



**CONTACT:**

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PRODUCER - DIRECTOR - WRITER

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**\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \***

## **Diverse Crew Set to Shoot Pandemic Horror Short in Port Townsend**

(FEB 2021) PORT TOWNSEND, WA – Conceived and written during the 2020 pandemic, the independent short film, *Lifeless*, is scheduled to be shot in Port Townsend, WA, in mid-March – with a story focused on the breakdown and seeming end of life as we knew it – told through the perspective of a lone woman.

"This story came to me in a fevered dream during the fall in Los Angeles after months of feeling trapped and isolated in the second largest city in the country," said Writer, Director and Producer Maria Collette Sundeen. "I was surrounded by millions of people, by empty theaters, by art galleries, by friends I loved, but I had never been more alone. It was like being encased in glass walls and lost in time."

With a focus on working with a diverse team of filmmakers, the cast and crew includes primarily females in key roles – including DP, editor, hair and makeup, as well as Black and Latinx crew. The team hails from many places – including Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, Sonoma County, California, New York and Canada - all of whom came on board "to work on something creative that spoke to us," stated Cinematographer Catalina Rodriguez. "The experimental style really captures the essence of what we're all going through."

Inspired by Edgar Allan Poe's short story, "The Fall of the House of Usher," *Lifeless* is told similarly by a nameless narrator and incorporates lines and words directly from the story, leaning on sound, lighting and visual effects to capture the collective loss and grief experienced during the isolation of lockdown.

"Poe's story isn't only about death – but as a writer, it's also about sound and mood," said Maria. "I wanted to try and bottle that in a story. I like to call it a Ghost Poem."

The film will be shooting in various locations and will showcase the town as a timeless global village, including scenes in Fort Worden, the Wheeler Theater, the Antique Mall, Undertown, and the downtown area. Lunches for the team will be donated by Ferino's Pizzeria in Port Hadlock and they're still seeking support for the crew dinners, and production donations.

"We're very fortunate to be working here, and the town has really supported us," added Maria. "For a group of artists hungry to create, we couldn't have asked for a kinder reception."

*The filmmakers are still crowdfunding to raise production money.  
To donate, see the website link at [www.museworks.tv/lifeless-short](http://www.museworks.tv/lifeless-short).*

### **About the Director**

Maria Collette Sundeen is writer, director and producer with a background in documentary, television, short, and corporate productions.

In addition to the highly anticipated film LIFELESS, she produced the short film LOLA, wrote and directed THE ONCE & FUTURE BRIDE, and served as a consulting producer on THE GREAT 14<sup>th</sup>, an award-winning documentary about the Dalai Lama. She is currently shopping around her award-winning script, TIMELESS, and in early development for a Beatles-inspired documentary.

Her background includes working as a producer for programs airing on UCTV, the Sci-Fi Channel, CNN, and USA Network, as part of the founding production team for the launch of CNET-TV. She has worked with a variety of independent production companies - including Frame of Mind Films, Habitat Media, and Katahdin Productions – in development, outreach and production for award-winning documentary films. She spent three years as a board director for KRCB, a Northern California-based PBS station, and nearly a decade producing videos around the country for Farm Credit, showcasing agribusiness from forestry to cattle, dairy, fruit orchards, and vineyards.

Maria has a BA degree in Journalism from Humboldt State University, and MA degrees in International Policy & French Studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, where she focused on the arts as political and social statements. Her scripts have won or placed in a spectrum of contests, and she is currently plotting a TV series as well as an epic novel of historical fiction. Maria is Mexican-American, as well as French, German, Spanish, and Native American (Yaqui). <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3773339/>

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**Website** <https://www.museworks.tv/lifeless-short>

**Logline** Told only through visuals, sound effects, music and narration, Lifeless captures the doom, death and rebirth of a lost soul, and evokes the drama, pathos and horror of our collective loss.

**Synopsis** Lifeless tells the tale of a Woman seeking to connect with the world. While she yearns for nature, for interaction, for connection, she realizes that the world that she was once a part of is no longer there. As the story unfolds she transitions from confusion to despair to raging anger.

### KEY CAST AND CREW

#### Cast

➤ **ELEANOR HERREID O'NEILL as The Woman**

IG: @eleanor.herrone  
WEB: [www.elleherrone.com/](http://www.elleherrone.com/)

➤ **NIGEL VONAS as The Man**

IMDB: [imdb.me/nigelvonas](http://imdb.me/nigelvonas)

#### Post-Production Team

➤ **DOUGLAS PIPES**

**Score Composer**

IG: @dpipes  
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➤ **GRACIE SIMONETT**

**Editor**

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#### Production Team

➤ **MARIA COLLETTE SUNDEEN**

**Writer/Director/Producer**

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➤ **CATALINA RODRIGUEZ**

**Director of Photography**

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➤ **REGAN MACSTRAVIC**

**Lights & Sound**

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