

Laughs abound at Horror Fest

'Twisted, creepy and scary' films to frighten you

BY ROBERT LEVIN
Special to amNewYork

A suicide pact goes wrong. A famous vampire gets reborn in 3-D. A murderous girl escapes from an asylum. Paramedics face a crisis when a patient turns into a demon.

These stories and more will unfold on the big screens at the Tribeca Cinemas as part of the annual New York City Horror Film Festival, which kicks off today and runs through Sunday.

The new edition of the largest horror and science-fiction genre fest in the U.S. will screen a diverse program of features and shorts that are, according to festival director and founder Michael J. Hein, linked by a common, unexpected theme.



Zombie buddy comedy "The Revenant" is screening tomorrow.

IF YOU GO

The New York City Horror Festival runs today through Sunday at Tribeca Cinemas.

■ 54 Varick St., nychhorrorfest.com

"Humor seems to [run throughout the films]. [There are] a lot of upbeat and ... a lot of funny films this year," he said.

Among the highlights, Hein singled out "Must Love Death," the aforementioned suicide

pact film, as an example of that trend.

Each admission gets you a seat for a program of features and shorts. "Must Love Death" plays in Program 1 tonight.

"It's absolutely twisted, creepy and scary, but it's absolutely hysterical in places," he said.

Another highly anticipated, offbeat selection, "Nosferatu: Orlok the Vampire in 3D" (screening Saturday) is a three-dimensional version of "Nosferatu," the seminal silent classic.

"[I've] seen every single film, probably a few times," Hein said. "That's one you'll probably see me introduce the film, and then just put the glasses on and sit down with the audience, because I've got to see this again."

Hein takes great pride in the festival's accessibility as well as its refusal to set the talent apart from their audience.

"You might just get to see a great film [and] meet the guy who directed it," he said.

"Where else in New York City can you do that?"

