. Films that are unapologetically rooted in lived experiences, and committed to reframing whose stories are seen and how. *Demons* is an extension of that purpose, a bold examination of what happens when two emotionally exhausted Brown women decide they've had enough.

Coming from an immigrant background, I know firsthand the complexities of familial love, how care is often expressed through sacrifice, how survival can distort affection, and how silence around trauma can pass from one generation to the next. *Demons* captures a mother and daughter haunted by everything they've never said to each other.

What drew me most to Preeti Torul's script is its fearless emotional honesty. The writing leans into the discomfort, often with humour, sometimes with rage, and always with purpose. It's rare to see South Asian women like Kiran and Madhuri on screen, both flawed, defiant, funny, and broken. That's the kind of work I want to champion: storytelling that liberates characters from respectability and lets them be fully human.

Visually, *Demons* unfolds in an intimate, lived-in space; two people, one room, something that feels both modern and nostalgic. It's a familiar North American backdrop, one long occupied by white stories, and more recently Black ones, but rarely South Asian ones. Our presence here is intentional, a quiet act of reclamation. The muted colour palette reflects that same care, evoking trauma, absence, and the fragile possibility of healing. It's a space where brown skin glows and glances carry the weight of generations.

Ultimately, *Demons* is a reclamation. Of voice. Of power. Of family. It's a story about two women deciding to rob the rich while reckoning with what was stolen from them. It's about intergenerational pain and the radical act of deciding to heal from it, even if you have to break a few rules along the way.





For any press inquiries, please contact:

Nicholas Ewart |

Producer

[nicholas@archipelago productions.ca](mailto:nicholas@archipelago productions.ca)

+1 (647) 717-0944

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