

Dena Hysell-Cornejo
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Dena Hysell-Cornejo is restlessly creative, working across mediums depending on the direction the story takes her as a writer, director, photographer, producer, and multimedia artist. Her work has been recognized with top honors at multiple festivals (Toronto, Seattle, Indiana, NYFF), and acquired by major distributors. After graduating from Stanford University, she has produced, directed and written for Eli Roth's Crypt TV, Legacy Entertainment Partners, Drive Media and various other companies. She was featured in the 2017 BuzzFeed article on female directors talking about gender and representation in Hollywood (<https://www.buzzfeed.com/jarettwieselmann/women-filmmakers-get-real-about-hollywoods>)

Her narrative directing debut feature, *Ascent To Hell*, was released by Gravitas Ventures in April of 2017 to unanimously good reviews in the press, getting 4 out of 5 stars from First Comic News, and leading Spoiler Free Movie Sleuth to comment "...Hysell takes the predictable into unexpected territory, the undeniable hallmark of this scrappy, architectural haunting" Her third narrative feature, *Algorithm:Bliss* is being released through Green Apple Entertainment in Q2 2020.

Dena is currently directing and writing a documentary feature for Without Exception Films focused on gender based violence in Rwanda and Uganda. They are partnered with three NGOs working to change the culture around female genital violence and acid attacks in these areas.

In 2019/2020, Dena was one of the inaugural "Writer's Room 50/50" participants, a program designed to actively train and promote female and POC writers in the television space.

When not on set, she spends her time traveling the world, shooting photographs in some of the globe's most remote locations & cultures. In 2019, she shot in 7 countries for multiple publications as well as commissions for private collectors.

Director

Narrative Features

Algorithm: Bliss
Green Apple Entertainment

Sci-fi/thriller (co-director Isak Borg)
released June 2020
starring Sean Faris, Sarah Roemer, James Saito

The Sinister Surrogate
Mar Vista

Thriller (co-director Isak Borg)
released October 2018
produced by Nigel Thomas, Rick Benatar, Kaila York

Ascent to Hell
Gravitas Ventures

Thriller/horror
released April 2017
starring Azura Skye, Bill Sage, John Randall Hennigan

***First Comic News** – 4 out of 5 stars "*When the horror starts it is a slow build up leading to a terror that will have you watching intensely*"

***Horror Amino** – "*Director Dena Hysell has woven a tight little supernatural thriller*"

Documentary Features

Unmuted
Without Exception Films

Documentary Feature
In Production

Paladins
Drive Media

Documentary Feature
released 2014

Television/Narrative Short Form

Pinata
Eli Roth's Crypt TV
*over 400,000 views in 24 hours

Comedy/horror
released Sept 2016

<i>Mirror</i> Eli Roth's Crypt TV	Sci-fi/horror (co-director Isak Borg) released July 2016
<i>7-10 Splat</i> Eli Roth's Crypt TV <i>*also selected as a piece for Eli Roth's Terror Tram at Universal Studios October 2016</i>	Horror released August 2016
<i>HAHA</i> Eli Roth's Crypt TV	Horror released Sept 2016

Writer

Narrative Features

<i>Is This Legal – The First UFC</i> Legacy Entertainment Partners	Sports/Action Bio pic / book adaptation - page 1 rewrite in development
<i>The Bend</i> DTLA Entertainment Group/Say-O Productions	Thriller starring Michael Madsen, Doug Hutchinson in development
<i>Algorithm: BLISS-</i> story by Green Apple Entertainment	Sci-fi/thriller starring Sean Faris, Sarah Roemer, James Saito release date 2020
<i>Ascent to Hell</i> - story by Gravitas Ventures	Thriller/horror Narrative Feature starring Azura Skye, Bill Sage, John Randall Hennigan released April 2017
<i>Art of the Deal</i> Naroyan Productions	Heist Thriller for hire script
<i>Fasil and the Camel</i> McGrane Productions	Sports/Action – Book Adaptation for hire script

*Additional spec feature/television scripts available upon request

Documentary Features

<i>Unmuted</i> Without Exception Films	Documentary Feature In Production
<i>Paladins</i> Drive Media	Documentary Feature released 2014

Television/Narrative Short Form

<i>Assisted</i> Eli Roth's Crypt TV	<i>creator/writer</i> thriller series / developed 2018
<i>Mirror</i> Eli Roth's Crypt TV	<i>writer</i> released July 2016

*participant in the inaugural "Writer's Room 50/50" program 2019/2020

Producer

Narrative Features

The Sound of Magic
In Post Production.

Starring Kevin Farley, Creed Bratton.
Directors: Basil Mironer & Chris Broe

Algorithm: BLISS
Green Apple Films, Q2 2020

Starring Sean Faris, Sarah Roemer, James Saito.
Director: Dena Hysell-Cornejo

Eat Me
Blue Fox Films, April 2018

Starring Brad Carter, Jacqueline Wright.
Director: Adrian Alex Cruz

The Tribe
Terror Films, February 2017

Starring Anne Winters, Jessica Rothe
Director: Roxy Shih

Ascent to Hell
Gravitas Ventures, March 2017

Starring Azura Skye, John Hennigan, Bill Sage
Director: Dena Hysell-Cornejo

Rumperbutts
Mance Media, June 2015

Starring Mates of State, Josh Brener, Vanessa Ray.
Director: Marc Brener

Home Run Showdown
Image Entertainment, 2014

starring Matthew Lillard, Barry Bostwick, Annabeth Gish
directed by Oz Scott

A Little Help
Freestyle Releasing June, 2011

starring Jenna Fischer, Chris O'Donnell
directed by Michael J. Weithorn

Down For Life (co-producer)
Toronto Int'l Film Festival, 2009

starring Danny Glover, Snoop Dogg
directed by Alan Jacobs

Documentary Features

Unmuted
Without Exception Films

Documentary Feature
In Production

Strange Septembers
Z-Machine Productions, 2016

starring James Earl Jones, Peter Weller, Estelle Parsons
directed by Jeff and Jess Finn

Television/Narrative Short Form

Oishii – High School Battle
Executive Producer Seasons 1-3
Smosh.com / youtube premium channel

starring Cathy Shim, Matthew Florida
created by Dan Dominguez

Pinata
Eli Roth's Crypt TV
*over 400,000 views in 24 hours

Comedy/horror
released Sept 2016

Mirror
Eli Roth's Crypt TV

Sci-fi/horror (co-director Isak Borg)
released July 2016

7-10 Splat
Eli Roth's Crypt TV
*also selected as a piece for *Eli Roth's Terror Tram* at Universal Studios October 2016

Horror
released August 2016

HAHA
Eli Roth's Crypt TV

Horror
released Sept 2016

Affiliations and Awards

- Board of Directors, Stanford in Entertainment 2006-2009, 2011-2014
- Board of Directors, Mobile Film Classroom 2011-2015
- Aspen Institute, Stanton Scholar 2009, Study on Media and Government
- Royal Film Commission - Jordan, Creative Consultant 2016-2017
- Talented New Director Award, Madrid - Finalist 2014

Media Coverage

Buzzfeed Women Filmmakers on Gender and Representation

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/jarettwieselmann/women-filmmakers-get-real-about-hollywoods>

Moviemaker Magazine: How They Did It

https://www.moviemaker.com/archives/series/how_they_did_it/ascent-to-hell-small-location-feel-large/

Interview with Hollywood Outsider

<http://www.thehollywoodoutsider.com/interview-with-director-dena-hysell-ascent-to-hell/>

Film Reviews for Ascent to Hell

Beneath the Underground

“...she has crafted a fine example of a classic ghost story.”

<http://beneaththeunderground.com/film-review-ascent-hell-2017/>

First Comic News

4 out of 5 Stars. “When the horror starts it is a slow build up leading to a terror that will have you watching intensely”

<http://www.firstcomicsnews.com/rich-reviews-ascent-to-hell-movie-review/>

Spoiler Free Movie Sleuth

“Hysell takes the predictable into unexpected territory, the undeniable hallmark of this scrappy, architectural haunting”

<http://www.spoilerfreemoviesleuth.com/2017/03/Ascent-To-Hell-Reviewed.html>