Making its world premiere at next month’s Fantasia film festival in Montreal is KNIFEPOINT, an extremely nasty thriller concerning two apartment- sharing sisters who become victims of a vicious gang of criminals on Christmas Eve. Check out exclusive comments (and pics) from the film’s writer/director Jed Strahm after the jump.

Starring Krista Braun (TV’s THE MIDDLE), PENANCE’s Katherine Randolph) and Kym Jackson, KNIFEPOINT is by far one of the more realistic, violent and disturbing films within the currently exploding subgenre of home invasion flicks (also see the upcoming KIDNAPPED and STRAW DOGS remake). “The reality of these types of films, I believe, is what attracts people,” says Strahm, who makes his narrative feature debut with KNIFEPOINT. “People love to be scared by the movies, and the threat of real world horror—that these things actually happen—is something that we can easily identify with, be terrified by, and ultimately, learn from. We live in a frightening world. Keep your head on a swivel; lock your doors and windows. The difference between cinema and some of the ripped-from-the-headlines home invasion crimes is, more often than not, the onscreen depiction pales in comparison to the actuality of the gruesome details. While we were editing the picture, there were two massive news stories making headlines that hit a little too close to home: the nightmare crimes that occurred to the Petit family in Connecticut and the Billings couple in Florida. Both stories proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that people are the real bogeymen. We are the monsters in the night. There will always be a monster out there, and as an audience that scares the hell out of us.”

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