

SHORT FILM *MUST KILL KARL* BY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR JOE KICAK TO SCREEN AS PART OF NEWFILMMAKERS LOS ANGELES (NFMLA)

Everyone has 'that' friend...

Directed by Joe Kicak (*Frigid*) and written by Karen Moore (*Workin' Moms*), *Must Kill Karl* stars Mike Lobel (*Degrassi: The Next Generation*) as Karl and co-stars Peter Mooney (*Rookie Blue*), Sarah Power (*American Gods*, *Killjoys*), Scott Cavalheiro (*Mary Kills People*), Claire Stollery (*Man Seeking Woman*), Jamie Spilchuk (*Good Witch*), and Stacey McGunnigle (*Ellen More or Less*). *Must Kill Karl* is produced by Broken Compass Films (*A Sunday Kind of Love*).



Everyone has “*that*” friend – who shows up uninvited, drinks your booze, and hits on your girlfriend... Who we all hate and wish would just go away. One night, a group of friends decide enough is enough and there’s only one way to get rid of him for good – They *MUST KILL KARL*.



Must Kill Karl is an absurdist examination of a friend group that have outgrown one of their own – where Karl has gone from being a nuisance, to actually destructive to the group. The story is about how the friends reach a boiling point and come to the (abrupt) conclusion that killing him is the only solution to rid him from their lives. But at the heart of this dark story, it's really about the enduring nature of lifelong friendship and that maybe, just maybe, we've all got a little Karl in us.

JOE KICAK is a Toronto-based Director and Content Creator currently in development on a digital original family series entitled, *DETENTION ADVENTURE* (CBC). His most recent film, financed by bravo!FACT, the award-winning dark comedy short *MUST KILL KARL* has screened at over twenty international film festivals, including the Austin Film Festival and Cinequest Film Festival. The film has won numerous awards including Best Director (LA Comedy Fest) and Best Comedy (Yorkton Film Festival). *MUST KILL KARL* is currently being developed into a feature film through the National Screen Institute's Features First program. His previous films include the award-winning short film *FRIGID*, created with the generous participation of the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and Toronto Arts Council, and 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 received a limited Canadian theatrical release with AMC Theatres.

KAREN MOORE is an award-winning Toronto-based writer and producer of narrative television and films. Currently, she is a writer and consulting producer on the Lifetime/Global drama series, *MARY KILLS PEOPLE*, in development with CBC Kids on the Digital Original series, *DETENTION ADVENTURE*, and is part of the 2018 NSI Features First program with her feature film, *MUST KILL KARL*. Her television writing and story editing credits include *WORKIN' MOMS* for CBC, *ROOKIE BLUE* for ABC/Global, and the CraveTV Original, *WHAT WOULD SAL DO?*. She has written for *Rookie Blue's* digital series "Stakeout", *Rookie Blue's* "In Session", and *Saving Hope's* "Last Call". Both "In Session" and "Last Call" were nominated for 2013 Digi Awards. Karen is the writer and producer of the award-winning BravoFACT dark comedy short film, *MUST KILL KARL*, which was an Official Selection at the Austin Film Festival and acquired for broadcast by CBC's *Canadian Reflections*. She wrote and produced the BravoFACT drama, *YOUR PLACE OR MINE*, and the award-winning short, *FROZEN MARBLES*. She is a graduate of Ryerson University's Radio and Television Arts program (BA).

Must Kill Karl was broadcast nationally as part of CBC's *Canadian Reflections* in April 2018, earning the 2nd highest ratings ever for the decades-running program.

SCREENINGS/AWARDS:

- Anchorage International Film Festival
- Atlanta Comedy Film Festival, *BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
- Austin Comedy Short Film Festival, *BEST INTERNATIONAL COMEDY
- Austin Film Festival
- Brooklyn Film Festival
- Canadian Film Fest
- Cinequest Film & VR Festival
- Dam Short Film Festival
- Depth of Field International Film Festival, *AWARD OF MERIT
- Edmonton International Film Festival
- Hollywood Short Film Festival
- LA Comedy Festival, *BEST DIRECTOR
- Lakeshorts International Short Film Festival, *BEST HOMETOWN SHORT
- Montreal World Film Festival
- NewFilmmakers Los Angeles Film Festival
- Norwegian International Seagull Short Film Festival, *BEST INT. SHORT FILM FINALIST
- Portland Comedy Film Festival
- Sioux Empire Film Festival
- SouthSide Film Festival
- Victoria Film Festival
- Willson Oakville Film Festival
- Worldfest-Houston International Film & Video Festival, *REMI AWARD: DARK COMEDY
- Yorkton Film Festival, *GOLDEN SHEAF AWARD: BEST COMEDY