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Erica McDermott





JENNIFER WHITE

MARY LOSS OF SOUL

There is no accurate description of the WHITE tornado I met recently on the set of her soon to be released film MARY LOSS OF SOUL. It was the last day of shooting, and the energy level and passion of this female director was boundless and infectious!

The woman is Jennifer B. White. She is a writer, director and producer, but she'll tell you she is first and foremost a storyteller. "I was ten-years-old. I'd never heard the term "folktale"—a narrated story to entertain a group of listeners. But, that's exactly how I began my creative dream—as a storyteller in the woods. Back in the day of knock-on-door neighborhoods in the suburbs of Massachusetts, I'd gather with a group of wide-eyed kids, along with my side-kick little sister. I told stories often about ghosts, witches, and anything spooky, making them up as I went along. I started writing novels at the age of twelve on my mom's old IBM Selectric. As the family keeper of all things old and nostalgic, I held on to those precious works of fiction like they were a Buccaneer's booty."

After college, Jennifer signed with her first literary agent, and went on to become a public relations professional heading up PR in Boston hotels and top agencies where she was published in hundreds of publications throughout the U.S. She continued writing novels throughout her career, and, through a series of fortunate encounters, began writing for Hollywood.

For Jennifer, her partner Stewart Huey and their production company Oak Ivy LLC, this is their first feature film and from what I saw on set that day, it's a winner. The movie centers on the disappearance of Mary Solis, and her return to her family's lake house without any memory of the traumatic events that transpired. She is also without one very important thing - a part of her soul. Even though a shocking mystery surrounds her disappearance, and her disembodied soul begins a grim haunting, the Solis family mostly fears watching Mary's true spirit wither away. When it's soon revealed that two little girls, the same age as Mary's sister Sophia, went missing on the lake the same night that Mary disappeared, the stakes are raised. Is Mary suffering from an ancient

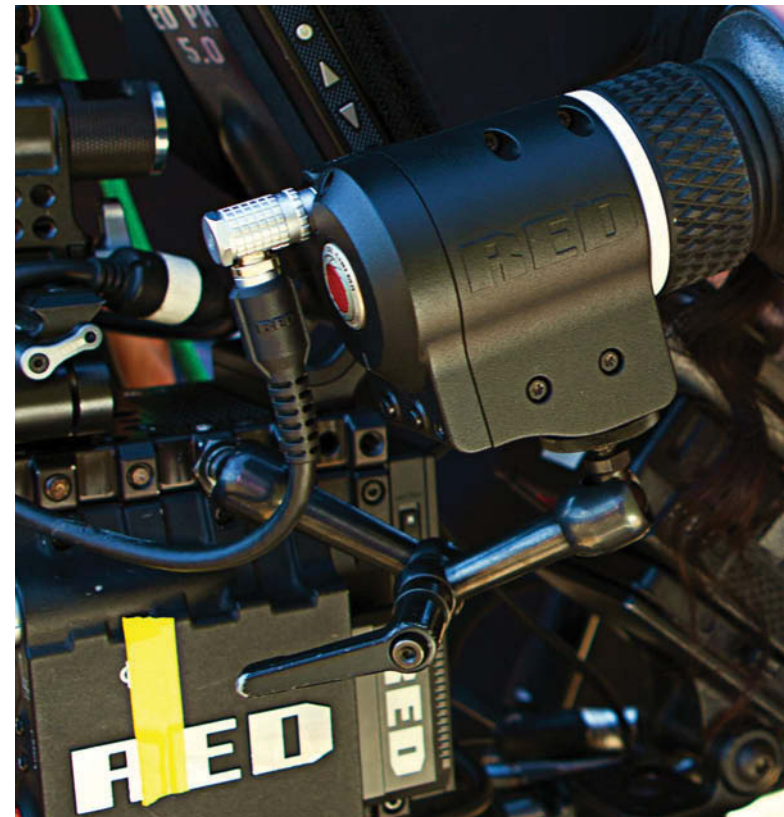


condition known as Loss of Soul? Or is it indeed something more nefarious at work? After enlisting the help of a Shaman, the Solis family embarks on a journey to the spirit worlds hunting for a supernatural cure.

The film promises to take us on a ride, with its heavy symbolism and abundant metaphors - more importantly, White's commitment

to plain old-fashioned good storytelling. Considering she brought her team together to make this film (which was shot in 16 days) is a feat in itself with the help of Rhode Island's own Project 989, Anthony Ambrosino and Nicholas Delmenico. Add to that, this mother of three's passion and love for her own family, which is reflected in the guidance of her actors. "I was directed by Kathryn Bigelow, she doesn't talk much - you make a much better director," said accomplished actor Nick Mancuso, who plays Detective Mark O'Hagan in the film. Diana Porter, who portrays Devra Brawnson in MARY LOSS OF SOUL and is one of New England's most sought after actresses, had this to say about working with Jennifer, "Jennifer is an amazing creative force that provided just incredible characters to portray but truly cared for actors as people making sure we were completely comfortable so we could give our best performance."

Part of Jennifer's success is being able to switch hats between writer and director, and literally get in the trenches with them to evoke the depths she looks for. It also helps that she has a master's degree in psychology, researches the supernatural, and to top it off, grew up in a clairvoyant household. Her production company, Oak Ivy, is based



in both Boston and Los Angeles, and she is able to bring the best of both coasts together in her work. With partner Stewart Huey, Jennifer has over twenty years' experience in Hollywood where they have cultivated relationships and partnered with people who are as committed as they are to quality storytelling. This bodes well for the dynamic White, who has four other scripts written. If this is any indication of what's to come, get ready for some movie magic. She's not about to stop here.

As an actor myself, I know there are no small film parts. White knows this and acts upon it with the utmost conviction. She expects that everyone will bring their very best to the process, as she does each time she steps behind the camera, or pens each of her original stories.

When MARY LOSS OF SOUL opens, I think we will walk out of the theatre as witnesses to the best that filmmaking has to offer. I think Jennifer B. White knows this too.

To follow Jennifer's first feature film MARY LOSS OF SOUL see the below links:

Please check out the trailer here: www.oakivy.com

Rosemary Pacheco is an actress, writer and a professional event/wedding designer. She writes film news for Motif magazine in Rhode Island, currently appears in a web series, and is in production on two feature films.

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Clockwise from Top Left

Jennifer White / Behind the scenes Intricacies of the RED Camera and Jennifer White. / All photos courtesy of MARY LOSS OF SOUL.



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