

## THE WOMAN IN THE ROOM

## AND OTHER SHORT FILMS



Above: Fledgling director Frank
Darabont with Dee Croxton, behind-thescenes 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.

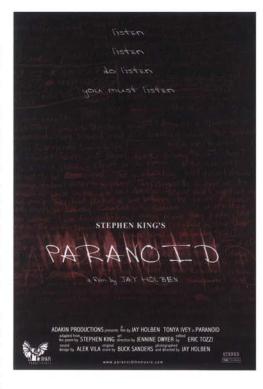
'It was absolutely crucial to me, however, to maintain one hundred per-cent integrity to King's words. I very carefully studied the structure of how the text was printed on the page. Where lines were broken — where new paragraphs were made — taking note of each punctuation mark and trying to really understand 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 début on the internet in the summer of 2001.



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