

DIRECTOR JOE KICAK'S SHORT FILM 'FRIGID' STARRING DAMON RUNYAN & HELI KENNEDY TO SCREEN AT THE CALGARY FILM FESTIVAL

Filmmaker/Producer/Director Joe Kicak is pleased to announce that the award-winning drama/suspense short film *Frigid* will have its' Alberta premiere at the Calgary Film Festival on September 23rd and October 1st. Exhausted by her newborn, a first-time mother's home becomes a trap as her husband's sinister intentions emerge. Starring Damon Runyan (Star Trek Discovery, Gangland Undercover) and Heli Kennedy (Distilled Love) the film is directed by Joe Kicak and written by Heli Kennedy (Orphan Black graphic novel writer).

<http://www.calgaryfilm.com/films/2017/frigid>

Frigid is inspired by true events experienced by the director, Joe Kicak. "During high school, I opened up to a teacher about my mother's life-long battle with bi-polar disorder. She then shared her struggle with post-partum psychosis, which the film is based on. Coming from an immigrant family that didn't believe in - let alone speak about - mental illness, I find sharing stories of people's struggles important. That way we can get through the isolated horror, and begin the hard discussions to heal together."

Award-winning filmmaker Joe Kicak is also the director of the dark comedy short, *Must Kill Karl*, currently on the festival circuit. Joe is in development with CBC Kids with a Digital Original series. His previous directing credits include the award-winning short film *Distilled Love*, which received the National Screen Institute's Drama Prize. His feature film, *Two Days Till Tomorrow*, screened at festivals across North America and won a limited Canadian theatrical release with AMC theatres.

Heli Kennedy won the *City of Toronto Award for Best Actress* at the Lakeshorts Film Festival 2017 for this role. As a writer and actor, Heli has a passion for creating (and portraying) strong, diverse female

characters that challenge and explore tired stereotypes. Currently, she's penning a comic book series for the award-winning TV show ORPHAN BLACK (BBC America) and IDW Publishing. She is alum of the *Canadian Film Centre*, *The Second City* and a recipient of a *Panavision Award of Excellence for Screenwriting*.

Damon Runyan is an award winning actor with an impressive list of film and TV credits that include *The Bridge* and the role of Coach Carson on *Degrassi: The Next Generation* and guest star roles on *Nikita*, *Covert Affairs*, *Call Me Fitz*, *Supernatural* and *Smallville*. Runyan also starred opposite Tricia Helfer in *Mistletoe Over Manhattan*. He is also a writer and director of the award winning shorts *Fade IN*, *Triple A* and the National Film Challenge winner *Cassidy*. Damon currently stars in the international hit mini series as Charles Falco in *Gangland Undercover* and the hotly anticipated new *Star Trek Discovery TV* series.

The award-winning short film *Frigid* was created with the generous participation of the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and Toronto Arts Council.

Frigid director/producer Joe Kicak and lead actress/writer Heli Kennedy will be in attendance at the Calgary screenings for Q & A's and available for interviews upon request.

For more information, photos and interviews please contact:

Lesley Diana | Lesley@thepromotionpeople.ca | 604-726-5575

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