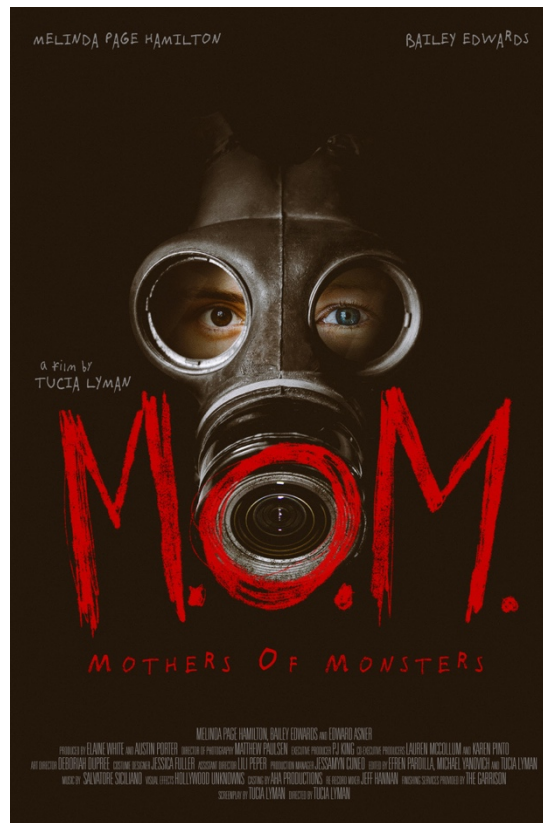




presents

M.O.M. (Mothers of Monsters)



A Real-Life Horror Film by Tucia Lyman
Opening Los Angeles: March 13, 2020 at Arena Cinelounge
96 min, English, Color

Distributor contact:
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M.O.M. ONLINE

Amazon: <http://bit.ly/MOM-OnAmazon>

Tubi: <http://bit.ly/MOMonTubi>

Website: <https://www.mothersofmonsters.com/>

Facebook: [@M.O.M.movie](#)

Instagram: [m.o.m.movie Mothers of Monsters](#)

Twitter: [@MomsOfMonsters](#)

SYNOPSIS

A distraught mother (ABBEY) suspects her teenage son (JACOB) is a psychopath who may be plotting a school shooting. When he slips through the cracks of the system, she installs an elaborate network of spy cameras in their home and captures a series of disturbing videos that confirm her worst fears.

Torn between a mother's unconditional love and a mother's acute intuition, Abbey caters her videos to all the other "mothers of monsters" online. Her plan backfires when Jacob uses a dark family secret against her, launching both mother and son on a terrifying, and ultimately deadly, game of cat and mouse.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I've always been intrigued by real-life horror films that use the dysfunctions of society as a vessel to explore the truth. One of the tragic truths we are facing right now is an epidemic of youth violence in this country. The 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut was a real wake-up call for me because that was the same school my niece almost attended, which would have put her in the same classroom, at the same time, when a former student went on a shooting spree, killing twenty-six people. Despite the overwhelming sense of horror we all feel in the aftermath of a mass shooting, the divisive state of this nation has rendered us completely incapable of enacting change. We've allowed it to become a political argument over gun reform and healthcare and I believe our *inaction* ultimately condones these acts of violence.

I'm not a politician, but as a filmmaker I felt the need to keep this crisis seared into our collective consciousness however I could. A lot of research went into this film, the

screenplay was vetted by mental health professionals, and we worked very hard to make sure we were not sensationalizing this crisis in any way. This film is not about a school shooter. It is about the generational breakdown of communication within a uniquely American family. It is about the deterioration of the human psyche that has the propensity to *produce* a school shooter. First and foremost, *M.O.M.* is a very disturbing work of narrative fiction, but a lot of the events, character traits and dialogue were borrowed from the journals, manifestos and memoirs of real-life school shooters and their parents.

I have a background in documentary television, and I wanted this film to have that same kind of authentic, unpolished doc vibe. I needed it to be gritty and uncomfortably voyeuristic, so the audience had that sense of peeking through a keyhole into the intimate life of someone else's dysfunctional family. Found footage is a brilliant mechanism of filmmaking if you use it right. And using it right has everything to do with giving the characters a believable reason to be filming in the first place. What better hook than a mother who outfits her entire house with spy cameras to figure out if her own son is a psychopath? The monster in this movie is human, and it's the kind of monster we're seeing on the news every week in this country. That makes this a very confronting film, but I think it will contribute to the national dialogue surrounding mental health stigma and gun violence in a profoundly personal way.

- Tucia Lyman (Writer/Director)

ADDITIONAL INFO FROM THE "MAKING OF"

Characters Inspired By Real School Shooters:

Lead character's profiles, behavior, and even some of the dialogue and events were borrowed from journals, memoirs, and manifestos of real school shooters and their parents. For example, after the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting, the shooter's mother said her son was triggered by the sound of her high heels, which becomes the inciting incident of the film. Specific lines of dialogue like "I'll rip your jaw off" was from an excerpt of one of the Columbine shooter's journals.

Mental Health Partners:

The filmmakers partnered with several nonprofit organizations including IVAT (Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma) and NPEIV (National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence). The screenplay was vetted by NPEIV's co-founder, Dr. Jaquelyn White, PhD, before principal photography commenced and the filmmakers use several of the organization's essays and publications as props in the film.

Mental Health Easter Eggs:

Significance of Family's Last Name of "Bell":

We planted a trail of Easter Eggs throughout the film to promote awareness around gun violence and the mental health crisis in America. For example, the family's last name is Bell, the symbol of hope in the mental health community.

https://www.mhasck.org/who_we_are/thebell.html

<http://www.mhapassaic.org/about-us/story-of-the-mental-health-bell/>

Significance of the Month of May:

The film takes place in the month May, national mental health awareness month. Abbey often starts her video diaries noting a specific date in May and the date stamps appear in all the exterior surveillance cameras.

<https://youth.gov/feature-article/may-national-mental-health-month>

Significance of TV and Radio incorporated in the film:

The filmmakers purposefully left televisions or stereos on in the background that convey some of film's more subtle themes and the more astute viewers may recognize Connecticut's "Sandy Hook" Senator, Chris Murphy, as he delivers a speech about gun violence and possible solutions to what has now become a cultural crisis in this country.

Significance of Color Palette & Mental Health Awareness:

The color palette of the film revolves around lime green, which is the national color of Mental Health Awareness. This eventually becomes the dominant color of the whole film and is incorporated into every scene in both set design and wardrobe. The more the characters begin to unravel the more lime green appears - in dishware, pillows, fruit bowls, clothing and overall set design. They painted each of the main rooms with a bold & distinct color, which helps the scenes resonate emotionally and also orients the audience as to where each of the spy cameras are hidden. For example, yellow walls in the living room, which is the color that emotes dishonesty, betrayal, deceit, specifically "hazard," and is where Jacob throws his first tantrum. The front room is painted fire orange, the color that has come to symbolize National Gun Violence Awareness and is worn across the country in rallies and marches.

CAST

Abbey Bell..... Melinda Page Hamilton
Jacob Bell Bailey Edwards
Dr. Howard Arden Edward Asner
Nana Millie Janet Ulrich Brooks
Greg Julian de la Celle

Mr. Buckner Spencer Scott
Locksmith.....Sevan Aliksonian
Girlfriend Lili Lili Peper
Mom #2Korena Ellis
Son #2Salvatore Siciliano

CREW

Written & Directed by
Tucia Lyman

Producers
Elaine White
Austin Porter

Executive Producers
PJ King
Tucia Lyman

Co-Executive Producers
Lauren McCollum
Karen Pinto

Director of Photography
Matt Paulsen

Art Director
Deborah Dupree

Costume Designer
Jessica Fuller

Production Manager:
Jessamyn Cuneo

Assistant Director:
Lili Peper

Makeup Artist
Rena Goodhew

Makeup Assistants
Megan Hebert
Elisa Cortez-Lara

Assistant Cam / Sound
Rob Lucas

Music by
Salvatore Siciliano
Vince Cuneo & Jessamyn Violet

Set Decorator:
Daniel Lavitt

Editors
Efren Pardilla
Michael Yanovich
Tucia Lyman

First Assistant Editor
Anthony Echegoyen

Visual FX
Hollywood Unknowns

Re-record Mixer
Jeff Hannan

Sound Designer
Jamie Hardt

Finishing Services
The Garrison

FILMMAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

TUCIA LYMAN (WRITER/DIRECTOR)



Tucia Lyman launched her writing & directing career in unscripted television more than 17 years ago and has produced shows for major networks including Discovery Channel, TLC, Destination America, National Geographic, the A&E Network, Spike TV, Syfy, Discovery Health, Planet Green, and Travel Channel. She was the Showrunner for Adrian Grenier's *Alter Eco* series (2008), Syfy's hit show *Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files* (2010), and Joaquin Phoenix's *Big Shot* special on Travel Channel (2011). Tucia has been a Showrunner and Executive Producer for multiple television shows including several seasons of the popular *Ghosts of Shepherdstown* (2017-2018) series for Destination America and *Ghosts of Morgan City* (2019) for Travel Channel. Her success in the horror/thriller genre inspired her to write her first screenplay titled *Halfbreed*, which was one of the 2016 winners of the PAGE

International Screenwriting Awards in the horror category. *M.O.M.* is Tucia's 2nd screenplay and first directing debut.

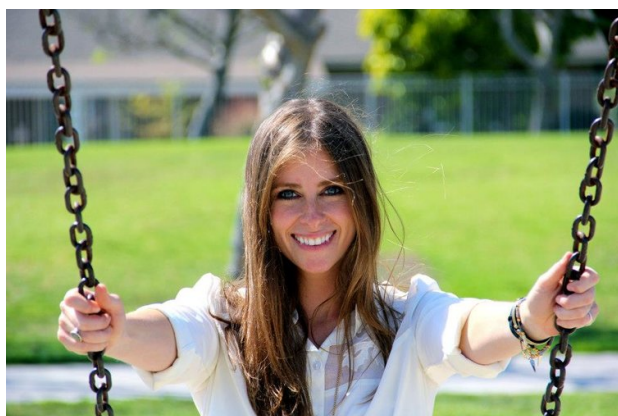
TUCIA LYMAN'S CREDITS

Showrunner = Writer/Director

"Ghosts of Morgan City"	Executive Producer / Showrunner	(Travel Channel)
"Ghosts of Shepherdstown" S2	Executive Producer / Showrunner	(Destination America)
"Ghosts of Shepherdstown" S1	Executive Producer / Showrunner	(Destination America)
"Risky Business"	Executive Producer / Showrunner	(Spike TV)
"Darkside Miami"	Executive Producer / Showrunner	(A&E)
"Dukes of Hagggle"	Executive Producer / Writer	(Discovery Channel)
"Blade Brothers"	Executive Producer / Showrunner	(Discovery Channel)
"Cajun Justice"	Co-EP / Writer	(A&E)
"Big Shot"	Co-EP / Showrunner	(Travel Channel)
"Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files" S2	Co-EP / Showrunner	(Syfy)

“Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files” S1	Supervising Producer / Director	(Syfy)
“I Didn’t Know I Was Pregnant”	Supervising Producer / Writer	(TLC)
“Your Kid Ate What?”	Supervising Producer / Writer	(TLC)
“Postpartum Nightmares”	Supervising Producer / Writer	(Discovery Health)
“Fight Science”	Supervising Producer / Director	(Nat Geo)
“Alter Eco”	Co-EP / Showrunner	(Planet Green)
“The Ultimate Fighter”	Producer / Writer	(Spike TV)
“Diagnosis X”	Supervising Producer / Writer	(TLC)
“Untold Stories of the ER” S3	Senior Producer / Writer	(TLC)
“SB South Padre Island”	Senior Producer/Writer	(Travel Channel)
“Firehouse USA”	Producer/Writer	(Discovery Channel)
“Untold Stories of the ER” S2	Producer/Writer	(TLC)
“Expeditions to the Edge”	Writer/Director/Producer	(Nat Geo)

ELAINE WHITE (PRODUCER)



Emmy-winning Producer and Emmy-nominated director, Elaine White has been a dynamo in the TV and Film industry for over 10 years. She has been on the fast track, producing shows for many major networks ranging from Food Network and Travel Channel to SyFy and Discovery. Elaine is currently the Showrunner and Executive Producer of Travel Channel’s hit show, *Portal’s To Hell* with Jack Osbourne. Prior to that, she was an Executive Producer and the Director of Travel Channel’s, *Ghost*

Of Morgan City (2019) and the Co-Executive Producer and Director of *Ghosts Of Shepherdstown* (2018). Producer / Director of SyFy’s *Haunted Highway* (2014), featuring Jack Osbourne, and *Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files* (2010). Elaine was recently the Director and Co-Executive Producer of Food Network’s *Dinner at Tiffani’s* (2016), Director of *Trisha’s Southern Kitchen* (2017) and Co-Executive Producer of *Valerie’s Home Cooking* (2018). Elaine is a member of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Having developed a close working relationship with Writer/Director, Tucia Lyman, Elaine jumped

at the opportunity to partner up and bring *M.O.M.* to the big screen, which was right up her alley, given her involvement with many paranormal shows that feature the found footage style of storytelling.

AUSTIN PORTER (PRODUCER):



Austin Porter has worked in the entertainment industry for the past 15 years. He co-hosted and helped develop Syfy's hit series, *Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files*. Austin first garnered a relationship with Writer/Director, Tucia Lyman, and Producer, Elaine White, while filming *Fact or Faked*. He went on to become the Director of Development and Producer for Schweet Entertainment, where he helped develop, pitch and produce multiple projects for major television networks

including BRAVO, History Channel, Esquire, and MTV. Austin recently produced *Ghosts of Morgan City* (2019) for Travel Channel, *Ghosts of Shepherdstown* (2018) for Destination America, and *Truck Night In America* (2017) for History Channel.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

MELINDA PAGE HAMILTON (“ABBEY BELL”)



With several series regular and memorable recurring roles, Melinda Page Hamilton has established herself as a versatile actress able to embody any character she plays. She is a series regular in the much-anticipated Netflix series *“Messiah”* in which she plays *“Anna Salguero”*, the well-bred Southern wife of a preacher. She will be seen this fall opposite Cate Blanchett in FX limited series, *“Mrs. America”*. In it, she plays *“Mary Frances”*. Other series regular roles include the USA 1940’s period drama *“Damnation”*. In it she played *“Connie Nunn”* the unassuming murderous detective in search

of her husband’s killer. On the comedy side she was a series regular in Lifetime’s *“Devious Maids”*, in which she played the Russian housekeeper *“Odessa.”* She has had many memorable recurring roles on hit shows including ABC’s *“How To Get Away With Murder”* as *“Special Gent Telesco”*, AMC’s Emmy Award-winning *Mad Men*, as *“Anna Draper”*; the HBO series *Big Love* as JJ’s wife *“Malinda”*; The acclaimed Sundance Channel show *“Rectify”*, The CW show *“Frequency,”* and as sexy nun *“Sister Mary Bernard”* in ABC’s *“Desperate Housewives”*. A veteran of the theatre, Melinda starred opposite Kevin Bacon in the Hartford Stage production of *“Rear Window”*, she played the lead in the Ahmanson production of *“The Royal Family”*, and starred in several plays at The Old Globe Theatre, including the title role of *“Cornelia”* in the original play by *Big Love* creator Mark V. Olson. Her other credits include, *Modern Family, True Blood, True Detective, Grey’s Anatomy, Private Practice, The Mentalist, Nip/Tuck, The Closer, Criminal Minds and many more.* She was also the star of Bobcat Goldthwait’s comedy feature, *Sleeping Dogs Lie*, which was selected in the main drama competition at the Sundance Film Festival.

BAILEY EDWARDS (“JACOB BELL”)



Bailey Edwards is an actor and filmmaker from New York City. He holds a BA from Williams College, where he was in a show every semester including a production of “Princess Ivona” that was remounted Off-Broadway by the Polish Consulate at NYC’s Theater Row in 2016. He received additional training at RADA and LAMDA, eventually earning an invitation to train with the Suzuki Company of Toga, Japan. His theater credits have since landed him stints at REDCAT, and a run of *Too Much Sun* at the Odyssey Theater in 2019. His film credits include *My Dead Boyfriend* (2016). Netflix’s *Bright* (2017), and upcoming indie *Highway One* (2020).

EDWARD ASNER (“DR. HOWARD ARDEN”)



One of the most honored actors in the history of television, Edward Asner has been the recipient of eight *Emmy Awards* and 16 nominations, as well as five *Golden Globe Awards* and he served as National President of the Screen Actors Guild for two terms. He was inducted into the *TV Academy Hall of Fame* in 1996, and he was honored by the Screen Actors Guild as the 38th recipient of the prestigious *Life Achievement Award* for career achievement and humanitarian accomplishment.

Asner is best known for his comedic and dramatic talent as the gruff but soft-hearted journalist Lou Grant, the role he originated on the landmark TV news room comedy *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, and continued in the newspaper-set drama *Lou Grant*, which earned him five Emmys and three Golden Globe Awards. Asner received two more Emmy and Golden Globe Awards for the mini-series *Rich Man, Poor Man* and *Roots*.

In addition to his long and celebrated television career, Asner has also appeared in motion pictures, including: *The Slender Thread*, *El Dorado*, *They Call Me Mister Tibbs*, *Fort Apache the Bronx*, *JFK*, *Elf* (as Santa Claus), and was the voice of Carl Fredrickson in the celebrated Academy Award winning Best Animated film, *Up!* in 2009. On the small screen, he continues to work, including co-starring in the Netflix comedy series *Dead To Me* opposite James Marsden, Linda Cardellini and Christina Applegate and some of his guest star appearances include *Cobra Kai*, *Bones*, *Criminal Minds*, *The Good Wife*, *Law & Order*

S.V.U., Hawaii Five-O, and Royal Pains. His voice is also featured on such prominent animated series as: *American Dad!, SpongeBob SquarePants, The Cleveland Show, Spider-Man, Family Guy* and many more.

Asner continues and most recently starred in the Broadway show *Grace* opposite Paul Rudd and Michael Shannon and more recently toured in the one man show, *FDR* as well as *God Help Us* and *A Man And His Prostate*.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Asner was also a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

JULIAN DE LA CELLE (JACOB’S BEST FRIEND “GREG”)



Julian was born in Los Angeles, but traveled with his French musician dad and American make-up artist mom around Europe for many years as a child. He began acting at 11 years old, working on shows such as *Ugly Betty* and *Heroes*. More recently, he has been seen in *Colony, How to Get Away With Murder, Black-ish* and recurred on the second season of *The Fosters*. He has two indies coming out later in the year - *Ice Cream In The Cupboard* and *M.O.M. (Mothers of Monsters)*. In addition to acting, Julian plays music and co-founded a men's fashion magazine called FOXES Magazine where he is Editor-in-Chief.

JANET ULRICH BROOKS (“NANA MILLIE”)



Janet is a Chicago based actor and teaching artist. Theatre credits include Goodman Theatre: *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Jeff Award nomination, Sonia), *2666*, *The Seagull*, *A True History of the Johnstown Flood* and *Teddy Ferrara*. She is a Company Member of TimeLine Theatre, where credits include *The Audience*, *Bakersfield Mist*, *The Apple Family Plays*, *The How And The Why*, and Jeff-nominated performances in *33 Variations*, *A Walk in the Woods*, *All My Sons*, *When She Danced*, *Not Enough Air* and *Weekend*. Other credits: *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre in DC, Helen Hayes nomination Actress in Principal Role) *To Master The Art* (Broadway Playhouse); *Crazy For You* (Drury Lane Theatre), *South of Settling* (Steppenwolf); *Native Gardens* and *Failure: A Love Story* (Victory Gardens); *By The Water* (Northlight Theatre) *Golda’s Balcony* (Jeff Award – Pegasus Players). Television credits include: *Sense8*, *Chicago Med*, *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago Justice*, *Boss*, and *The Playboy Club*. Film Credits include: *Divergent*, *Conviction*, *Polish Bar*, *One Small Hitch*, *Fools*, *Book of Leah*, *The Middle Distance*, *Market Value*, *I Heart Shakey*, and short film *For a Good Time*.

As a teaching artist, Janet has worked with TimeLine Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance, Child's Play Touring Theatre, Writers' Theatre and Vagabond School of the Arts. . Before moving to Chicago, her early years were spent entertaining in Branson, MO and acting in the Kansas City, MO area. Janet was the first recipient of the Ed See Outstanding Theatre Alumnus Award from the University of Central Missouri and holds an MFA from Western Illinois University. She is a proud union member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA and is represented by Gray Talent Group.

PR (Additional Press Reviews & Interviews Available Upon Request)

Father Son Holy Gore:

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Wicked Horror:

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Vampire Squid:

<https://vampiresquid.co.uk/the-bad-seed-mother-of-monsters-takes-parental-paranoia-to-new-heights/>

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<https://weliveentertainment.com/film-reviews/review-m-o-m-mothers-monsters-chillingly-realistic-thriller/>

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<https://moviesandmania.com/2020/02/24/m-o-m-mothers-of-monsters-reviews-movie-film-2020-overview/>

Indie Horror Films:

<https://indiehorrorfilms.blogspot.com/2020/02/review-mom-mothers-of-monsters.html>

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<https://reelreviewsoverbrews.com/2020/02/26/review-m-o-m-mothers-of-monsters-2020/>

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<http://www.themoviewaffler.com/2020/03/mothers-of-monsters-review.html>

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<https://horrorworld.reviews/2020/03/08/m-o-m-mothers-of-monsters-2020-movie-review/>

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