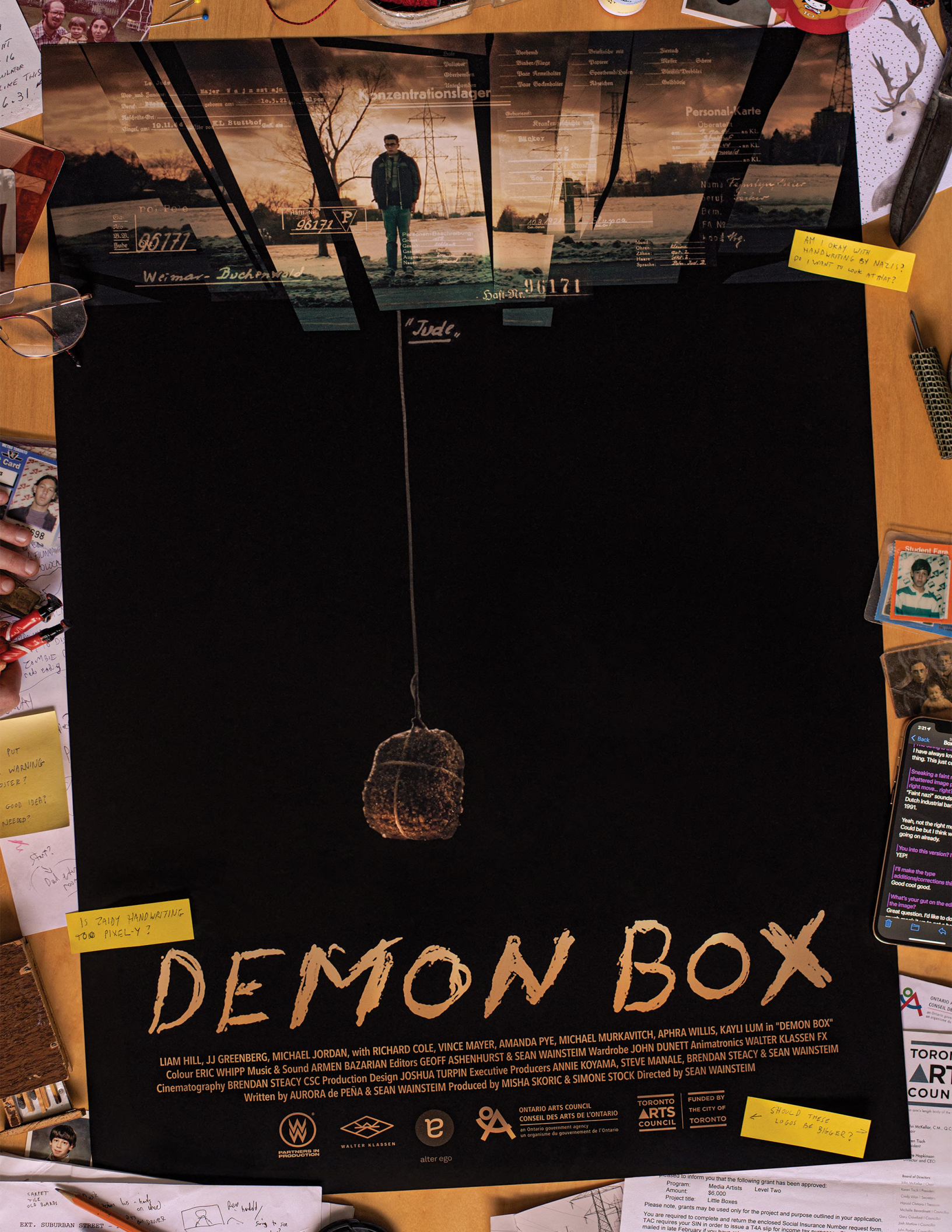




Le... Meier W a j n s t a j n
Beruf: ... geboren am: 10.3.21
Matrikel-Nr.: ...
Geburtsort: ...

Konzentrationslager

Vorname: ...
Nachname: ...
Geburtsdatum: ...
Geburtsort: ...

Personal-Karte

Operativ: ...
am: ...
am: ...
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Name: ...
Beruf: ...
Bem.: ...
FA Nr.: ...

Ein: ...
Aus: ...
Matrikel-Nr.: 96171

Weimar-Buchtenfeld

Draft Nr. 96171

"Jude"

AM I OKAY WITH
HANDWRITING BY NAZI?
DO I WANT TO LOOK AT THAT?



DEMON BOX

LIAM HILL, JJ GREENBERG, MICHAEL JORDAN, with RICHARD COLE, VINCE MAYER, AMANDA PYE, MICHAEL MURKAVITCH, APHRA WILLIS, KAYLI LUM in "DEMON BOX"
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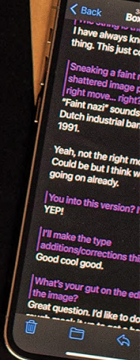


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← SHOULD THESE
LOGOS BE BIGGER? →



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Please note, grants may be used only for the project and purpose outlined in your application.
You are required to complete and return the enclosed Social Insurance Number request form.
TAC requires your SIN in order to issue a T4A slip for income tax purposes.
mailed in late February if you have not received it by then.



Over 125 Festivals
Over 45 International Awards



Contact: Sean Wainsteim sean@seanwainsteim.com 647.999.4478

**A wild and dynamic mixture of stylistic devices - creates a surprisingly calm,
sensitive, deeply personal family story about the inheritance of trauma.**

- Dräxlmaier Innovation Award Jury -

**A film as endearingly chaotic as its filmmaker...
...masterfully crafted over ten years.**

- Fright Nights Jury -

**Invites us to reflect on our own destinies and teaches us
to reconsider them through the prism of love and generosity of the heart.**

- Toronto Jewish Film Festival Jury -

**Bravery and poetry... the truth about wars cutting across generations
and generations left forever wounded or scarred.**

- Bakunawa Film Festival Jury -



[Click to view trailer online](#)

*After festival rejections, a director revises his intensely personal short film about trauma, suicide, and the Holocaust, and transforms it into a painful, blunt and funny dissection of the film and his life.
Ten years in the making.*

Demon Box (2023)

A Meta-Magic-Realism Documentary

14 minutes - CANADA - English - Colour - 2.39:1 - Arri LF, Super 8, Animation

Featuring: Liam Hill, Richard Cole, Michael Jordan, J.J. Greenberg, Vince Mayer, Amanda Pye,
Michael Murkavitch, Aphra Willis, Kayli Lum

Director: Sean Wainsteim

Writers: Aurora de Peña & Sean Wainsteim

Producers: Simone Stock & Misha Skoric

Cinematographer: Brendan Steacy, CSC

Production Design: Joshua Turpin

Animatronics: Walter Klassen FX

Wardrobe: John Dunnett

Edit: Geoff Ashenhurst & Sean Wainsteim

Music & Sound: Armen Bazarian

Colour: Eric Whipp

Executive Producers: Anne Koyama, Steve Manale, Brendan Steacy, Sean Wainsteim

Produced with the generous support of the city of Toronto through **Toronto Arts Council**,
and the **Ontario Arts Council**, an agency of the Government of Ontario



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alter ego

Contact: Sean Wainsteim sean@seanwainsteim.com 647.999.4478



for the storytellers
“Zaydie” Lejb Pilanski
1919-2020

For ten years, I struggled with an intensely personal semi-autobiographical magic-realism film exploring the challenges, responsibilities and repercussions of passing Holocaust stories down through generations.

*That film was called **Demon Box**.*

When that film was rejected from festivals, I made a new film on top of the old one.

*This film is called **Demon Box**.*

Director Statement

As a Jewish filmmaker it felt totally unnecessary and somewhat cliché to make my “Holocaust” film. What could I possibly add to the overwhelming volume of art, film and writing on the subject?

Ten years ago, I looked at my body of creative work. I drew lines between my use of dark fairy tale motifs and the Holocaust stories I heard growing up. Hansel and Gretel escaped their oven. My entire family didn’t. My childhood was steeped in Holocaust atrocities casually recounted by people with concentration camp numbers on their arms as they sipped tea. Stories have power. Combined with the rise of Neo-Nazis in the 1980s, their stories of death and suffering contributed to feelings of fear and helplessness. As a teen, those feelings grew to dangerous levels until I decided I didn’t like who I was and took steps to stop myself from living. Thankfully, I didn’t succeed.

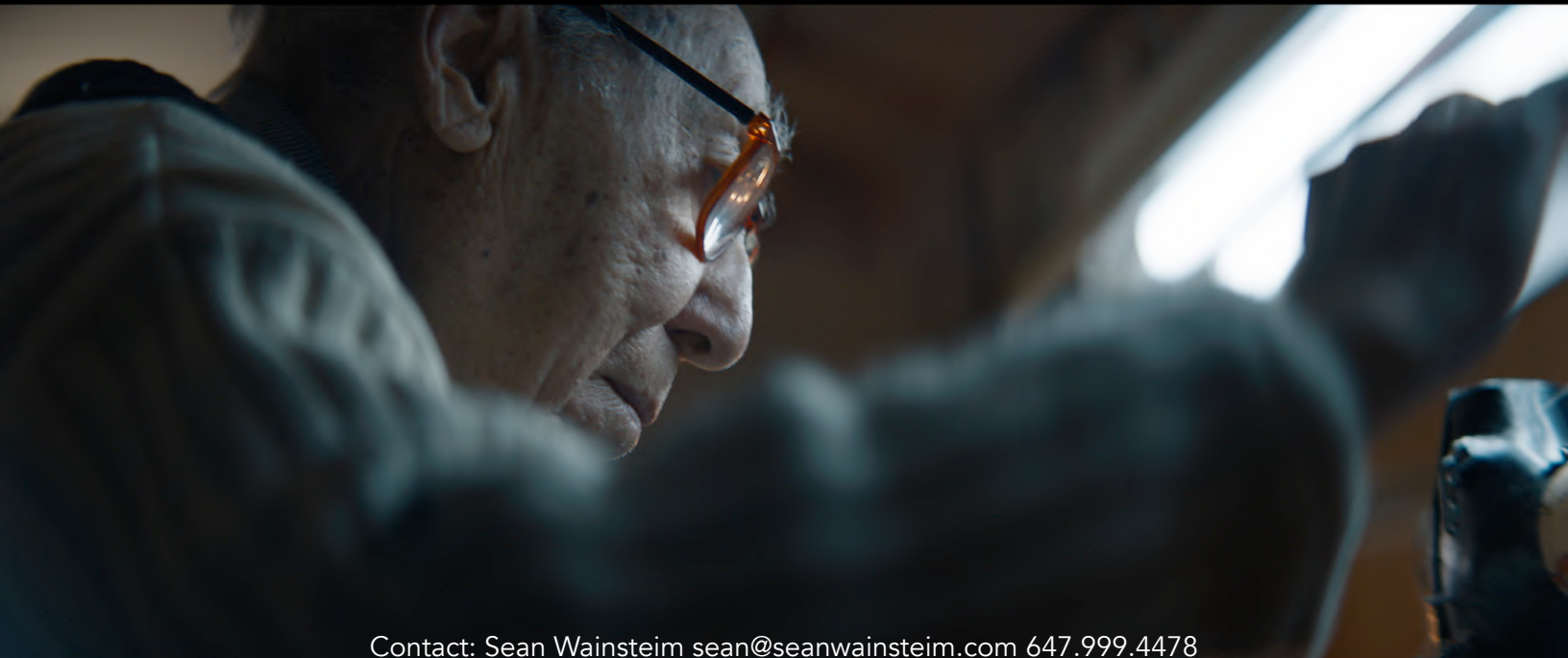
I desperately wanted to be brave and dive into the centre of the feelings I’d creatively circled for my artistic life. In the midst of trying to examine these emotions, I learned I was to become a father. It suddenly became disingenuous to try to honestly explore how generational trauma affected me without exploring where it would go. But since my son’s birth, I’ve wrestled with when and how to share these stories. Stories that almost killed me, but also make up a core part of who I am as a person and artist. My hope with DEMON BOX was that by expressing my own struggles, my son would be better able to approach the weight of our history. I poured everything into the project. My grandfather passed away shortly after we filmed. I poured in even more. This film was for him... and for my son.

It was only rejected from a few festivals, but I still took it personally. Was I not brave enough? Not honest enough? Was an animatronic-demonic-deer necessary to communicate my ideas? Was I a bad filmmaker?

In a series of voice-over sessions, I tore into the film and myself. I tried to be as raw and vulnerable as I could about what I felt and how I failed. When I lined those thoughts up to the film, I saw something I hadn’t seen before. The film felt like me. It was a mess... but trying to tell a story about trauma from within trauma is messy. And I learned that it’s better to tell a messy story than not to tell one at all. The process of making DEMON BOX illuminated new conclusions and led me to see my parents with more compassion. The film changed and empowered me. So... whether film festival acceptance happens or doesn’t, I’m proud of my odd, unclassifiable film, its journey and myself.

Contact: Sean Wainsteim sean@seanwainsteim.com 647.999.4478







SELECTED AWARDS

24fps International Short Film Festival - Kurosawa Award for Creative Excellence
Bakunawa - Grand Bakunawa (Best Film)
Canadian Society of Cinematographers - Best Cinematography: Short Film
CineMundo - First Prize: Human Rights: Shoah
Defy Film Festival - Excellence in Short Film
Fantasia - Best Canadian Short Film Bronze: Audience Choice
Fantasmagoria Film Festival - "Jose Mojica Marins" Award (Best Short)
Fantàstik Granollers - Best VFX
FilmQuest - Best Screenplay - Short Film
Fright Nights - Best Short Film
GenreBlast - Best Short Film
Hamilton Film Festival - Best Documentary, Best Production Design, Best Editing, Best Effects
Hellifax Horror Festival - Best Short Film, Best Editing
HorrorHaus - Audience Award
Infest - Mejor Corto/Grand Prize
International Portrait Festival - Best Self Portrait
Klein Festival - Bronze Hugo
Lake County Film Festival - Best Overall Short
Landshut Short Film Festival - Dräxlmaier Innovation Award: Honourable Mention
Maniatic Film Festival - Best Direction, Best Cinematography
Nightmares Film Festival - Best Documentary Film
Oakville Film Festival - Best Canadian Short
Salem Horror Fest - Jury Winner Short
Seattle Jewish Film Festival - Audience Choice Award
Summer Shorts Film Fest - Best Narrative
The Bay International Film Festival - Best Storytelling, Best Impacts of War
TOHorror Fantastic Film Fest - Best Jury Short
Toronto Jewish Film Festival - NextGen Award: Best Short
Vancouver Horror Show - Best Short, Best Editing



Sean Wainsteim - Director Bio

Artist and filmmaker *Sean Wainsteim* is the survivor of one plane crash and one art school. For over twenty years, he's made commercials, television, music videos, documentaries, animation, robots and photography for Nickelodeon, Sony, Budweiser, Nike, The Rolling Stones, The History Channel, IFC, MTV2 and himself.

Sean is the proud recipient of grants from **BravoFACT!**, **MuchFACT!**, **Toronto Arts Council**, **Ontario Arts Council** and **Canada Arts Council**, countless design awards and was the *Director of the Year* at the **MUCHMusic Video Awards**.

In his personal film, installation and photography projects, Sean often employs magic-realism to explore intersections between generational trauma and storytelling. Sean is currently in post-production on **ALTERATIONS**, his first narrative feature. Filmed in his grandfather's home and starring Gia Sandhu, Rosemary Dunsmore, John Stocker and Shazdeh Kapadia, **ALTERATIONS** uses fairytale imagery and themes to examine ideas around class, capitalism and the power inherent in controlling who tells stories.



More of Sean's work is available on his Vimeo page: <http://vimeo.com/seanwainsteim>

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ZEI GEZUNT
KEEP WELL

DEMON BOX

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