

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 written, directed and produced 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>)

She just wrote a feature thriller for The Cartel which shot fall 2021, as well as writing/directing a documentary feature for Without Exception Films on gender based violence and the NGOs around the world working to challenge the status quo. 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 was released through Green Apple Entertainment in June 2020.

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, and her pilot "Doomsday Clock" which was developed in it has now been accepted in to the 2021 Stowe Story Labs for further development.

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.

Writer

Narrative Features

My Missing Sister
The Cartel

Thriller
Post-production / releasing March 2022

Algorithm: BLISS (story by)
Green Apple Entertainment

Sci-fi/thriller
starring Sean Faris, Sarah Roemer, James Saito

Ascent to Hell (story by)
Gravitas Ventures

Thriller/horror Narrative Feature
starring Azura Skye, Bill Sage, John Randall Hennigan

Is This Legal – The First UFC
Legacy Entertainment Partners

Sports/Action
Bio pic / book adaptation - page 1 rewrite

The Bend
DTLA Entertainment Group/Say-O
Productions

Thriller

Art of the Deal
Naroyan Productions

Heist Thriller

Fasil and the Camel
McGrane Productions

Sports/Action – Book Adaptation

Documentary Features

Unmuted
Without Exception Films

Documentary Feature
In Production

The Paladins
Drive Media

Documentary Feature
released 2017

Television/Narrative Short Form

Unearthed
Liv Scott
Social Justice Drama
current project

Assisted
Eli Roth's Crypt TV
co-creator/writer
thriller series / development 2019

Mirror
Eli Roth's Crypt TV
writer
released July 2016

- Selected to participate in the inaugural "Writer's Room 50/50" program 2019/2020
- Additional spec feature/television scripts available upon request

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"

Television/Narrative Short Form

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

Mirror
Eli Roth's Crypt TV
Sci-fi/horror (co-director Isak Borg)

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

HAHA
Eli Roth's Crypt TV
Horror

Documentary Features

Unmuted
Without Exception Films
Documentary Feature
In Production

The Paladins
Drive Media
Documentary Feature
released 2014

Producer

Narrative Features

Bart Bagelsby & the Garbage Genie
In Post Production.

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

Algorithm: BLISS
Green Apple Films, June 2020

Starring Sean Faris, Sarah Roemer, James Saito.
Dir. Isak Borg & Dena Hysell-Cornejo

Eat Me
Blue Fox Films, April 2018

Starring Brad Carter, Jacqueline Wright.
Dir. Adrian Alex Cruz

The Tribe
Terror Films, February 2017

Starring Anne Winters, Jessica Rothe
Dir. Roxy Shih

Ascent to Hell
Gravitas Ventures, March 2017

Starring Azura Skye, John Hennigan, Bill Sage
Dir. Dena Hysell-Cornejo

Rumperbutts
Mance Media, June 2015

Starring Mates of State, Josh Brener, Vanessa Ray.
Dir. Marc Brener

Home Run Showdown
Image Entertainment, 2014

starring Matthew Lillard, Barry Bostwick, Annabeth Gish
Dir. Oz Scott

A Little Help
Freestyle Releasing June, 2011

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

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

starring Danny Glover, Snoop Dogg
Dir. 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
Dirs. 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 500,000 views in 24 hours

Comedy/horror

Mirror
Eli Roth's Crypt TV

Sci-fi/horror

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

Horror

HABA
Eli Roth's Crypt TV

Horror

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>