



NOW THAT THE BOOK HAS BEEN OPENED...  
*SHE* WON'T LET YOU CLOSE IT!

MICHAEL J. DOYLE'S  
"Leatherbound"

PRESS KIT

## SYNOPSIS

From Doyle Pictures, Orange Hat Film Productions, and Teige Productions, comes a modern ode to horror from cinema's silent era; *LEATHERBOUND* is a terrifying portrayal of obsession, abuse and the desperation for connection.

At a Halloween Fair, a deaf teenage boy named Dearan crosses paths with an ominous salesman, who sells Dearan a leatherbound journal that writes back to him. Dearan's longing for connection seems to be nurtured by this newfound love, but when his best friend Ruth begins to suspect the spirit inhabiting the journal has nefarious intentions, the fate of Dearan is called into question and the race to save him begins!

Atmospheric, stylish and gripping from start to finish, *LEATHERBOUND* is sure to become an annual Halloween watch for lovers of horror and suspense! Combining elements of the silent film era with 80's horror and fantasy, it will no doubt be a unique horror experience!

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Doyle Pictures is a London-based independent production and distribution company originally founded and currently owned by Michael J. Doyle. We have produced over 50 short films and documentaries, in addition to *LEATHERBOUND* our first narrative feature! Follow @DoylePicturesCanada on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube for updates and check out our website [www.doylepictures.ca](http://www.doylepictures.ca) for more info!

Orange Hat Film Productions (OHFP) is a London-based independent production company founded by filmmakers Darryl Ayles and Jamara Forbes in 2014. They have produced and distributed films of varying genres and styles, and have worked alongside other filmmakers on many feature films, short films, music videos and more. Be on the lookout for their next project *Performance of The Year* and visit [orangehatfilmproductions.com](http://orangehatfilmproductions.com) for more info!



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*Leatherbound* was conceived in the summer of 2020, following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the end of a significant romantic relationship. My feelings of isolation and loneliness, which I had already been feeling in spades due to a variety of other factors, reached a high point while under lockdown. In self-reflection, I started to ask myself: how desperate am I for human connection and where could this desperation take me if something nefarious was involved? After drawing some more concept art and having discussions with my best friend and eventual writing partner, the story of Dearan, Lilith, Ruth and the rest began to take shape, and the first draft of what was then called "Dearan And His Book" was finished by winter.

There were three goals I set for myself when I decided to make this film. The first was to express feelings of loneliness and desperation for love (as explained above.) The second goal was to pour everything I wanted from a horror movie into this one. I figured, since I might not ever get a chance to make a movie again, I'll combine all my favourite ingredients into this: silent cinema, autumn atmosphere, practical effects, electronic musical score, camp, and even stop-motion animation. And lastly, I wanted to use this film for charitable purposes, not only to bring awareness to the deaf/hard-of-hearing community, but also donate a percentage of the proceeds to services helping that community.

The ultimate irony is that, despite being conceived of during a time of intense loneliness, *Leatherbound* has brought me closer to old friends and introduced me to new ones, as well as the larger filmmaking community of London, Ontario. To all of them who helped make this vision a reality, thank you! And to those who have decided to support it, thank you and please enjoy!

Until next time...

-Peace!

Michael Dyke @



## CAST BIOS

TEIGE ATFIELD as Dearan, the protagonist

Teige Atfield (they/them) is an actor extraordinaire with a wide array of artistic endeavors. From helping with theatrical and film productions, to creating music and art in their spare time. Check out their band *Conscious Wave* on Spotify, YouTube, or Apple Music. Or follow Teige Productions on Facebook and Instagram to see where their ambition takes them next!

LAIN-MARIE TYSON as Ruth, his best friend

Kira-Marie Bourque (she/her) (stage name: Lain-Marie Tyson) is a London-based artist, a psychology and philosophy student Western University, and an aspiring therapist. She is an enthusiast for all independent art, including film. *Leatherbound* is her feature film debut.

KEIANA HAWKINS as Eve, his sister

Keiana Hawkins (she/her) is a 10-year-old actress who made her big screen debut in *Leatherbound*, combining her love for the horror genre with her passion for acting. With a natural talent and fearlessness, Keiana brought her character to life with infectious energy and enthusiasm. Keep an eye on this rising star as she continues to shine in the world of entertainment!

WILLIAM McLEOD as Father

William "Bill" McLeod (he/him) is a Canadian actor of Scottish-Norwegian descent, based in Southern Ontario, who is passionate about each role he takes on. After a career in law enforcement, Bill transitioned into acting, bringing a grounded authenticity shaped by real-world experience. His work spans theater, commercials, TV, and feature films, including *Contention*, which recently finished post-production, and *The Life Coach*, premiering soon! Outside acting, Bill is a dedicated bass guitarist and co-manages a real estate and development company with his family.

EMILIE DeCLARK as Step-Mother

Emilie DeClark (she/her) is a seasoned stage actor from Woodstock with experience in both musical and non-musical productions. Known for her versatility, she thrives on exploring a wide range of complex and diverse characters. Emilie now brings her passion for storytelling and creativity to the screen with her debut role in *Leatherbound*. Her commitment to pushing artistic boundaries drives her to continually evolve in her craft.

DAVID PARISIAN as Asmoedeus, the book salesman

David Parisian (he/him) is one of London's most prolific actors, with over 50 credits to his name, including the CTV documentary series *Fear Thy Neighbor*, the Eli Roth-produced series *A Ghost Ruined My Life*, and Darryl Ayles' *Door Into Darkness*. He considers film sets to be his happy place, and is humbled and honoured to be a part of the storytelling process.

DOTTIE CHAMPAGNE as Lilith, a primordial demon  
Meet Dottie Champagne (she/her) Toronto's nerdiest burlesque bombshell and Twitch streamer! This glitter-clad geek goddess dazzles on stage with nerd-inspired performances and charms online with weekly Twitch streams. Catch her every Saturday for watch-alongs of bizarre old public domain films and steamy romance novel readings and follow @dottiechampagne everywhere for a cocktail of rhinestones, puns, and shameless shimmying!

#### Additional Cast

SANDRA JACKSON as Dearan's mother  
AHMED SAJJAD as the barista  
AVERY CAMPBELL as Ruth's coffee shop friend  
Calum Sutherland, Scott Doyle and Zach N. as a group of teens  
Kristain Beaudoin and Sarah Busher as a couple  
Devon King as Asmodeus' customer  
Tad Belan, Dave Doyle, Michael J. Doyle and Scott Doyle as some cafe patrons

#### Crew

MICHAEL J. DOYLE, director, producer, co-writer, co-music composer, editor, special make-up effects, visual effects  
DARRYL AYLES, director of photography  
BREANNA ACCHIONE, co-writer  
SCOTT DOYLE, co-music composer, executive producer, set transportation  
DAVE DOYLE, executive producer, set transportation  
END.TROPY, art director  
JUSTIN SMITH, guest cinematographer  
TAD BELAN, production personal, visual effects  
DEVON KING, production personal  
ELLE BERNARDO, additional casting  
LAIN-MARIE TYSON, special make-up effects  
JAMARA FORBES, colourist, on-set photography  
BRITTANY LUCKHURST, caterer  
DEB DOYLE, set transportation  
PAUL LIGHTFOOT, set transportation



