

PRESS NOTES: *BLAST BEAT*, by Pascal Plante

Title	BLAST BEAT
Year	2018
Country	Canada
Length	4 minutes
Genre	Comedy, fiction
Ratio	1.66:1
Sound	Stereo
Language	French
Subtitles	English

Short synopsis: It ain't easy singing for a black metal band...

Long synopsis: An ill-prepared replacement musician for a black metal band is taken aback when he learns that he needs to do backing vocal for the upcoming gig. The discouraged lead singer has to teach him everything from scratch, but time is running against them.

Director's statement: My self-inflicted challenge with *BLAST BEAT* was to make a super brief character-driven, improv-driven, narrative short featuring non-actors. Music has always been at the core of my creative process, but as of yet, I've never explored the aesthetics of extreme metal, even if I am myself a big fan of this niche genre. The chaotic music, the unreadable logos, the corpse paint... if you subvert all of these over-the-top elements and put them outside of their inherently dark context, they are actually perfect ingredients for a comedy. The metal growls also struck me as genderless, and showcasing a female vocalist sounding animalistic is a provoking image in itself: femininity as something powerful. *BLAST BEAT*'s humble goal is to make the viewer smile while simultaneously experiencing the behind-the-scene of a widely misunderstood, and often feared, underground sub-culture.

Director's bio: Since his graduation from Concordia University in Montreal, Pascal Plante has directed numerous short films including *Blue-Eyed Blonde* (Best Canadian Short Film VIFF 2015), *Nonna* (Slamdance 2017) and *BLAST BEAT* (Slamdance 2018). Pascal's first narrative feature *Fake Tattoos* competed at the Berlinale in 2018. Pascal considers himself like a cinephile that became a narrative filmmaker with documentarian tendencies.

Notes about the two lead roles: Corinne Cardinal is a professionally trained classical singer who also fronts the metal band *Valfreyra*. / Alexandre Dostie owns and operates the distribution company *Travelling*, specializing in distributing Canadian short films, and is himself an award-winning filmmaker (Best Canadian short film at TIFF 2016).

Credits

Her	Corinne Cardinal
Him	Alexandre Dostie
Writer, director	Pascal Plante
Producer	Dominique Dussault
Director of photography	Laurence Turcotte-Fraser
Sound	Laurent Bédard
Makeup, hair	Patricia Lapointe
Gaffer	Vincent Plourde-Lavoie
Key Grip	Christophe Chapados
Picture editing	Pascal Plante
Sound editing, mixing	Pascal Plante
Color grading	Julien Mailhiot-Guyon
Production	Festival du Nouveau cinéma & Nemesis Films
Distribution	Pascal Plante

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