



Heritage

A charlatan clairvoyant with a history of paranoid schizophrenia in the family experiences visions that try to tell her about the stabbing that left her agoraphobic, and an unholy pact her mother made with demonic entities known as the Unholy Trinity.

Feature | Horror | 100 minutes

Synopsis

SARA (50) is a divorcee who has become agoraphobic after being mugged and stabbed. She lives now in a small flat, her only contact with the outside world her brother, ADAM (46), who brings her groceries and doles her medication out daily – a precaution after a suicide attempt.

Everything else is done through Zoom: communicating with her daughter, ANGEL (13); her psychiatric appointments; and her job as a (fake) psychic.

One night, Sara sees the bloodied apparition of her mother, CARMEN (69). Carmen, a paranoid schizophrenic, has been institutionalized since inexplicably stabbing Angel in the face during a birthday party. Adam calls then, telling Sara that Carmen has attempted suicide, but she's now sedated and fine.

This event marks a change in Sara's life.

She begins seeing other apparitions: among others, THE CRYING GIRL (9), who sits on the kitchen floor, reciting a nursery rhyme; THE WHISPERING WOMAN (34), who begs for help in a strangled whisper; and THE NO MAN (50), a behemoth who threatens Sara. Sara's terrified, but due to her agoraphobia can't leave her house.

Adam's dismissive, believing this is mental illness given their mother's history. He's also stressed because he's having family issues, dealing with his struggling business, and because Sara hasn't signed insurance forms he's brought around.

Sara's sure something's happening and watches the psychiatric interviews that were conducted with Carmen. Carmen claimed to be a medium who contacted a trio of demonic entities, the Unholy Trinity. The Trinity sought to use her as a vessel but found her flawed. They then focused on Angel. This is why Carmen stabbed her – to stop them.

When Sara's main client, JOSHUA (40) – a paranoid man, who suspects his partner is cheating – reports she took her own life, Sara suspects Joshua is responsible and cuts off contact.

But Joshua comes around and during their exchange, Sara reconciles The Whispering Woman is Joshua's partner. Joshua reveals he was once in an institution, and Carmen gave him readings in exchange for stabbing Sara – this was Carmen's attempt to stop the Unholy Trinity inhabiting her.

Joshua attacks; Sara fights him off – Adam arrives and helps incapacitate Joshua.

After police take Joshua away, Adam criticizes Sara for believing she's psychic like their mother. He says she's sick and this is why Sara's ex won't let the kids come over.

Sara is devastated. Once Adam leaves, she takes an overdose of meds she's stockpiled, but nothing happens.

Adam's been giving her placebos.

Sara calls his home, but his wife reports he's gone – they split up months ago. Sara checks the insurance forms and finds they're a Power of Attorney, transferring control of Carmen's finances solely to Adam.

Adam comes over with Angel. He admits he's been manipulating Sara – his business is struggling and he needs the money – and that Carmen did take her life the night Sara saw the apparition.

Sara and Adam fight, but Angel intercedes to save her mother.

But The No Man is also present and demands a reckoning.





Creative Vision

Horror movies usually involve a haunting, which inevitably prompts the question, *Why don't they just move house?*

Heritage polarizes this question and asks another: *What would you do if your house was haunted and you couldn't leave?*

That introduced the mental health element – dealing with agoraphobia, a condition the screenwriter experienced firsthand for five years back in the 1990s.

But what if the mental health equation was pushed further? What if, possibly, it wasn't a haunting, but a series of hallucinations, as can occur with schizophrenia (a condition the screenwriter has second-hand experience with)?

This creates an ambiguity in the narrative. What's real? What's not?

And it allows the story to create its own horror mythology.

Visual References



Comparables

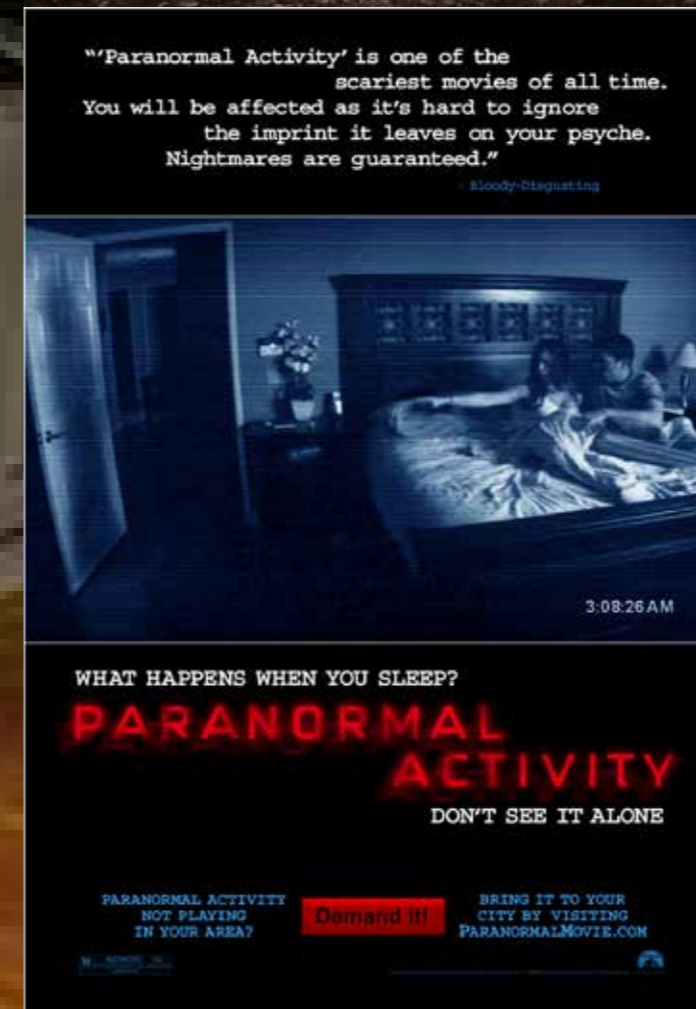
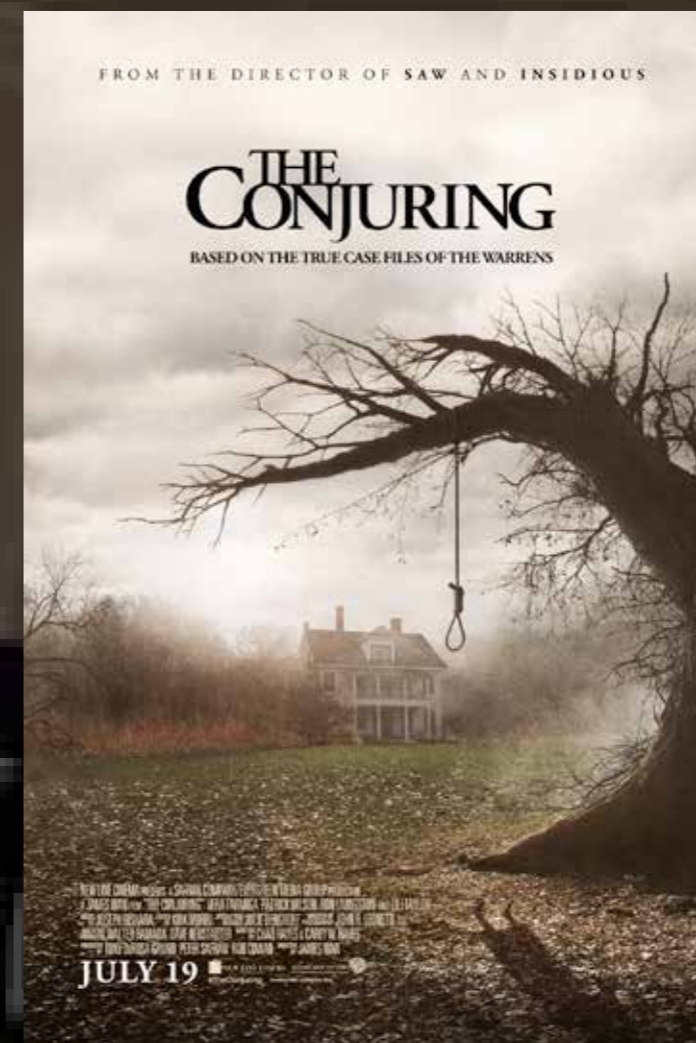
The key to horror is location. These stories here are intrinsically about the concentration of a haunting centering around characters in a specific location.

Heritage takes it further, though. One of the questions often asked in a horror is, "Why don't they just move?"

Sara can't. She's agoraphobic. So she's trapped in her own madness, a cold, bleak, and terrifying world that increasingly becomes her prison.

But is this really happening? Or is it all part of her deteriorating mental health?

The story tries to put the audience in Sara's world as it closes in around her.



Characters and Cast

Sara

About fifty, Sara's struggling with where she fits in the world. Although she survived a mugging, she's become agoraphobic, works as a fake online psychic, and is estranged from her 13-year-old daughter and her husband.

She never leaves the house, and relies exclusively on her brother, Adam, to bring her groceries and medication, and her psychiatrist, Dr. Beck, who she consults via Zoom.

When Sara begins having visions of the dead, she wonders if her charlatan powers have become authentic, or if she's developing schizophrenia, like her institutionalised mother.



Ana Isabel

Ana is a Melbourne-based actor, writer and producer who has studied extensively at various acting schools, including the prestigious Howard Fine Acting Studio.

She wrote, produced, and starred in the social satire webseries *OzLinked*, and wrote the original story for her comedy feature, *Hot Flush*, which is currently in postproduction.

Constantly in demand, she has appeared in various film, TV series, and TV commercials, as well as numerous theatre productions.

Cast and Characters

Adam

Adam is Sara's younger brother. He brings her groceries, medication, and oversees all her medical and legal needs.

Although he's conscientious, he holds no truck with her psychic con, and believes that her mental health concern, and their mother's, is a sign of weakness.

When he's not looking after Sara, Adam has his own wife and children, and runs a struggling business – his third. While maintaining an entrepreneurial spirit and always on the lookout for a good deal, he struggles with the financial realities of good management.



Scott Major

Scott has worked extensively in television, theatre and film around the world for the last 28 years.

Some of his regular television roles include *Heartbreak High*, *Wildside*, *Neighbours*, *Always Greener* and *Late for School*. Film credits include *Envy*, *He died with a Falafel in his hand*, *Ned* and *The Heartbreak Kid*.

He founded Bathroom Floor Productions in 2004 and his recent theatre work includes *All This Intimacy*, *Both Sides of the Bar*, *The Fellatio Monologues*, *Death in a box: one pussy's tale*, *The Subtle Art of Flirting*, *Closer*, *Terminus* and *Salt*.

Characters and Cast

Carmen

Sara and Adam's mother, Carmen's always been into spirituality, which then blossomed into a belief in the occult.

Later in life, she developed schizophrenia, and believed she was communicating with the "Unholy Trinity", a trio of spirits who were trying to use her as a vehicle into this world.

Believing Sara's daughter, Angel, was the latest vessel the Unholy Trinity was trying to occupy, Carmen tried to kill her, and was institutionalised.



Loraine Fabb

Loraine says she's always been an actress and a creative. She remembers she used to hop out of bed to act out bedtime stories when she was a little kid.

Her experience across the years between then and now covers film, television, theatre, commercial projects and education.

Loraine's recent work includes Nathan and Theodore Sadden's *Son of a Donkey* comedy series soon to screen on Netflix, and ABC TV's *Fires* series.

Cast and Characters

Angel

Sara's 13-year-old daughter, Angel exhibits typical teenage rebelliousness, but it's also fuelled by a belief that her mother hasn't protected her, and that her mother's agoraphobia means they can't have a genuine mother-daughter relationship. Angel's lost, and struggling to work out where she fits in the world, albeit without much success.



Diviya Mahto

Diviya (Div) has been passionate about acting since the age of five and has appeared in productions such as *Chicago* (Student Version), *We Will Rock You*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Peter Pan* as Tiger Lily. Her on-screen experience includes a role in the feature film *Hot Flush*.

Striving to develop her skills, Div has taken part in additional acting workshops with TAFTA Productions, TCA, and Premier.

Currently, she's in rehearsals for *Mamma Mia* while also expanding her creative talents by directing *The Laramie Project* – a powerful and challenging piece.

With every performance, she continues to grow as an artist, excited for what lies ahead in this dynamic and inspiring field.

Characters and Cast

Mystique

Sara's best friend, Mystique got her into the fake psychic game. But whereas Sara is traumatised through her experiences, Mystique is bright, vivacious, and loves life. She's quirky and colourful, and tries to find a way to bring joy and hope to Sara's life.



Day Straube

A versatile actor with experience in TV, film, and commercial work, Day brings authenticity and depth to every performance.

Committed to continuous growth, she attends weekly classes to refine her craft and stay sharp in an ever-evolving industry.

In addition to on-screen work, she is a skilled voice artist, lending her voice to commercial, TV, and character roles with nuance and precision.

Cast and Characters

Dr. Paul Beck

Beck provided the initial evaluation of Carmen, and is now Sara's psychiatrist.

Seemingly solid, reliable, and a constant moral check, Beck is more of a friend than a clinician.

But he has his own murky past, where he was discharged for unprofessionalism.



Greg Pandelidis

Greg has been acting in Australia on stage and in film and TV for over twenty years.

He is immensely passionate about offering audiences a more visceral experience, to feel moved and inspired by the stories he helps bring to life. He has worked on many top notch films, television shows and stage productions.

Career highlights have included working alongside Guy Pearce in *Jack Irish*; *My False Vacuum*, which won Best International Film at the Swedish Film Festival; and winning a scholarship studying in New York at the Atlantic Acting school.

Characters and Cast

Joshua

One of Sara's online clients, Joshua is in his thirties, and relies on Sara because he's insecure about his own relationship. He grows possessive and irrational, and increasingly reliant on Sara.

When his partner dies, the question becomes whether he was in any way responsible, and if he'll also become a danger to Sara.



Seth Kannof

Seth was born in Westchester, N.Y. He received a B.A. in Film & TV from Columbia College Chicago in 2011, and graduated from The Second City's Musical Improvisation Conservatory (Chicago) in 2015.

In 2016 he moved to Melbourne, Australia to be with his partner, and is a happy husband and father.

In addition to acting, Seth is an accomplished musician and filmmaker.

His short film, *Free Lunch* has received numerous film festival selections and awards in numerous categories including best acting, best ensemble, best original song, and best screenplay.

Cast and Characters

Bree

A widower struggling with the death of her husband, Bree can't forgive herself for cheating on him during a time they were on a break from their relationship. When she finds out he might've cheated on her, Sara becomes her only salvation.



Fiona Crombie

Fiona Crombie's naturalistic style and unique look enable her to embody a wide range of role.

Showcasing a wonderful connectedness as an actor, Fiona brings a unique depth and raw truth to her characters and can portray sweetness and light, comedic wit and furious anger with equal credibility.

Her notable works include *Yesterday Island* (Peking Pictures) alongside Ivan Aristeguieta, David Fane and Francis Greenslade

Characters and Cast

The Crying Girl

One of Sara's more frequent ghostly visitations, The Crying Girl is found in the kitchen, a bright light on her, reciting an old poem:

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.*

She is a manifestation of the innocence Sara has lost, but is also trying to communicate another message.



Sophie Alice

Aged 12, Sophie Alice is thrilled to be joining the cast of *Heritage*.

Currently in Grade 6, Sophie is a house captain and avid lover of life, sport, movies and musicals.

She's now turning her attention to the stage and screen with her debut acting role in *Heritage* as "The Crying Girl".



Characters and Cast

The Sleeping Man

A silent presence in Sara's life, The Sleeping Man offers little threat. But he is important as Sara struggles to reconcile whether what's happening to her is reality, or hallucination. The Sleeping Man provides the key.



TBA

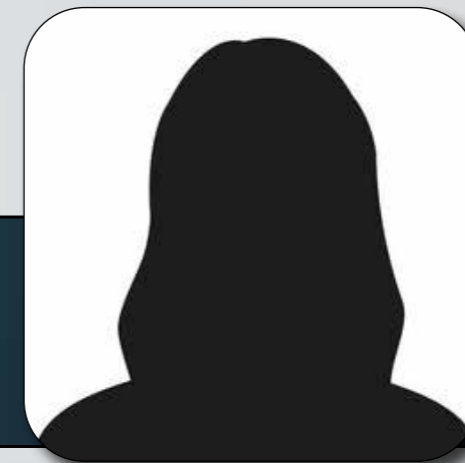


Characters and Cast

The Silhouetted Lady

Seemingly an ally, The Silhouetted Lady always appears just as her name suggests: as a silhouette.

She has a message for Sara, but is Sara prepared to listen?



TBA

Characters and Cast

The Whispering Woman

The Whispering Woman plays a key part in Sara determining whether she's going to believe in her psychic abilities, or accept that she's suffering delusions.

But The Whispering Woman comes with a message that Sara's able to verify.

The question is what does that message ultimately mean?



Loren Lennox

A natural performer from a young age, Loren has been singing and acting since she could walk.

Recently rediscovering her passion, she burst into the world of film. Constantly working on her craft, she studies under Peter Kalos at the Actor's Lab, and has had both lead and supporting roles in seven different independent short films in the last year.

Not one to be typecast, and fascinated by the diversity of human experience and emotion, she embraces characters from all walks of life, and films from every genre.

Her next year promises to be a big one, as she prepares for upcoming roles in both feature and short films, along with live performances and studio recordings with her two bands.



Characters and Cast

The No Man

The most frightening and demanding of Sara's visitors, The No Man seems to be trying to communicate something to her, although the understanding of the message can only come at a terrible cost.



Antonios Baxevanidis

Antonios has appeared in films such as *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, *The Young Wife*, *The Keepers*, *Malcolm*, and *Kostas*, TV series such as *Acropolis Now* and *Prisoner*, and over fifty short films and numerous commercials.

He also has a string of theatre credits, such as, *The Respectful Prostitute*, *The Shifting Heart*, *Zoo Story*, and *Scapino*, among others.

He is a versatile actor who is also a mentor to any young actors who can learn from his experience.

The Team

Les Zig (Writer / Director)



Les Zig has been a writer for forty years. He has six published novels, and his short stories and articles have been published extensively across print and digital platforms. His screenplays have placed in over one-hundred prestigious international screenwriting competitions, and he has directed various shorts that have performed well on the festival circuit.

In life away from film, he works in publishing, and is a highly sought mentor and structural editor.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm9849143/>

The Team

Ana Isabel (Producer / Actor)



An actor with a rich and impressive CV, Ana became interested in creating her own opportunities, and wrote, produced, and starred in the social satire webseries *Oz Linked*, which won multiple awards on the festival circuit.

In the last two years she has been working on her own feature comedy, *Hot Flush*, for which she wrote the original story, produced, and starred in, and showcases the issues middle-aged women emerging from domineering marriages face. *Hot Flush* is currently in post-production.

She is also a qualified psychologist, and finds this helps her find verisimilitude in characters and the circumstances they must navigate.

Ana's passionate about nurturing a forum that is inclusive and inspires people from all walks of life. She champions stories that provide opportunities for underrepresented actors in the mediums of film and television.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5815235/>

The Team

Maria Tevelis (First AD)



Maria Tevelis works tirelessly as a producer and director, and believes in fostering the strength of community behind the scenes so that everyone has an enjoyable, rewarding experience.

At Hollywood International Moving Pictures, she co-produced and starred in the webseries *Full Disclosure* (a New York Web Finalist).

She was also a producer on *FLATS*, *Jumping Train*, *I'm an Actor* by Darren L Downs, *The Target* by Locked in Productions, and a production manager and first AD on the TV webseries *Oz Linked*.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8103523/>

The Team

Greg Pandelidis (First AD / Runner)



Greg Pandelidis has worked off-camera in many roles, from assisting the DOP to the best boy to gopher.

As an actor, he's had a diverse career that includes performances in film, television and theatre – both internationally and nationally.

He's one of few Australian actors to be awarded an Atlantic Theatre Company New York "Summer Intensive Scholarship" (2014).

His career highlights include playing opposite Guy Pearce in *Jack Irish*, the lead in a Tropfest finalist short film, and the lead as University lecturer "John" in David Mamet's *Oleanna*.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1166836/>

The Team

Stuart Jaymes (Cinematographer)



Introduced to the camera at the age of fourteen, Stuart Jaymes developed a love for the medium through his curiosity and fascination of the art of light and film.

He is Melbourne-based and has extensive experience as a DOP, editor and colourist working with crews both large and small on TV series, short films, corporate and web series shoots. He has an extensive equipment inventory including digital cinema cameras, lighting, sound and grips.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10208880/>

The Team

Natalie Mahto (Production Manager)



Natalie thrives on being organised and ensuring exceptional outcomes for a feature film, from motivating the coordination of the actors and crew to motivating and fostering collaboration to creating a positive, enjoyable atmosphere on set.

Most importantly, her adaptability and agility to ensure that challenges are managed effectively, keeping projects on track and running smoothly.

Her passion for seamless execution and her ability to adapt to any situation make her a driving force in delivering successful productions across a wide range of creative and logistical challenges.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm14920461/>

The Team

Chris Teh (Best Person / Runner)



Chris has been assisting with independent film projects in a variety of roles, such as key grip, best boy electric, assistant sound recordist, second unit, and perhaps most importantly, catering.

He has also served as executive producer for the award-winning independent feature film *Dashboard Dogs*, as well as *La Famiglia* and *Hot Flush*, which are both in post-production.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm14920465/>

The Team

Rebecca Hines (MU/Special Effects Artist)



Rebecca has worked on several feature films, shorts and live shows, across a broad range of roles such as a hair and makeup artist, extra, producer, line producer, costumes, continuity, clapper and casting.

Although she has only been in the industry for four years, she has learned a lot and is experienced in all of the aspects listed.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3061671/>

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