

# Cynthia – Short Film of the Week

Posted by Sean Markey | Date: October 27, 2014 | in: Film | (2) Comments



*Cynthia* is a short horror film written and directed by Christopher Wells. At first glance, the setup for *Cynthia* is a pretty by the numbers one; a man awakes one night to find strange goings on in his home and that he is being haunted by a vengeful spirit. So far, so short horror film 101.

However, what sets *Cynthia* apart from a great many of the short horror films that are doing the rounds online is how the film's protagonist, played by Wells himself, does not react to being haunted in the same manner that most do. Rather than being gripped by the terror of it all and cowering as things go bump in the night, the film's subject is more annoyed than anything, cursing his bad luck while not really taking the situation as seriously as one might expect him to.

Indeed, when Wells' character is finally confronted face to face by the supernatural entity that plagues him, his first reaction is to argue with it, insisting that he has done nothing wrong to deserve such treatment. While in many horror films where the haunted seek to get rid of an angry spirit they contact a priest or try to perform a ritual, this guy seems to think that he can convince the spirit to go away via some good old fashioned emotional manipulation. Make no mistake, he is not an affable character by any means, but that's what makes *Cynthia* stand out from the crowd. It is refreshing to see someone thoroughly unlikable and well deserving of a good haunting get his comeuppance – not that he'd ever admit to that of course.

On the visual side of things, you can see the influence of 'Hush' the rather infamous episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* creeping in as a rather sinister looking character, who according to the credits represents the devil, makes fleeting appearances intermittently throughout the film. He is very much reminiscent of the 'Gentlemen' characters which appeared in that particular episode of the series, from his black eyes to his creepy smile. While he doesn't actually do a whole lot, the fact that viewers are aware of his existence in the setting of the film makes him a rather unsettling addition to proceedings.

Overall, *Cynthia* is a clever and atmospheric short horror film which plays around with familiar conventions, making it a little bit different from the norm and well worth nine minutes of your time.

[Image: [Youtube](#)]

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## About The Author



### Sean Markey

Lover of movies, dinosaurs, transforming robots and red hot chili peppers. Breaks things. Opinions mostly my own (unless under the influence of a parasitic wasp - if that is the case send help!).

@soundmarkey

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