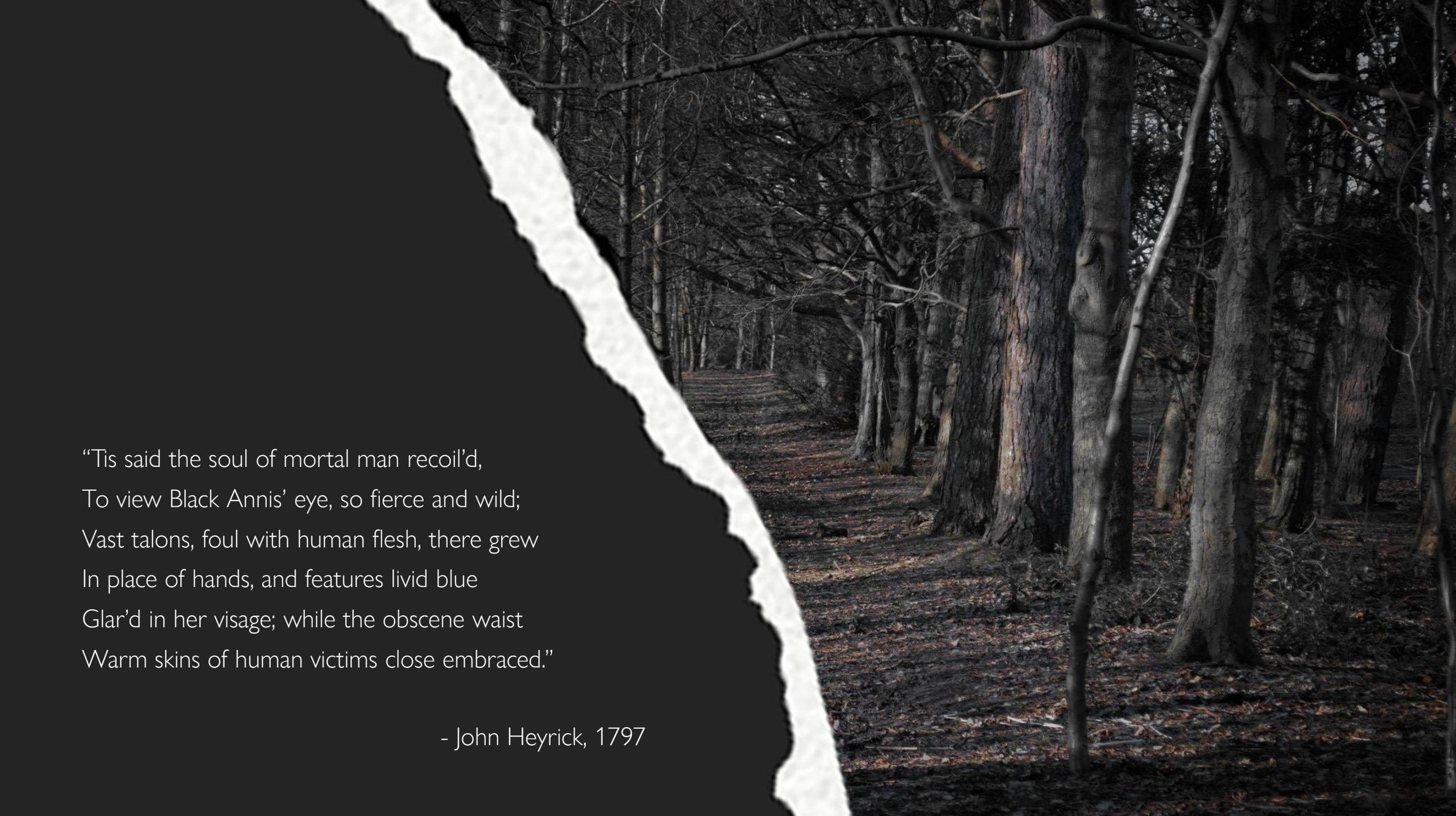


A dark, dense forest with many trees and a path, framed by a torn paper effect. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and twigs. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

# BLACK ANNIS



“Tis said the soul of mortal man recoil’d,  
To view Black Annis’ eye, so fierce and wild;  
Vast talons, foul with human flesh, there grew  
In place of hands, and features livid blue  
Glar’d in her visage; while the obscene waist  
Warm skins of human victims close embraced.”

- John Heyrick, 1797

# LEGEND OF BLACK ANNIS

British horror film based on English folklore about a witch called 'Black Annis' or 'Black Agnes' that lived in the caves in Dane Hill, Leicestershire.

It was claimed that she had a blue face and long talons who ate children alive, wore and decorated her home with their skins.





# TAGLINE

Two couples venture out to the small village of Fairweather for a birthday weekend. Heavily pregnant Ayesha begins to experience paranoia and visions that lead her to believe something more sinister lies within this idyllic setting.

# SYNOPSIS

For centuries the town of Fairweather has lived in fear of a 1000-year-old witch called Black Annis.

Something neither human nor beast now, she feeds on the young and uses their skin to decorate her cave dwelling.

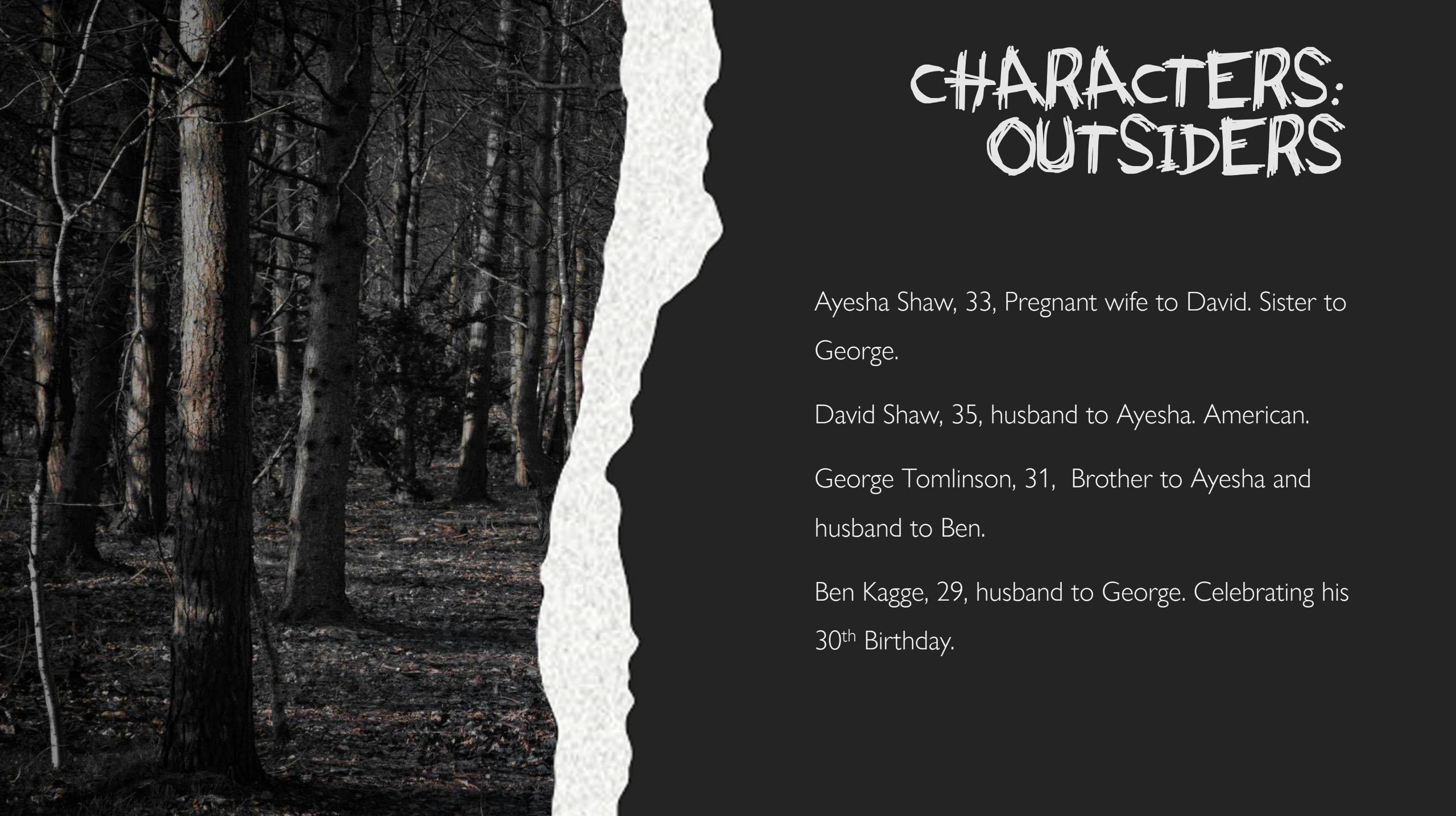
An ancient agreement binds the creature and once a year they sacrifice a child to keep the village safe.

As time moves on, the villagers have looked for more elaborate ways of saving their own by sacrificing others and now promote their idyllic hamlet as a place of tourism, ideal for families.

Two couples venture out to the small village of Fairweather for a birthday weekend. Heavily pregnant Ayesha begins to experience paranoia and visions of Black Annis, that lead her to believe something more sinister lies within.

A sequence of events within the local Merrywell family lead to widower John Merrywell punishing his daughter Sophie. She escapes and tries to warn Ayesha who is captured by the mob and led away to the sacrificial square.

The fate of the travellers is now left in the hands of their deceptive hosts.



# CHARACTERS: OUTSIDERS

Ayesha Shaw, 33, Pregnant wife to David. Sister to George.

David Shaw, 35, husband to Ayesha. American.

George Tomlinson, 31, Brother to Ayesha and husband to Ben.

Ben Kagge, 29, husband to George. Celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

# CHARACTERS: FAIRWEATHER VILLAGE

**Black Annis:** 1000, witch. Feeds off people, especially children as she believes they restore her eternal youth. Fillets and skins her prey alive and decorates her cave with the skins.

## Villagers:

John Merrywell (50): Widower, father to six children.

Traditional dairy farmer.

The Merrywell daughters:

Sophie Merrywell (15): Desperate to run away with her secret boyfriend Peter.

Lydia Merrywell (16): Matriarch of the family. Loyal to father.

Cassie Merrywell (13)

Lucy Merrywell (9)

Sylvia Merrywell (6)

Sarah Merrywell (3): Mother died giving birth to her.

Abigail Price (38): Mayoress to the town of Fairweather. Keeps local traditions alive in the village.

# BLACK ANNIS: CREATURE CONCEPT



# CASTING



Juliet Landau as Mayoress Abigail

Juliet Landau is an actress, director, producer and writer. As an actress, highlights include her role as Drusilla in Joss Whedon's *BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER* & spin-off *ANGEL* and co-starring in Tim Burton's *ED WOOD* as Loretta King. <sup>[T]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Last season she played the recurring role of Rita Tedesco on Amazon's number one series, *BOSCH*. She started shooting the recurring role of Cordelia on TNT's *CLAWS* before quarantine.



Ian Whyte as Black Annis

Ian Whyte is a Welsh actor, stuntman and former professional basketball player. He is best known for his roles as Predator in the *Alien vs. Predator* film series, Sheikh Suleiman in the 2010 remake of *Clash of the Titans*, The Last Engineer in *Prometheus*, as well as various characters in the HBO fantasy series *Game of Thrones*. Ian also has extensive puppeteering work inc: *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, *Rogue One*, *The Last Jedi* and *The Force Awakens*.

# BUDGET AND FINANCE PLAN

## Overview

Key Team	£ 46,750
Pre-production	£ 33,000
Production	£ 362,535
Post-Production	£ 103,420
Other	£ 86,956
Core Total Spend	£ 545,705
Total Core & Other	£ 632,661
Contingency @10%	£63,266
Total	£695,928

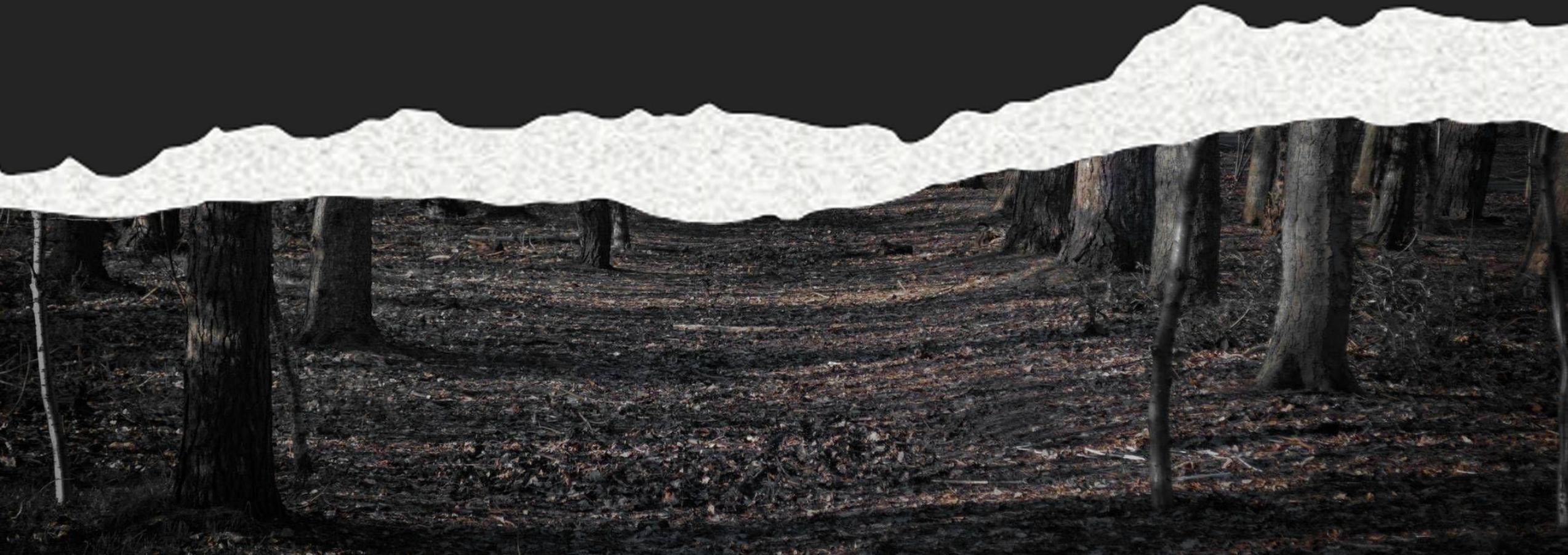
## Finance Plan

Tax Credit (cash flowed)	£95,000
Equity (Private)	£537,908
Pre-Sales	£31,510
Post Deal	£31,510
Total Budget	£695,928

# GENRE, MARKET, BUDGET

Genre: Horror

Audience: 18 to 35



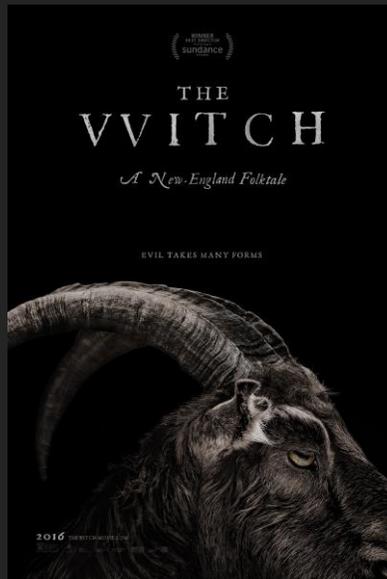
# DIRECTORS STATEMENT

As a long-time lover of horror, I wanted to make a film that spoke to a wider genre audience. With Black Annis I have chosen to highlight issues which speak to myself and co-writer David Curtis individually that are rarely explored on screen.

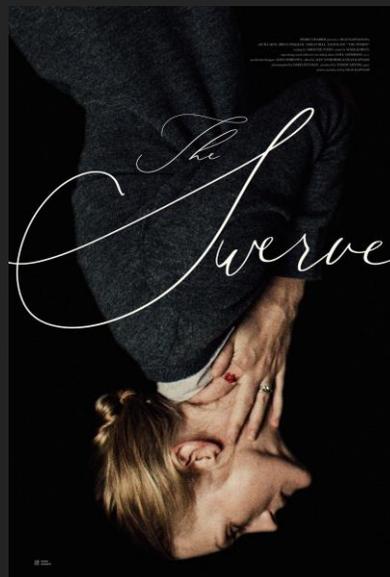
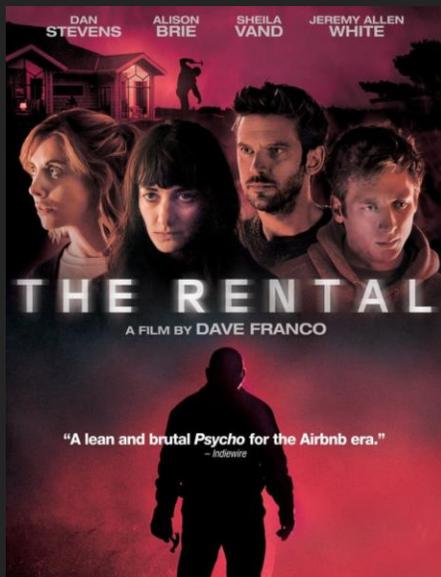
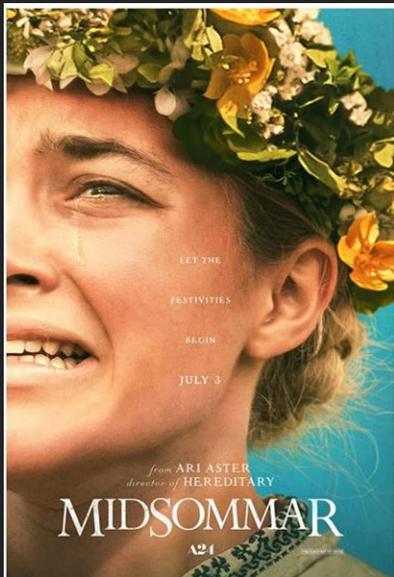
With my filmmaking I'm very interested in stories that highlight under-represented members of society. The struggles of fertility and mental health are something that has been a personal journey for me in recent years and I am always keen to see this tackled in film. For David, being a gay man, he has yearned to see fully developed gay characters within the horror world and also especially wanted to highlight a positive gay relationship instead of the stereo-type promiscuous ones often portrayed on screen. I am a big LGBTQ+ advocate and as such eager to help him.

I'm also a huge fan of monster movies, my love of 'Alien' knows no bounds and am particularly keen on exploring this within UK legends and folklore of which Black Annis is based. I plan to explore these themes within the dynamics of the characters during the film, while also creating a sense of disturbance in the shots using quick cuts and an intelligent use of light within the dark. Concealing the monster until the very end. My inspiration for this film is Ari Aster, Alice Lowe and Robert Eggers.

# COMPARISONS



- The Ritual (2017)
- The Monster (2016)
- The Witch (2015)
- Midsommar (2019)
- The Rental (2020)
- The Swerve (2018)



# MOOD BOARD: PRESENT DAY

Ratio: 2.39:1



Grading: Begins light and vibrant, gradually developing into a Blue/Green/Purple hue as the events of Black Annis take a darker toll.

# MOOD BOARD: PAST 1499

Ratio: 1.85:1



Grading: This world is a hazy, green and sepia.

# COSTUME: VILLAGERS

The villagers for the fete and sacrifice scenes will be traditional based on Welsh dress.



# LOCATION

Tintern, Wales





# THEMES

LGBTQ+

Pregnancy

Psychosis and Mental Health

Traditions

City Life vs Rural Life



Serena Chloe Gardner – Writer/Director

Serena is an award-winning Writer/Director. Her films have screened in the UK and Internationally (including the Oscar qualifying Rhode Island International Film Festival), winning fourteen awards with an additional twenty-four nominations.

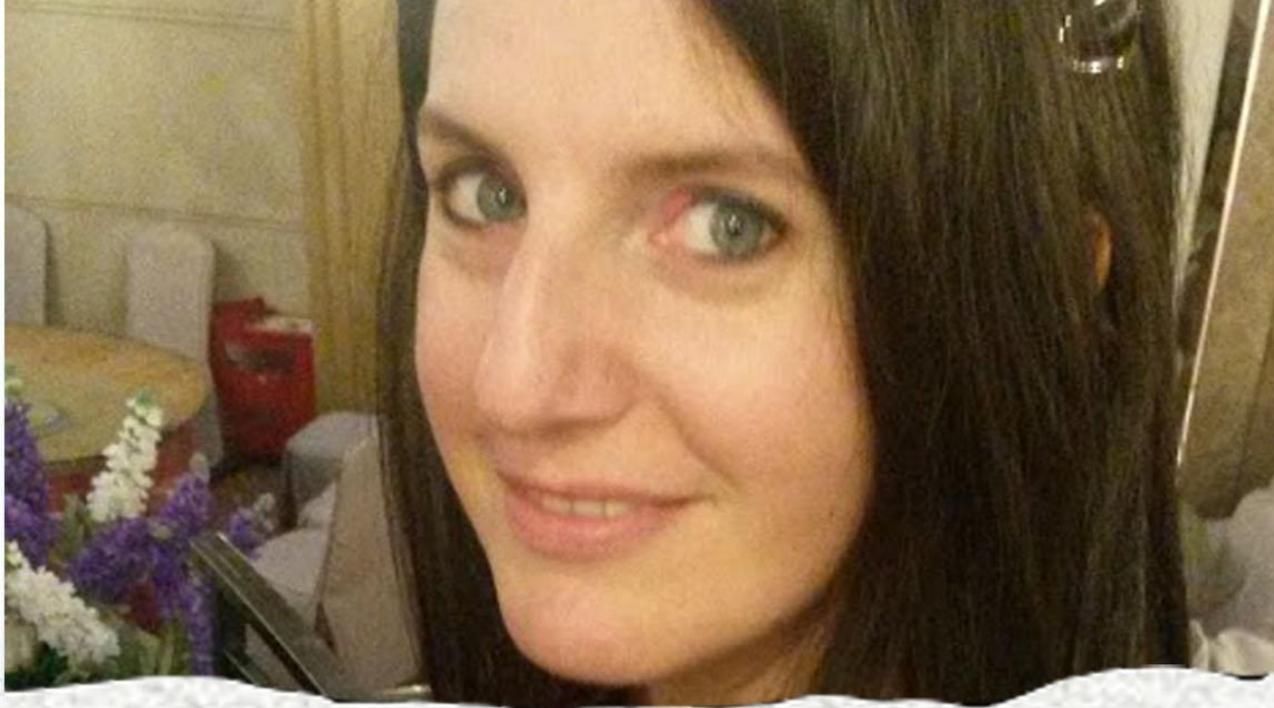
She is also an Actress and Producer with *I'll Be Right Back* horror theatre company which she performed in and produced *Faustus* to a sold-out *London Horror Fest*. Horror acting credits include: *My Bloody Banjo* and *She's Dead*.

David Curtis – Co-Writer

David Curtis is an actor known for his roles in horror films including *My Bloody Banjo*, *Fanged Up*, *Bad Moon Rising* and *Terror of the Killer Carnivorous Coat*.

David is also a producer and writer with *I'll Be Right Back* horror theatre company which he wrote, produced and performed in *Faustus* to a sold-out *London Horror Fest*.

TEAM



Nasreen Cullen – Producer

Having worked on award-winning films with Secret Garden Pictures over the last five years including 2019's Chasing the Vein and again on the hugely successful 2017 "Blackout", Nasreen re-joins Secret Garden Pictures on Black Annis.



Jason Weidner – Director of Photography

Jason has shot numerous award-winning short films and Scottish BAFTA nominated music videos including horror shorts: The Paper Round and Doll. He also directs music videos, most notably for the band 'Desperate Journalist' which he has gained critical acclaim.

**TEAM**

# SUCCESS SO FAR



# PREVIOUS WORK

 **BAFTA**  
**CREW**



**I'LL BE RIGHT BACK** I'll Be right Back Theatre presents ....

# FAUSTUS

A movie poster for 'Faustus' featuring a young man with black-rimmed glasses and a white shirt. His face is covered in cracked, dry skin, and he has a serious expression. The background is dark and textured.

When: 29th - 31st Oct  
Time: 21:30  
At The Etcetera Theatre, Camden  
[info@londonhorrorfestival.com](mailto:info@londonhorrorfestival.com)

A movie poster for 'Lady in the Park' showing a man and a woman sitting on a park bench. The man is leaning over the woman, and they appear to be in a conversation. The background is a park setting with trees and a fountain.

*Lady in the Park*  
1983, SUTTON PARK, BIRMINGHAM  
written by PETER WARNOCK and JEMMA LEWIS

A movie poster for 'Chasing the Vein' featuring a portrait of a woman in a gold frame. The background is a teal color with a faint image of a building.

*CHASING THE VEIN*  
my life with addiction  
DIRECTED BY SERENA CHLOE GARDNER PRODUCED BY MARGHERITA COLLEN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JASON WEINER

A movie poster for 'Blackout' showing a woman in a grey hoodie and dark pants standing in a dark, industrial setting. She is holding a long, thin object, possibly a flashlight or a tool.

*BLACKOUT*  
A FILM BY SERENA CHLOE GARDNER  
STARRING EVELYN LOCKLEY  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SERENA CHLOE GARDNER EXECUTIVE PRODUCTION BY ANTHONY BOSS CREW MANAGEMENT BY JASON WEINER  
CASTING BY RICHARD LLOYD JARVIS COSTUME DESIGNER LEAH HAWKINS MUSIC BY OLIVER HINWELL PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARGHERITA COLLEN

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SECRET GARDEN  
PICTURES

