

an original feature film screenplay

PRESERVATION

A weekend away - Be careful who you invite, be wary where you stay

Written by David Kline

FEATURE FILM PITCH

Working title: Preservation

Genre: Horror / Thriller / Mystery

Length: 110 pages

Development: Draft 4

Logline: A weekend away turns into a life or death struggle when an old Inn reveals its evil menace.

Tagline: A weekend away - Be careful who you invite, be wary where you stay.

Plot Summary

When Suzanne, a keen rock climber, arranges to visit remote hills to do some climbing, her friend Lana sees it as a chance to get the photos she needs for the magazine she works for. Unfortunately Lana's party girl friend, Jenny, tags along with her new 'boyfriend', Ross. Their addition to the trip screws up Suzanne's original hotel booking and with no rooms to spare they are forced to find other accommodation. After driving around for hours they discover an out-of-the-way Inn run by a seemingly innocuous and rather infirm proprietor, Muriel.

Meanwhile, under pressure to maintain his research funding, Dr Paul Collins, a Psychiatrist with a side interest in Parapsychology, is also in the area after learning that a paranormal expert is giving a seminar. Dr Collins is frustrated by what turns out to be commercial gimmick. However, when he meets Suzanne they both become involved in the mystery unfolding at the Inn, where Lana, Jenny and Ross have all disappeared. Their probing exposes a hotbed of paranormal activity, manifest as weird and deadly phenomena. The building draws energy from its occupants and Muriel feeds on that energy to strengthen herself and rejuvenate. Suzanne and Dr Collins will muster all their strength to try and overcome an evil force of nature.

Writer's statement

'Preservation' is a high concept, genre piece, ticking the usual boxes of pretty girls in mortal danger in an isolated and foreboding place. However I've tried to confound the usual codes and conventions of horror where women are largely portrayed as victims. Both my protagonist and antagonist are strong women. As a lead character and heroine Suzanne is tough, independent and resourceful but she comes up against an equally tough adversary. The story blends elements of horror, thriller, sci-fi, psychology, parapsychology, physics theory with contemporary cultural references.

I've tried to add bits of comic relief in the form of dark humour as well as irony and there are plenty of action sequences. I wanted to write a screenplay that has commercial viability, with, dare I say it, sequels or even a franchise possibility. My main characters, Suzanne Tate, an action girl / heroine and Dr Paul Collins, a parapsychologist, offer scope for further adventures. Dr Collins is the savant of the story, both motivating the search for answers and explaining the inexplicable. However he is flawed, full of self-doubt and not particularly macho. We gain a sense of romantic interest between Suzanne and Dr Collins. He is partly based on a real-life psychiatrist I once worked with during my years in mental health work who had a keen interest in parapsychology and the paranormal and its bearing on psychosis.

About the writer



David Kline is a filmmaker with experience as a scriptwriter, producer, director and editor. After several years spent training and working as a nurse, including time managing a drug and alcohol dependence unit, he followed his interest in drama at University. He started his media career as a runner and medical adviser with BBC Films before training as a radio journalist then switching to television, working as a Researcher, progressing to Assistant Producer with BBC Sport.

He arrived in feature film script development work via a fortuitous, personal link to the US actor, director and producer Laurence Fishburne. David assisted Mr Fishburne in the development of a screen adaptation of a well known novella (Paulo Coelho's 'The Alchemist') for Warner Brothers. David has since worked as a script reader and reporter for several UK film agencies including Script Factory, Scottish Screen and Northern Ireland Screen.

He has written numerous short film scripts and produced several, including 'On the Edge' which won Best Drama (Diamond Award) at the European Independent Film Awards 2018 and 'Game Over' co-written and produced with Director Adam Jenkins featuring Blake Harrison, Gemma Whelan and Naomi Battrick, which was officially selected for the LA Shorts International Film Festival 2018. David has also written several spec full length, feature film screenplays in a range of genres from horror to thriller to family drama. He currently resides in London, UK.

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