

NEVER HIKE ALONE

PRESS KIT





TECHNICAL SPECS

Project Type: Short Film, Student Film

Genres: Thriller, Feminist, Horror

Runtime: 18 minutes

Production Year: 2024

Country of Origin: Scotland, UK

Language: English

Shooting Format: Blackmagic 6K PCC Pro

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Sound Format: Stereo 2.0

CONTACT INFO

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Instagram: [instagram.com/never_hike_alone/](https://www.instagram.com/never_hike_alone/)

Website: neverhikealone.weebly.com

FilmFreeway: filmfreeway.com/NeverHikeAlone



TAGLINE
MISERY BY WAY OF ETSY

LOGLINE

Liz, a popular true crime podcaster, goes on the hunt for her missing brother, Kit. Along the way she finds more than she bargained for when she meets Judith, a crafty vigilante who may know exactly what happened to Kit.



SYNOPSIS

In her true crime podcast "Never Hike Alone," Liz investigates and reports on women who have gone missing on solo hikes. When her own brother, Kit, falls out of touch, she knows she must find him herself. In searching for Kit, she meets an avid listener, Judith, who believes in the mission of Liz's podcast. Judith wants to help, but when Liz and Judith uncover some troubling information about Kit, they both must decide what to do.

KEY CAST AND CREW BIOS



BETH GALLAGHER - Director // Producer // Editor // “Liz Holt”

Beth completed her MFA at the Royal Conservatoire in Scotland (RCS) in January 2025. She co-produced and starred in the micro budget feature film To Fall in Love, which was presented as a site-specific play as part of her Masters course, had its world premiere at Heartland International Film Festival in 2023 and has North American distribution with Gravititas Ventures.



ALISON KERTZ - Writer // Director // Producer // “Judith”

Alison got her MFA at RCS in 2025. The idea for Never Hike Alone sparked while she was on an artist’s date at a crochet class while doing The Artist’s Way. She thought, “you could probably kill someone with a crochet hook” and became interested in weaponizing femininity using tools traditionally associated with women. She wants to see how that subverts the patriarchy by beating it at its own game.



JAYME BARTLETT - Director of Photography // Editor

Jayme graduated from RCS’ BA Filmmaking course with a focus on Cinematography in 2023. That year, she also won the Sam Heughan Write Start Creative Commission Grant. She’s the co-founder of Blade & Bow Films, a Scotland based, female-led independent film house. She works frequently with GMAC and WAC Pro, film charities focused on bringing the arts to disadvantaged areas in Glasgow.



KIERAN MCLAUGHLIN - Director of Photography // Colourist

Kieran graduated from RCS’ BA Filmmaking Program in 2024. During his time at RCS, and since his graduation, he’s worked with Jayme Bartlett on numerous short films. Kieran specialises in post-production, especially colour grading, in addition to being a Director of Photography. You can see some of Kieran’s work in his Cinematography showreel.

IMPACT

80% of all girls and young women feel unsafe when they're out on their own* and 70% of female runners report incidents of sexual harassment or sexual assault ranging from catcalling to murder.**

Women are told to do a lot to keep themselves safe:

- Don't wear certain clothes.
- Don't listen to music when you're out by yourself.
- Don't walk alone at night.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Learn self-defense basics and carry discreet self-defense tools.
- Don't post your location or travel plans on social media.
- Stay in hotels with 24/7 security and room service.
- NEVER HIKE ALONE.

NEVER HIKE ALONE examines the fine line between survival and aggression, poignantly asking when self-defense crosses the line into offense. It aims to foster critical thinking and empower audiences to reflect on how we, both as a society and as individuals, can create a world where women feel safe, one where neither self-defense nor offense are fundamental requirements of being a woman.

NEVER HIKE ALONE is more than a short film. It's a call to action. Hostility towards women has recently intensified in both public and private arenas, making the message of the film timelier than ever.

NEVER HIKE ALONE ensures that the voices of women, and the questions the film asks about their safety, are heard far and wide.

* [girlguiding.org.uk](https://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

** [Sexual Harassment and Assault across Trail and Ultrarunning Communities \(19 June 2023\)](#)

CREDITS

Judith Alison Kertz

Liz Holt Beth Gallagher

Kit Holt Chris Edward Neal

Directors // Producers // Story By Beth Gallagher & Alison Kertz

Writer Alison Kertz

Editors Jayme Bartlett & Beth Gallagher

Directors of Photography // Gaffers Jayme Bartlett & Kieran McLaughlin

Music By Riley Burke

Executive Producer Mary Kertz

Sound Design Daniel Dunsmore

Colorist // Edit Assist Kieran McLaughlin

Sound Recordists Merlin Bonning & Pete Smith

Fight Director Rob Myles

Hair and Makeup Sandra Szczuchniak

Social Media Manager Leah Huskey