



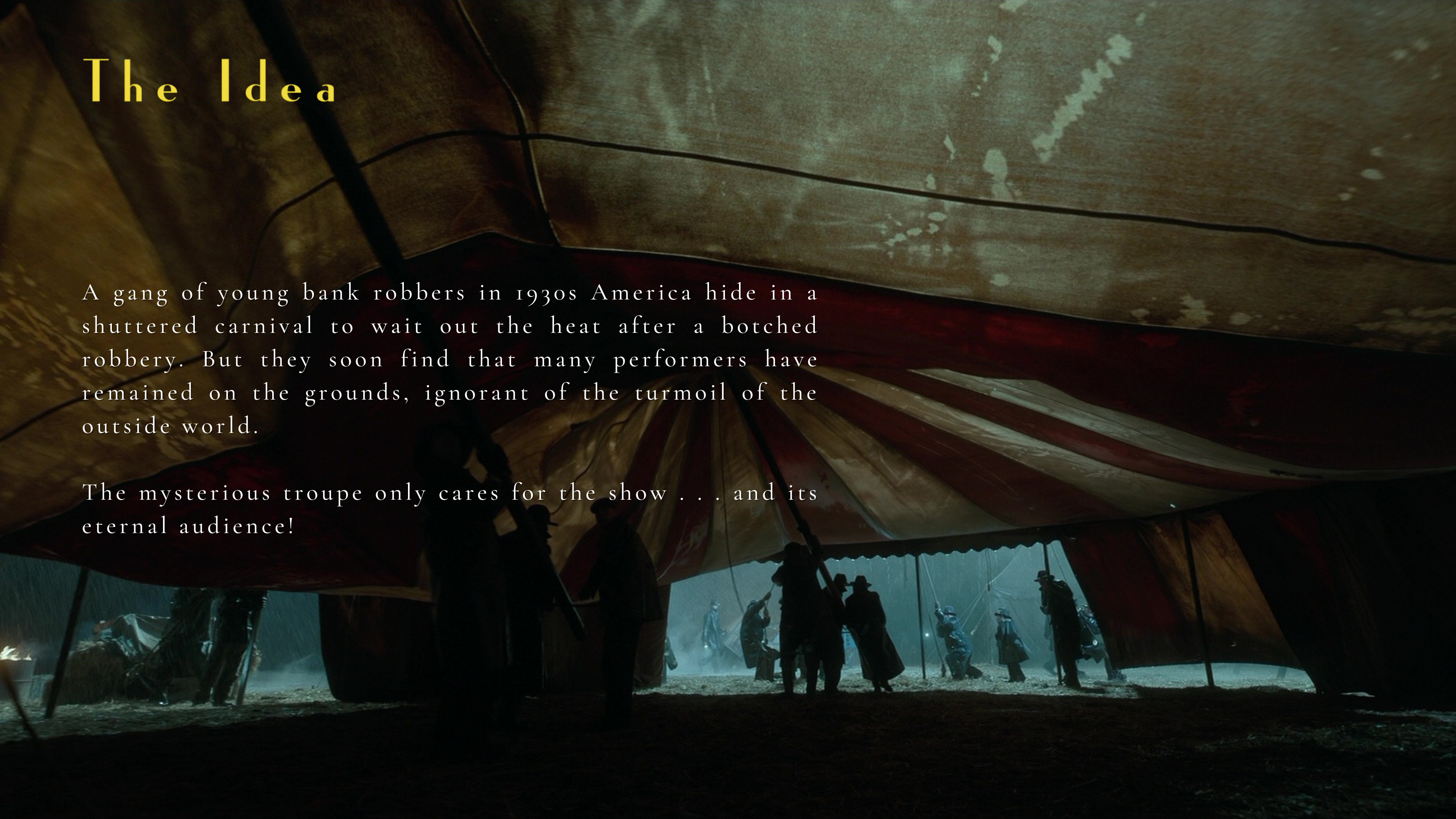
The Show Must Go On

A horror screenplay by Bret Miller

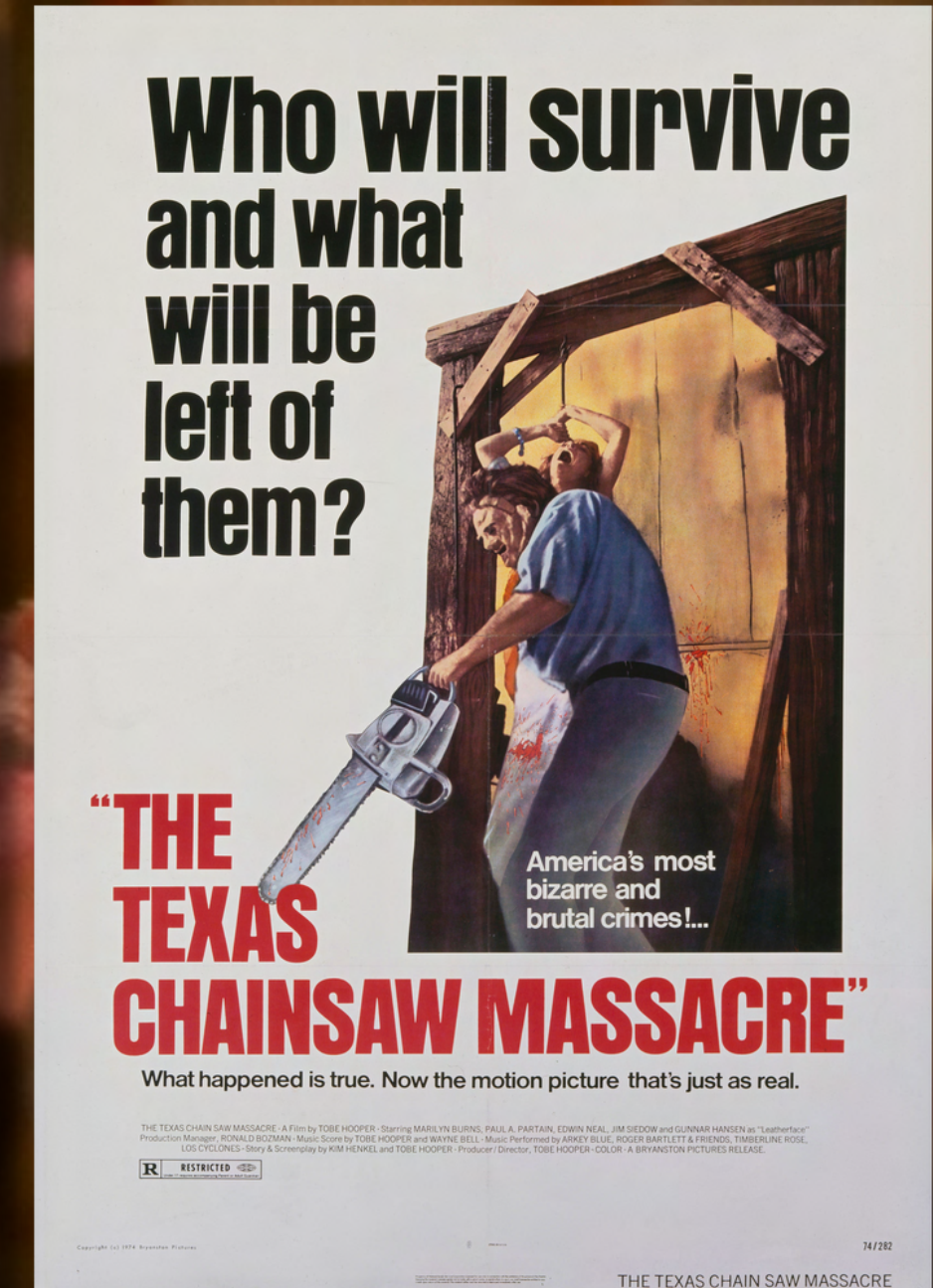
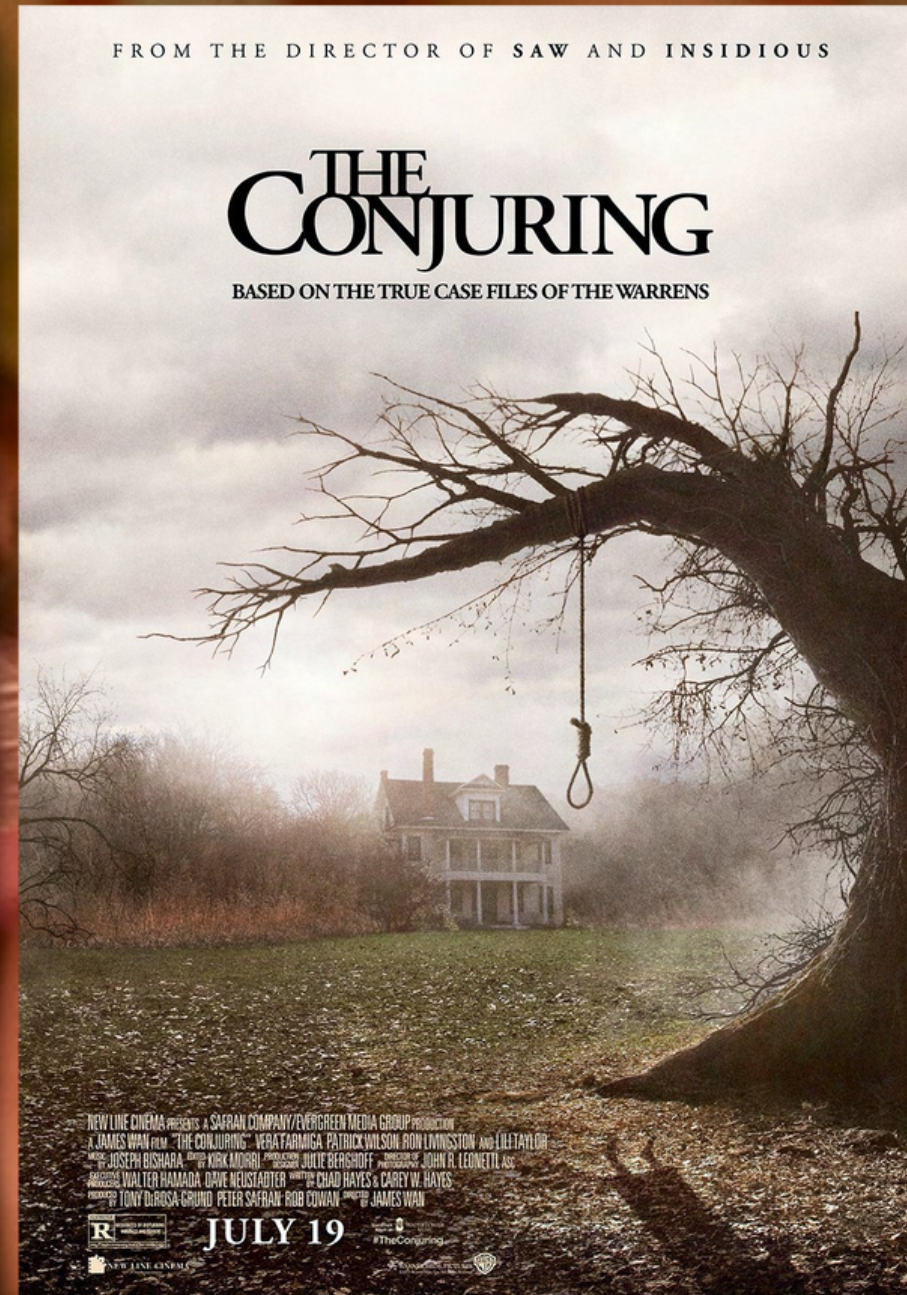
The Idea

A gang of young bank robbers in 1930s America hide in a shuttered carnival to wait out the heat after a botched robbery. But they soon find that many performers have remained on the grounds, ignorant of the turmoil of the outside world.

The mysterious troupe only cares for the show . . . and its eternal audience!



Comparable Films




From the Writer

A lifelong lover of history, I was reading a biography of Bonnie and Clyde. Nearly 100 years after their deaths, I was struck by several chilling parallels to the present day. Financial unrest, cultural movement, and government overreach just to name a few. A perfect storm led teenagers from nowhere in Texas and transformed them into the infamous gangsters we know today.

In one famous anecdote, the gang found themselves in a firefight while hiding in an abandoned county fair. My mind raced with the possibilities. The contrasting visuals alone were enough to drive me forward, and then it hit me. A new generation, basking in a changing world versus the ghosts of yesterday. After all, there are those who take advantage of a changing world and others who don't. For the latter, it's all they know. It's all they want to know. The narrative practically spilled out onto the page, then and there.



1934

A close-up photograph of a man dressed in a classic noir style. He wears a dark brown fedora hat, a dark green pinstriped suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a dark tie with small white polka dots. He is wearing black leather gloves and holding a black handgun with both hands, the barrel pointed towards the camera. His expression is serious and focused. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light grey.


Chucky, the leader

Millie, the sharpshooter






Arthur, the driver

A close-up profile of a woman with blue eyes looking to the left. The background is dark with several out-of-focus bokeh lights in shades of blue and yellow. The woman's face is partially in shadow, and her expression is neutral.

June, the performer



Alexander, the ringmaster



Friends stay together . . .

The Story

The Dropout Gang is on the run. Chucky, the leader, has suffered a serious gunshot wound while robbing a small town bank. Rudderless and terrified, June (eyes and ears of the story) suggests they take cover in a shuttered carnival. Before long, the Dropout Gang finds Alexander Todd, the mysterious Ringmaster. It turns out that the carnival isn't abandoned after all. The performers have remained on the grounds, eager for the audiences to return!

Shelter as a child, June left home hoping to experience the world. But the Great Depression forced her into committing crimes with her boyfriend, Arthur, and his childhood friends. Alexander offers her a permanent home at the carnival, a tempting proposal. But the others are suspicious. One after the other, they are slowly murdered by members of the carnival. First a nosy Copper, then Millie and Chucky.

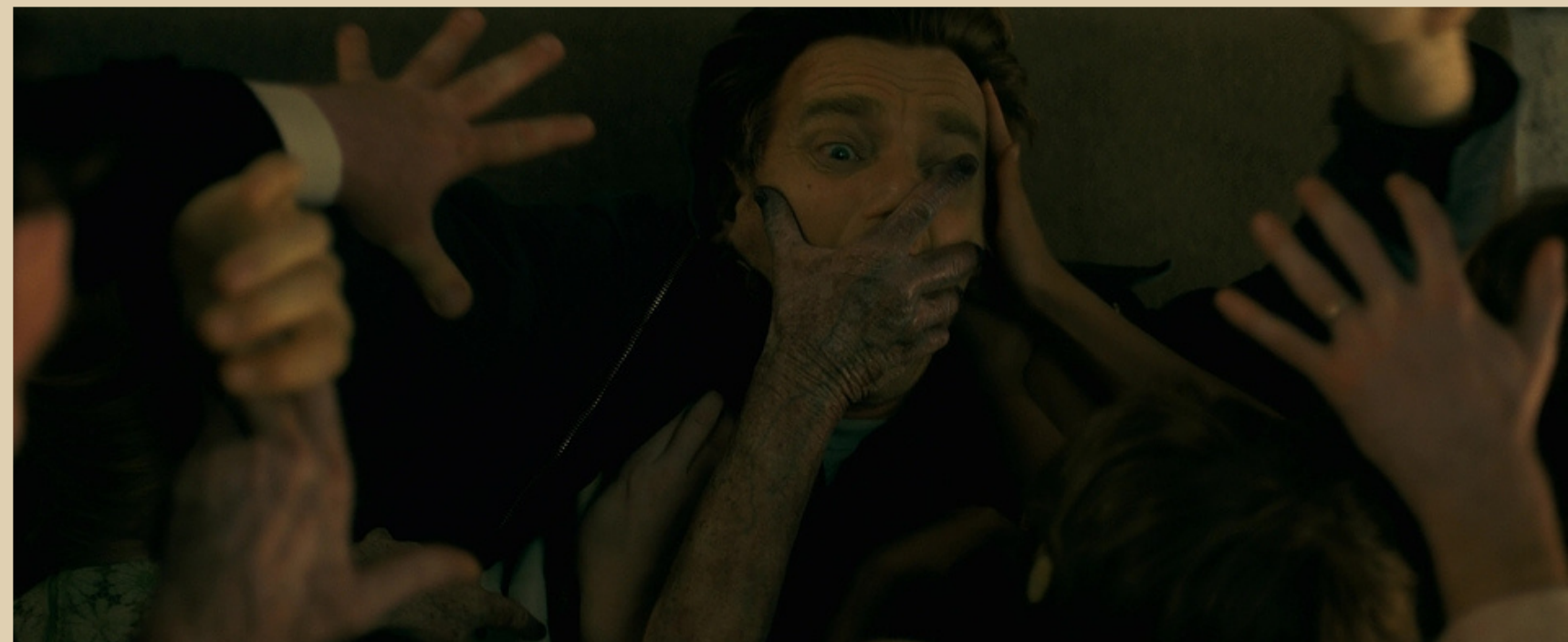
Realizing the truth, Arthur flees with June in tow. But, they are soon caught. Arthur is murdered, leaving June alone. But she learns that the spirits remain, trapped at the carnival. Every member of the company, sans the Ringmaster, have long since died. If she gives herself to the cause, she will spend the rest of eternity with her friends

June rebukes this offer, stabbing Alexander to death. But after spending a long year in poverty, she realizes that Alexander was right. She returns to the carnival and sacrifices herself in order to remain on the grounds. With her friends, and with the show . . . Forever.









Bret Miller

Bret Miller is a writer, director, and producer of narrative content with DYNMC Films. He's directed two feature films, a handful of shorts, and commercials for brands such as Chevrolet and LaVida Massage.

His scripts have been sold, optioned, and produced by production companies across the country. He prides himself on using genre to unearth themes and emotions that are ever present in our society.

Bret lives in Atlanta with his wife and Australian Cattle Dog.





Thank You

bret@dynmc.co