

ELLIE ROBERTS

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IDLE HANDS

Work is Hell.

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY

ELLIE ROBERTS

6:25 minutes

Dolby Digital

Aspect Ratio 16:9

Color NTSC

Made in the USA

English

Psychological Horror



FSU FILM

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INFO

TAGLINE

Work is Hell.

LOGLINE

When a disgruntled demon's cherished cassette player breaks at work and Hell's sounds flood in, he must decide whether his job is worth the harm it causes.

25 WORD SYNOPSIS

When Mort—the brains behind Hell's torture—hears the pain he causes, he questions his purpose, but is soon presented with an unrefusable offer.

50 WORD SYNOPSIS

Mort Marlowe, an office worker in Hell, is tasked with creating torture methods for the damned. During his shift, he breaks his music player and has to listen to the agony he causes. He questions the worth of his job, but is soon presented with an offer he can't refuse.

ATL BIOS



ELLIE ROBERTS WRITER/DIRECTOR

Ellie Roberts relishes in the art of asking “What if?” and taking a closer look at the inner workings of the mind. She loves mixing the supernatural with reality to explore the nature of individuals. She enjoys playing collaborative storytelling games and crafting meticulous spreadsheets, and recently got an animation degree at the Florida State University’s College of Motion Picture Arts.

RYLEE REBOL PRODUCER

Rylee Rebol has always had a fascination with the artistry of motion; growing up, she spent most of her time at the dance studio, internalizing the many ways a body can twist and turn to create interesting shapes. Now, Rylee has taken that passion for motion into digital spaces, having studied animation at Florida State University’s College of Motion Picture Arts with a specialty in character motion. Frame by frame, Rylee plans to capture the intrigue of movement in everything she creates.



CAST BIO



TOM SCHALK “MORT”/ “MORTIMER”

Tom Schalk is some guy from Long Island with a microphone and spare time. In between making madness with comedy sketches for Youtube, he has lent his voice to projects such as Poppy Playtime, SMITE, Hannahpocalypse, and Sid Meier's Civilization VII. Aside from voice work and content creation, Tom enjoys doodling, making music and tinkering with gadgets that don't work; any creative way to work with his hands.

CREDITS

Written and Directed by

Ellie Roberts

Produced by

Rylee Rebol

Editor and Sound Designer

Ellie Roberts

Animation Lead

Rylee Rebol

Look Development Lead

Emily Ward

Modeling Lead

Ellie Roberts

Starring

Tom Schalk as Mort and Mortimer

The Torturer

Patrick Martin

Tortured Soul

Mac Muggeo

Automated Voice

Rylee Rebol

Screaming Souls

Karsyn Fletcher

Patrick Martin

Jade Moller

Mac Muggeo

Rylee Rebol

Sophia Danielle Torres

Visual Development Artists

Barbara Avila

Sofia Escalona

Malia Ludwick

Finn Music

Rylee Rebol

Ellie Roberts

Sara "Tsar" Valenzuela

Modeling Artists

Sofia Escalona

Gabriel Gonzalez

Malia Ludwick

Finn Music

Ellie Roberts

Rigging Artists

Sommar Boulware

Ellie Roberts

Mia Rae Sunday

Look Development Artists

Sophie Burns

Malia Ludwick

Finn Music

Ellie Roberts

Emily Ward

Animators

Gabriel Gonzalez

Finn Music

Rylee Rebol

Ellie Roberts

Lighting Artists

Ellie Roberts

Emily Ward

Compositing Artists

Rylee Rebol

Ellie Roberts

Music Courtesy of Universal

Production Music

"Cracked Swell" Alois Plays

"Heart's Desire" Marc Ferrari

and Daniel May

Music Courtesy of Charming

Disaster

"Devil May Care"

Special Thanks

The Roberts Family

The Rebol Family

Mia Rae Sunday

Lauren Best

Anna Vincent

Isabella Tiseo

Peighton Labagh

Zolomon Zelko

Katie Quick

Tom Schalk

Ev Walters

Bhavani Ó Buchalla

Mallory Goode

Class of 2026

CMPA Faculty and Staff

Spark Donors

Charming Disaster

Sophia Porraspita

STILLS



STILLS



STILLS



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I've always loved media that explores the nature of individuals through more unusual lenses. "Idle Hands" is my psychological horror critique on apathy in corporate culture through the perspective of Mort, a demon in an office job in Hell. Through my love of both supernatural creatures and office settings, I crafted a world in which one demon is at the helm for deciding torture methods for the souls of the damned and is reliant on being able to shut out the noise by listening to music on his cassette player.

This film was inspired not only through interests, but from the apathy I see from people in positions of power and privilege who choose not to advocate for change for others in need. Why bother to change the system when you're benefiting from it?

Mort and his cubicle were the main focus for shaping this film. I wanted to explore a character who not only has an underrepresented body type in film, but also isn't stereotypically kind and joyful. While his environment is a stylized 3D painterly world, the ones he harms outside are flat, 2D people that he feels an emotional disconnect from. He operates in a small, cramped cubicle that offers no comfort from the consequences of his work.

This film is my second experience as an animation director, and I couldn't be more grateful for the team of 10 throughout its 15 weeks of production. Every artist's strength shines through in this work. I hope this film inspires future storytellers to advocate for change alongside the next generation of the workforce.

After all, idle hands are the devil's plaything.

-Ellie Roberts | Director "Idle Hands"

MISC.

FESTIVAL + SCREENING STATUS

Not yet premiered.

ONLINE PRESENCE
@idlehands_film on Instagram!

ACCESS TO MATERIALS

Check out the link at bit.ly/idlehandspresskit !

Work is Hell.



IDLE HANDS

COLLEGE OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS PRESENTS "IDLE HANDS" STARRING TOM SCHALK

ASSET LEAD ELLIE ROBERTS ANIMATION LEAD RYLEE REBOL EDITED BY ELLIE ROBERTS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ELLIE ROBERTS PRODUCED BY RYLEE REBOL WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ELLIE ROBERTS

FSU

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