THE INDEPENDENT HORROR SOCIETY

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INDEPENDENT HORROR SOCIETY TO HEADLINE OPENING TWO DAYS OF THE RAINDANCE 2025 HORROR PROGRAM

The Independent Horror Society teams up with Raindance to host the opening two days of the festival's dedicated "Raindance Horror" strand, showcasing cutting-edge genre films and celebrating emerging voices in independent horror cinema.

London, May 20, 2025

The Independent Horror Society (IHS) will host the opening two days (June 19th-20th) of the *Raindance Horror* strand at the 33rd Raindance Film Festival. This partnership brings together two passionate voices in indie genre cinema: IHS founder Chris Nials will host Thursday and Friday's horror program, kickstarting the festival's dedicated Horror section (June 19th–22nd).

The 33rd Raindance Film Festival runs between June 18th–27th 2025 in central London, and its offbeat, independent spirit is a natural match for The IHS's grassroots ethos.

Raindance's 33rd edition boasts an expanded lineup. A record 70 feature films will screen, nearly doubling last year's roster. The festival opens with the UK premiere of *Heavyweight* (dir. Christopher M. Anthony) – a British boxing drama – and closes with Camilla Guttner's London art-school drama *The Academy*. As Raindance founder Elliot Grove notes, this broad program *"has built a reputation for championing films that might be overlooked elsewhere,"* reinforcing Raindance's commitment to discovery.

Horror is a celebrated strand within this years' lineup. The dedicated Horror section will screen a mix of genre films from around the world. It starts on Thursday evening (19th) with the US slasher *Deformelody: An American Nightmare*, and then continues across the weekend with films such as the UK thriller *Dirty Boy* (Doug Rao), interactive audience-choice film *The Run* (Paul Raschid), and international

entries such as Bangladesh's *Dui Shaw* and Kazakhstan's *Zhaza*. These selections underscore Raindance's embrace of diverse and daring storytelling.

For over a decade The Independent Horror Society has supported grassroots genre cinema, growing a community of more than 2,000 horror fans and filmmakers. Having The IHS host the first two days of Raindance's Horror strand reflects the shared indie spirit of both organisations.

"I am delighted to be able to be hosting the first day of the Raindance Horror strand of the 33rd Raindance Film Festival," said Chris Nials, founder of IHS. "*Raindance's support and nurturing of independent filmmakers very much fits into our ethos here at The Independent Horror Society, and I can't wait to be part of a special day filled with some incredible genre films."* Nials adds that this partnership will shine a spotlight on emerging horror talent, in keeping with both The IHS' and Raindance's legacy of discovery.

With The IHS hosting Thursday and Friday's Horror program, Raindance 2025 promises a day of chills, thrills and unforgettable indie cinema. Film industry delegates, distributors and press are invited to join both organisations in celebrating new horror storytelling.

Festival passes are on sale now, and the full schedule is available via Raindance's official channels. The fusion of IHS's offbeat energy with Raindance's indie credibility makes this a not-to-be-missed kick off for the festival's genre offerings.

About

The Independent Horror Society is fast-growing and inclusive hub for all UK horror fans and creatives to come together and share the love of our favourite genre.

We're here to support the creation of low budget, independent filmmaking and everyone involved in doing so.

Members can stay at the forefront of all horror news, reviews and insights, as well as become eligible for special discounts on tickets for our screening nights, where fans and industry professionals can sample some incredible short and feature length independent films from some of the best up and coming film makers around.

For more information on The Independent Horror Society visit: https://independenthorrorsociety.com

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