

REEL SUSPECTS

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PRINTER FRIENDLY

PONTYPOOL

A film by Bruce MCDONALD
93 min, CANADA, 2009
Color, HD & DCP

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Shock jock Grant Mazzy has been kicked off the big city airwaves and now the only job he can get is the early morning show at CLSY radio in the small town of Pontypool. Bizarre reports start piling in of people developing strange speech patterns and committing horrendous acts of violence. But there's nothing coming in on the news wire. Is this really happening ?

LONG SYNOPSIS

Shock jock Grant Mazzy has, once again, been kicked off the Big City airwaves and now the only job he can get is the early morning show at CLSY Radio in the small town of Pontypool which broadcasts from the basement of the small town's only church.

What begins as another boring day of school bus cancellations, due to yet another massive snow storm, quickly turns deadly. Bizarre reports start piling in of people developing strange speech patterns and committing horrendous acts of violence. But there's nothing coming in on the news wire. SO... Is this really happening ?

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Before long, Grant and the small staff at CLSY find themselves trapped in the radio station as they discover that this insane behaviour taking over the town is being caused by a deadly virus being spread through the English language itself.

Do they stay on the air in the hopes of being rescued or are they in fact providing the virus with its ultimate leap over the airwaves and into the world ?

CAST

STEPHEN MCHATTIE	Grant Mazzy
LISA HOULE	Sydney Briar
GEORGINA REILLY	Laurel Ann
HRANK ALIANAK	Dr. Mendez

DIRECTORS'S BIOGRAPHY & FILMOGRAPHY

Bruce McDonald first wowed audiences with his debut film Roadkill in 1989, wining the Best Feature Award that year at the Toronto International Film Festival.

His films have continued to challenge and impress audiences all over the world with the release of such films as Highway 61, Hard Core Logo and 2007's The Tracey Fragments (starring Ellen Page) which won him the coveted Manfred Salzgeber Prize at the 2007 Berlin Film Festival.

Bruce McDonald is a director who never fails to rise to the occasion and is always ready to push the envelope. Pontypool, a psychological thriller/black comedy, premiered at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival to great critical acclaim.

Never resting, Bruce McDonald is also hard at work developing a sequel to his cult hit Hard Core Logo as well as new projects such as Yummy Fur and Love Supreme, to name a few.

2007 - The Tracey Fragments

1996 - Hard Core Logo

1994 - Dance Me Outside

1991 - Highway 61

1989 - Roadkill

CAST BIOGRAPHY

STEPHEN MCHATTIE - "Grant Mazzy"

Selected Filmography :

2012

Watchmen

300

The Fountain

A History of Violence

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Stephen McHattie stars as Grant Mazzy in Bruce's McDonald's psychological thriller/black comedy Pontypool, which had its World Premiere at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival. He can also be seen in the Warner Bros. big screen adaptation of DC Comic's Watchmen which reunited him with Zach Snyder who directed him in the international blockbuster 300.

Recently seen in Poor Boy's Game with Dany Glover, Stephen's other recent films include Shoot 'Em Up and The Time Keeper. Stephen also won Canada's 2008 Genie Award for his outstanding performance as the legendary hockey coach Dick Irvin in The Rocket : The Maurice Richard Story.

A veteran of over 50 films and over 10 television projects, Stephen's feature performances include Darren Aronofsky's The Fountain, A History of Violence opposite Viggo Mortensen, directed by David Cronenberg, The Lazarus Child, with Andy Garcia; Secretary oposity Maggie Gyllenhaal, directed by Steven Shainberg. Other memorable turns include Seinfeld, Twist, Geronimo, Belizaire the Cajur, Gray Lady Down, Beverly Hills Cop III and The Dark.

LISA HOULE – “Sydney Briar”

Lisa Houle's work includes the Award-Wining television series Cold Squad, Due South, Reasonable Doubts (NBC), Scene of the Crime (CBS) and a guest spot on NBC's hit series Seinfeld. Lisa also has an extensive background in the arts. Her theatre work includes Giner, The Tub, Some Enchanted Evening, The Taming of the Shrew, Cheaper by the Dozen and Oedipus-N-Boots at the famed Edinburgh Festival.

GEORGINA REILLY – “Laurel Ann”

Born in Surrey, England, Georgina Reilly's professional credits include Plums and Prunes, written by Terry Southern (Dr. Strangelove, Easy Rider), The Dark Rom, Beautiful People (Sony pictures Television), Runaway (CW Network). Bruce McDonald's Pontypool is her first feature role quickly making her a star.

HRANK ALIANAK – “Dr. Mendez”

Hrant Alianak has had a substantial career as an actor appearing in over 150 television programs, made-for-tv movies and films. He was nominated for his performance in Family Viewing and has had recurring roles in numerous series including Robocop, More Tears, Nikita, Nero Wolfe, Monk, At the Hotel and Jeff Ltd. He will be seen next season in the new television miniseries Zone of separation, his recurring role in Little Mosque on the Prairie and feature films.

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FESTIVAL AWARDS



“★★★★☆

PONTYPOOL is a thought-provoking and suspenseful film.”

BLOODY DISGUSTING



“Horror has needed a film like **PONTYPOOL** since who knows how long.. not only a great horror movie but an excellent film, period.”

BOSTONIST



“★★★★☆

..a cerebral horror movie that defies expectations.”

FILMJUNK



“A-

the scares are actually scary”

Ain't It Cool News



“★★★★★

...brilliant”

FILM FRESH

The Gazette

“★★★★☆

...I wouldn't want to wake up in the middle of the night with him
[*Stephen McHattie*] at the foot of *my* bed.”

MONTREAL GAZETTE

EYEWEEKLY

“★★★★☆

...a lean, mean little thriller”

EYE WEEKLY

NATIONAL POST

“★★★★☆

...clever... If you think zombies are scary, wait!”

NATIONAL POST

HORROR HACKER

“A genre-busting maverick of a movie,
guaranteed to infuriate and astonish!”

HORROR HACKER (US)

CREW

Script and Production -

Director -

Cinematography -

F.S.C. Editor -

Set design -

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Costume design –
Make-up design –
Sound design -
Composer -
Line producer -