



# CREEPSHOWS

THE ILLUSTRATED **STEPHEN KING** MOVIE GUIDE

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# THE WOMAN IN THE ROOM AND OTHER SHORT FILMS



**Above:** Fledgling director Frank Darabont with Dee Croxton, behind-the-scenes on Stephen King's *The Woman in the Room*.

## FACT FILE

The rotting corpse seen briefly in Stephen King's *The Woman in the Room* was originally created by the Burman Studios for Tom DeSimone's *Hell Night* (1981), which Frank Darabont also worked on.

## PARANOID

USA, 2000. Director: **Jay Holben**. Adapted from the Poem 'Paranoid: A Chant' by **Stephen King**. Editor: **Eric Tozzi**. Art Director: **Jennine Dwyer**. Director of Photography: **Jay Holben**. Original Score: **Buck Sanders**. Sound Design: **Alek Vila**. Producer: **Jay Holben**. Adakin Productions. Black and White/Colour. 8 minutes.

With: **Tonya Ivey** (Woman), **Mark Reynolds**, **Tamara Balyan**, **Patrick Gealogo** and **Jeff Gabe** (Faceless Men).

*Paranoid* (2000) was an eight-minute short from director and cinematographer Jay Holben based on the 100-line poem 'Paranoid: A Chant' in *Skeleton Crew*.

As his unbalanced protagonist, Holben hired Tonya Ivey, an actress and friend he had worked with back in his hometown of Scottsdale, Arizona. 'Tonya and I worked pretty closely for about two weeks to really get inside the mind of the woman and hone Tonya's performance,' he explained to Ray Garraty. 'We recorded her voice-over a few days prior to actually shooting with the intention of using her own voice as playback on the set — but I found that it worked much better if we just ran off of single moments and raw emotions for each shot rather than specifically tie a reaction to a particular line of dialogue.'

'It was absolutely crucial to me, however, to maintain one hundred per-cent integrity to King's words. I very carefully studied the structure of how the text was printed on the page. Where lines were broken — where new paragraphs were made — taking note of each punctuation mark and trying to really understand the cadence that King had created. His words were the backbone to the whole film and I took my cues from the imagery that he created in the poem.'

All the scenes taking place inside a motel room were shot in a single day, in May 1999 in Los Angeles, while the woman's monochrome delusions were filmed over three evenings during the previous week. *Paranoid* was shot on 35mm colour stock with Panavision cameras and lenses. All of the black and white sequences were also shot in colour but were desaturated in post-production. King granted his permission and his blessing for the film in September 2000.

'I liked it,' the author is quoted as saying, while *Rolling Stone* writer David Wild described it as 'a stunning and artful rendering of madness, turning a poem by Stephen King

into a vivid and compelling nightmare vision.'

Plans to release the film on DVD the following March (as a giveaway with the magazine *Total Movie*, which folded beforehand) were postponed after problems with music clearances, but the short was still set to debut on the internet in the summer of 2001.

