



**CONTACT:**

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PRODUCER - DIRECTOR - WRITER

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**\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \***

## **Pandemic Horror Short “Lifeless” Makes its Pacific Northwest Premiere**

(JULY 2022) PORT TOWNSEND, WA – Chosen as an official selection for the West Sound Film Festival in Bremerton, Washington, the independent short film, *Lifeless*, will be making its PNW premiere in Bremerton, Washington, just down the road from where the film was shot in Port Townsend. The festival dates are August 5-7.

Awarded **Best Short Script** at the **Independent Horror Movie Awards** earlier this year, *Lifeless* was inspired by Edgar Allan Poe’s short story, “The Fall of the House of Usher” and offers a similarly-told story by a nameless narrator. The script merges prose, lines and words directly from the story, integrating excerpts from Poe as well as H.P. Lovecraft’s “The Outsider” and Lord Byron’s epic poem “Manfred.” All three works explore the role of the solitary outlier within a gothic horror world – culminating in a metaphysical drama.

“I’m excited for the West Sound audience to see the imagery, this visual story shot in their backyard on the Olympic Peninsula,” said Writer and Director Maria Collette Sundeen. “My hope is that when people see this film, they can explore their own existential journey that they experienced during the lonely early days of the pandemic. We all suffered in every way imaginable.”

The production team includes some prominent names. The narrator is a classically trained actress who has recorded books for LibriVox and Audible (Olivia Sundeen); she’s also the director’s talented daughter. The makeup artist was the lead for six seasons on the show “Grimm” (Christina Kortum) and the composer wrote the score for the films “Monster House,” “Trick ‘r Treat,” and “Krampus” (Douglas Pipes). The musical score was recorded by a live orchestra in Budapest, Hungary.

Leaning on sound, lighting and visual effects to capture the collective loss and grief experienced during the isolation of lockdown, the story is told with no dialogue, simply the drone of dramatic voice-over narration that evokes the drama, pathos and horror of the doom and gloom of our collective loss.

As the Writer, Director and Producer, Maria is anxious to showcase her work, particularly to local audiences. “As a Mexican-American filmmaker with few connections to the film industry, the ability to introduce the public to my work is enormously vital – not only to advance my career but also to tell the stories that come from a unique perspective, both culturally and as a female,” she said.

“Producing this film in Washington was a tremendous honor. The region is incredibly beautiful and the community really supported us,” added Maria. “We’re incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to make this work of art during such a dark time.”

(more)

## 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 recently produced the short film LOLA and served as a consulting producer on THE GREAT 14th, an award-winning documentary about the Dalai Lama. She is shopping around her award-winning script, TIMELESS, and is currently working on a mockumentary project for Vice Media to be aired on Disney+ entitled, A Fashion Tale.

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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, evoking 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/)

> **JAVIER SCHIALER as The Man**

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6008116/>

> **OLIVIA SUNDEEN as The Narrator**

IG: @stoicmonalisa  
WEB: [www.oliviasundeen.com](http://www.oliviasundeen.com)

### Post-Production Team

> **DOUGLAS PIPES**

**Score Composer**  
WEB: [www.douglaspipes.com/](http://www.douglaspipes.com/)  
IMDB: [www.imdb.com/name/nm1884354/](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1884354/)

> **RYAN ALVA**

**Colorist / Post Coordination**  
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> **YASMIN MISTRY**

**Special Effects**  
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### Production

> **MARIA COLLETTE SUNDEEN**

**Writer/Director/Producer**  
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> **CATALINA RODRIGUEZ**

**Director of Photography**  
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> **SKYLER MULLINS**

**Camera**  
IG: @influencedyah  
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> **NICKY SMIT**

**Gaffer**  
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IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm9154809/>