

NEW LINE CINEMA

NEW LINE CINEMA, MEDIA HOME ENTERTAINMENT

and

SMART EGG PICTURES

PRESENT

A ROBERT SHAYE PRODUCTION - A WES CRAVEN FILM

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

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Synopsis

Nancy Thompson is a typical American kid growing up in a clean, middle-class California suburb. She's a good student, outgoing and well-liked.

Her idyllic existence is abruptly shattered by a series of horrible nightmares--the monstrous stalking by a fierce cold-blooded killer.

When describing her haunted, sleepless nights to her closest friends, they suddenly realize that they too have been jolted awake by screams and cold sweats; they too have been plagued by the same hallucination--the same awful madman.

That night one of her friends is brutally murdered in her sleep. The police suspect the girl's boyfriend. Nancy, however, begins to suspect something far more sinister; she fears that the walls separating fantasy from reality are crumbling and the nocturnal monsters of their unconscious minds are hunting them down.

Their only defense, she claims, is to stay awake. Her family fears that her sanity is slipping away, even as her friends are systematically slaughtered in their sleep.

After many sleepless nights of fighting off well-meaning adults armed with pills, warm baths, hot milk and calming lies, Nancy resigns herself to the fact that she must give in to her exhaustion and face the terror of her nightmares in a life-and-death battle for control. In an exciting and startling climax, Nancy confronts her tormentor and discovers the dark, decade-old secret of Elm Street--the heinous events that triggered the creation of the nightmare.

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET is the story of the courage and resourcefulness of one extraordinary girl--a psychological fantasy/thriller that rips apart the barrier between dreams and reality. It will make us all think twice before settling onto our pillows for a night of sweet dreams.

WES CRAVEN

Director/Writer Wes Craven leapt to prominence upon the release of his first two films, THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT and THE HILLS HAVE EYES, two jewels of the horror-film genre which have become cult classics.

Craven's horror, like Hitchcock's, banks unexpectedly. The violence lurks in our daily surroundings, waiting for the chance to leap out and wreak havoc.

"I'm interested in frightening people on a deep level, not just making them jump," says Craven. "My first two films blew away all the cliches of handling violence. Before, screen violence had been neat and tidy; I made it painful and protracted and shocking and very human. And I made the people who were doing the killing human."

Craven himself has an unusual background for an action/horror director. A native Ohioan of strict religious upbringing, he received a master's degree in writing and philosophy from Johns Hopkins University and taught humanities at the college level before turning to a film career.

Prior to A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET, Craven wrote and directed DEADLY BLESSING, a Polygram Pictures Presentation for United Artists Release. The film casts diabolical murder against the background of midwestern religious sects. He also directed and wrote SWAMP THING, starring Adrienne Barbeau and Louis Jourdan for AVCO-Embassy Pictures. The film is based on the popular comic strip and borders on science-fiction. Critics and audiences praised it for its comic touch and smooth mingling of genres.

The versatile Craven also directed the NBC-TV film STRANGER IN OUR HOUSE, starring Linda Blair and Carol Lawrence, and produced the acclaimed KENT STATE drama for NBC-TV. His NIGHTMARE TO HELL with Susan Lucci, Joanna Cassidy, and Robert Urich was a recent ABC-TV production.

Not surprisingly, Craven has a few thoughts to offer about the horror genre. "It deals in areas that are considered taboo; it deals with things that are unnameable. People who go to horror films are frustrated and want to express their frustrations. Going to these films is a way to exorcise horror."

"What horror films do is function as an allowable insanity. They allow people to let out all the craziness and rage that we normally suppress. Horror movies take people where their minds go only during sleep states or altered states. They deal with images and situations that mirror the anxieties which shoot through us all or all of our culture. In that sense, they're very important movies."

JOHN SAXON

For more than two decades, John Saxon has been one of show business' busiest actors. He has worked continuously in film, television and on stage, proving himself to be not only handsome, but versatile.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, John began acting as a way out of an impoverished environment. It wasn't long before he was given a screen test in Hollywood and signed to a long-term contract by Universal Studios.

After making his film debut in RUNNING WILD, John worked in scores of other films, including WAR HUNT with Robert Redford and APPOLOOSA with Marlon Brando. He received high praise for his portrayal of a deranged athlete in THE UNGUARDED MOMENT. Some of his other films include THE ELECTRIC HORSEMAN, ISTANBUL EXPRESS and ENTER THE DRAGON.

Saxon won even more recognition during the years he played the masterful surgeon Dr. Ted Stuart on NBC-TV's THE BOLD ONES. TV viewers will remember his portrayal of Rashid Ahmed, the shady Arabian oil tycoon in this past season's top-rated ABC-TV series, DYNASTY.

RONEE BLAKLEY

Ronee Blakley rose to prominence as a multi-faceted talent when she dazzled audiences with her performance as Barbara Jean, the queen of country music in Robert Altman's NASHVILLE. Blakley composed the music she sang and wrote her famous breakdown scene in that movie. Her work in NASHVILLE brought her an Academy Award nomination as well as the 1975 Best Supporting Actress Award from the National Board of Review, the Sylvia Award for Best Actress and two Golden Globe nominations for Best Supporting Actress and Best Acting Debut. An auspicious beginning for a small town girl from Caldwell, Idaho.

Since that stunning entrance, Miss Blakley has worked on RENALDO AND CLARA with Bob Dylan, THE DRIVER, with Ryan O'Neal and Bruce Dern, THE BALTIMORE BULLET with Omar Sharif and James Coburn and SHE CAME TO THE VALLEY with Dean Stockwell. She has appeared in several television movies and made her Broadway debut in the highly acclaimed PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES.

Miss Blakley has released several recordings of her own songs and toured with Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Joni Mitchell. She continues to employ her musical gifts in both theatre and film collaborations.

She is starring in, and has done the soundtrack for, an episode of TALES FROM THE DARK SIDE airing this fall, and BLAKLEY-WENDERS DOCUDRAMA a project done with her former husband, Wim Wenders, is in post-production.

HEATHER LANGENKAMP

The past two years for Heather have been the sort of which Hollywood dreams are made. While en route from her senior year at High School in Washington, D.C., before beginning studies at Stanford University, Heather stopped to visit her parents in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Francis Ford Coppola also happened to be in town, making THE OUTSIDERS. He spotted Heather's talent, and cast her in that film, and his next one, RUMBLE FISH, opposite Matt Dillon.

Since coming to Los Angeles, Heather has starred in the forthcoming film NICKEL MOUNTAIN based on John Gardner's best selling novel, and the CBS Movie PASSION, opposite Lindsay Wagner, Richard Crenna, and Joanne Woodward.

Perhaps most impressive, Heather continues to attend Stanford where she majors in Russian Studies.

JOHNNY DEPP

Johnny Depp marks his screen debut as Glen in A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET. While this is Johnny's first acting role, he is no beginner when it comes to performing.

Since age 14, Johnny's been playing guitar in rock and roll bands, first in Florida, where he was raised, and then on the road throughout the country with BILLY IDOL and THE ROMANTICS.

At age 20, Johnny moved to Los Angeles with his own band, in search of the "almighty record deal." They played major clubs in and around L.A. until Nicolas Cage spotted an unusual quality in Johnny and suggested he start acting.

Johnny Depp will next be seen in a starring part in an upcoming film by R. Ben Efraim, PRIVATE RESORTS.

AMANDA WYSS

Amanda, like her character Tina, grew up in Manjattan Beach, a California suburb. She was a cheerleader and a member of the student council at Aviation High School and loves to dance and sing.

Amanda started acting at age 12 and has received a great deal of encouragement from her family, especially from her older sister, who is an actress in New York.

In the past few years Amanda has appeared in FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH for Universal, WHITE DOG for Paramount and FORCE FIVE for American Cinema Productions. She's appeared in 16 television productions and three stage plays.

The role of Tina in A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET continues the auspicious rise of this talented young actress.

NICK CORRI

Nick Corri cultivated the street charm with which he so aptly endows the character of Rod, while growing up in New York City. It's no wonder that this stylish young actor claims to be most inspired by Marlon Brando.

Nick moved to Los Angeles at age 13, has appeared in films and television, including the series FAME and on stage in GREASE. In the Fall of 1973, he won the Dramalogue Award for his performance as Cupcakes in SHORT EYES.

ROBERT ENGLUND

Thus far, in his big screen roles, Robert has: trucked across America with Henry Fonda in **LAST OF THE COWBOYS**, insulted Barbara Streisand's singing in **A STAR IS BORN**, shot Burt Reynolds in **HUSTLE**, had his nose broken by Richard Gere in **BLOODBROTHERS**, shot pool with Jeff Bridges in **STAY HUNGRY**, surfed with Gary Busey in **BIG WEDNESDAY**, helped Dennis Christopher run an orphanage in Saigon in **DON'T CRY IT'S ONLY THUNDER**, and shoved Charles Bronson down an elevator shaft in **ST. IVES**.

On the homescreen Robert's tv jobs have seen him marry Jack Warden's daughter in **HOBSON'S CHOICE**, die a noble death as a war hero in **YOUNG JOE**, **THE FORGOTTEN KENNEDY**, send Lindsay Wagner to the electric chair in **I WANT TO LIVE**, and coach the unemployed Gregory Harrison in boxing in **THE FIGHTER**. He is currently co-starring as Willie in the CBS-TV series **V**.

All in all, he's acted in 15 feature films, 10 movies for television, one mini-series, guest-starred in over 20 tv shows, and appeared in approximately 40 professional stage productions ranging from Shakespeare to Shaw, Pirandello to Pinter, Miller to Mamet.

Now, in **A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET**, he will terrify multitudes!

NEW LINE CINEMA CORPORATION

New Line Cinema Corporation was created in 1967 and has been actively engaged in the motion picture business for over seventeen years.

The company was founded and is headed by Robert Shaye. Shaye is a graduate of the Business School at the University of Michigan and Columbia Law School. He has produced and directed several short films, one of which was selected as the best American short film of the year by the American Society of Cinematographers. His films have been acquired for the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art, the British Film Institute and the Swedish Film Archive. Shaye was also a Fulbright Scholar and is a published authority on various aspects of copyright law.

The most recent productions of New Line Cinema are POLYESTER by John Waters, THE FIRST TIME, written and directed by Charles Loventhal, ALONE IN THE DARK starring Jack Palance, Donald Pleasence and Martin Landau, written and directed by Jack Sholder; XTRO, filmed in London by Harry Davenport and STUNTS, directed by Mark Lester, starring Robert Forster, Fiona Lewis, Joanna Cassidy and Ray Sharkey.

New Line Cinema Corporation also distributes a wide spectrum of independent features theatrically and non-theatrically, here and abroad. Some of the more prominent titles include TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE, PINK FLAMINGOS, EVIL DEAD, SMITHEREENS, BEAU PERE, WISEBLOOD, HEATWAVE and GET OUT YOUR HANDKERCHIEFS, which won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film.