Written by Olivia Saperstein
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It’s an ample year for dread at South by Southwest 2013. New Artists Alliance will be presenting two new genre features at this year’s festival next month: Behold MILO and CHEAP THRILLS, both hinging on a horror motif, yet smothered in humor and a defiant absurdity.

“This year, we wanted to make people laugh before we made them squirm,” New Artists founder/producer Gabe Cowan tells Fango. “Both films are funny and intense, and defy genre in their own ways.”

MILO stars Gillian Jacobs, Ken Marino and genre regular Peter Stormare. Marino plays Ducan, a man whose stomach issues prove to be much more than irritable bowel syndrome: A demon child is inhabiting his intestines. How’s that for nausea inducing? Jacobs plays Sarah, Ken’s stressful wife, and Stormare is his therapist Highsmith. This is the first feature from director Jacob Vaughan since 2006’s narrative-bending CASSIDY KIDS; this time, he teamed up with writer Benjamin Hayes (TRUE BLOOD, ANGEL OF DEATH) for the MILO script, so it’s certain to be equal parts blood and camp. The producing team is comprised of Cowan and longtime producing partner/New Artists co-founder John Suits, along with the Duplass brothers and Adele Romanski.

“It’s a comedy, a character piece and a monster movie all in one,” Cowan says. “Milo, the ass demon, is adorable, cuddly and intensely creepy. Jake Vaughan developed a fantastically robust puppet with over 150 moving parts in its face, so we could get real-time reactions from the actors as well as the monster.”

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