

Review by Stan Robinson

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Those of us who frequent film festivals realize that one of the joys is discovering those 'gems' of independent filmmaking, which capture our imaginations and stimulate our interests. I'm often asked how do I, as a movie reviewer, choose which movies to see, to take a chance on. Yes, I follow on the average, a good many international film festivals a year and one begins to identify those films that are 'on a role' as they move from festival to festival. For the festivals that are in my home venue, it's my chance to explore. As a reviewer in the regular course of seeing movies, I don't have the luxury of choice. My readership is broad based covering the full genre of movies made. I feel a commitment to readers to be as fair and honest as I can, and see the movies as they appear on the screening list. At film festivals I have to opportunity to view films from my favorite genres. One of the genres is psychological thrillers. The films that scare one, not by what is seen, but what one feels or relates to consciously or unconsciously.

The title and the word "Solitary", within it self, brings feelings of aloneness, void of contact, being trapped. I'm always intrigued by films made by working technicians in the motion picture industry who branch out from time to time to make the movie of their choice, outside of their normal working discipline. Having worked in the industry for 22 years before retiring to write about movies, the films I've written and produced are "The Twilight Zone" – "Outer Limits" themed stories, which are my favorites. "Solitary", directed and co-written by Greg Derochie, peaked my interest. Especially since Greg Derochie's screen credits include visual effects for "Alice in Wonderland", all the Spider Man movies, "Godzilla", "I am Legend", "Hancock", and 2009's hit "G-Force". Most who work in a specific discipline have a firm fix on how they want to tell their story. As we say in the industry, moviemakers are storytellers...

As regular readers have come to expect, I'll never giveaway vital clues or the ending, I will say that I thoroughly enjoyed "Solitary"! I love tag lines for movies, and the tagline for "Solitary", sent a chill up my 'psychological spine': "Some mysteries must be solved alone"... "Solitary" centers on a woman suffering from agoraphobia, the extreme or irrational fear of crowded spaces or enclosed public places. Her husband has disappeared, and she's faced with the ultimate challenge of trying to solve the mystery while battling her fear of leaving her home. Of course, the 'usual suspects' come into play. Has her husband really vanished? She's seeing a therapist to cope with her fear, is it a conspiracy of sorts?

"Solitary", starring Kieron Elliott, Amber Jaeger, Dalton Leeb, B. Anthony Cohen, Brian Spangler-Campbell, Susan Tierny, Kristine Sullivan, and Andrew Qamar.
Directed by Greg Derochie. Written by Greg Derochie and Charles Scalfani. Formation Films release.