



She was chosen as the Devil's bride

SATAN WANTS YOU



LOGLINE

The shocking story of how a young woman and her psychiatrist ignited the global Satanic Panic with their bestselling memoir *Michelle Remembers*.

GENRE: POV FEATURE DOCUMENTARY, TRUE CRIME, THRILLER

RUNTIME: 89 MIN



“They sacrificed babies”

-Michelle Smith

SYNOPSIS

During the 1980s and '90s the world was gripped by the cultural hysteria known as the Satanic Panic. Ignited by *Michelle Remembers*, a lurid memoir by psychiatrist Larry Pazder and his patient Michelle Smith, rumors of “Satanic Ritual Abuse” spread through panic-stricken communities worldwide. Although Dr. Pazder’s methodology relied on controversial recovered-memory therapy to expose Michelle’s childhood abduction by baby-stealing satanists, the book became a best-seller and left a wave of destruction and wrongful convictions in its wake.

In the feature documentary *Satan Wants You*, filmmakers Sean Horlor and Steve J. Adams dive deep into the untold story of how Dr. Pazder and Michelle Smith became international sensations, supported by the Catholic Church and amplified by law enforcement and America’s Daytime TV boom. The film features shocking, never-before-heard audio recordings of the pair’s original therapy sessions and interviews with a high priestess of the Church of Satan, a Wiccan police detective, an FBI ‘Mind Hunter’ as well as the devastated families of both Michelle and Lawrence.

Satan Wants You is a compelling investigation into the roots of moral panics, cult conspiracies, and the making of contemporary legends, revealing how these events still impact and distort our reality to this day.



Shocked church officials convinced woman's story is true:
**'I WAS CHOSEN AS
THE DEVIL'S BRIDE'**

The true story of a year-long contest
between innocence and evil.
**MICHELLE
REMEMBERS**
by Michelle Smith and Lawrence Pazder M.D.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Michelle Remembers came back into our lives in 2018 when we were directing a ten-part doc series about books and authors—well, back into Sean's life. Steve had never heard of the book before but was hooked as soon as he saw the dust jacket featuring an conservative-looking young woman with a tight '80s perm. For Steve, who grew up in the north, it was an introduction to the Satanic Panic hysteria that swept through the western world in the '80s and '90s. For Sean, it was a window into a forgotten part of his childhood.

Sean is from the same city as Michelle and Larry Pazder. growing up in Victoria in the years following the publication of *Michelle Remembers* was a confusing time to be a kid. Anyone anywhere could be a satanist and tens of thousands of children were allegedly being abducted and murdered every year by satanic cults. It was on the news. On the radio. In the newspapers. It was something Sean's mother worried about at the dinner table. The Pazders and their crazy theory about satanic ritual abuse were everywhere.

What surprised us most when we started the film was the number of experts—police officers, journalists, sociologists, podcasters—who believed the Pazders and their book were responsible for igniting the Satanic Panic of the '80s and '90s, yet no one had ever explored this story in a documentary format. This is the very first time that Michelle's sister, Larry's ex-wife, and Larry's daughter have gone on the record to tell their side of this story. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to combine all these stories together to reveal the true origins of the satanic panic, and show how they connect to the Pizzagate and QAnon conspiracies of today.

This film is also ground-breaking for another reason. In our final month of production, an anonymous source sent us one of Michelle and Larry's original therapy tapes from 1976. This is one-of-a-kind archive material that has never been heard by anyone but Michelle and Larry and the transcribers who worked on their book. It has eluded countless investigators across the past four decades and SXSW audiences will be the very first people to listen to Michelle's first-hand rememberings in *Satan Wants You*.

As directors, it was important for us to create a film that allowed viewers to experience the Satanic Panic the way it unfolded in the 1980s: through news and daytime TV talk shows that catapulted satan into the mainstream ether. Dark and moody interviews with our key cast compliment the horror-inspired narrative sequences that take viewers deep into Michelle's depths on Dr. Pazder's therapy couch during the late '70s. These creative elements are tied together by an original score that re-interprets the soundtracks to classic horror films like *Rosemary's Baby*, *The Exorcist*, and *Amityville Horror*.

To sum up our directorial approach in one sentence: no matter what you think you know about the Satanic Panic, you won't ever have seen it told like this.

CHARACTERS

DR. LARRY PAZDER & MICHELLE SMITH



Lovers? Believers? Scammers? Victims? Who they are depends on who you ask. The therapy tapes made by this doctor-patient couple were used to write *Michelle Remembers* and the world has never been the same since it was published in 1980.

THERESA



The second of four children between Larry and Marylyn Pazder. Changed her surname to her mother's maiden name and moved to Ottawa because of the harassment she received about her father and Michelle. This is her first one-camera interview about her father.

SARAH MARSHALL



Creator and host of the hugely successful *You're Wrong About* podcast series and a *Michelle Remembers* superfan. She did a five-part series on *Michelle Remembers* and believes the book is the patient zero of Satanic Panic texts.

CHARYL



Michelle's younger sister. Michelle accused their mother Virginia Proby of being a member of the Church of Satan and responsible for Michelle's childhood abuse and eventual marriage to Satan. This is her first on-camera interview about her sister and Larry.

MARYLYN



Larry's childhood sweetheart. They married in 1968 and had four children together, traveling through Africa before settling in Victoria, Canada. She debunked *Michelle Remembers* in order to keep custody of her children. This is her first on-camera interview about her husband.

CHEETIE



Michelle's best friend and Larry's literary assistant. Cheetie listened to all the therapy tapes and transcribed them for Larry. She made a promise to Larry to take care of Michelle after he died in 2004.



KEN LANNING

FBI Special Agent. Part of the original Mind-hunters group of special agents for the FBI at Quantico. The first time his phone rang about a satanic ritual abuse case was in 1983. Over the next decade, he would consult on over 300 satanic ritual abuse cases around the world.



CHARLES ENNIS

The first Wiccan police officer to go public about his beliefs 36 years ago. He was the lead Canadian investigator tasked with debunking the satanic cult claims made by Michelle Smith and Larry Pazder.



DEBBIE NATHAN

Investigative journalist and author who debunked the satanic ritual abuse cases in the 80s. She believes *Michelle Remembers* is responsible for the hundreds of copycat cases that followed its publication in 1980.



ELIZABETH LOFTUS

A controversial scientist and psychologist who researches the malleability and unreliability of human memory. She was an expert witness for many satanic ritual abuse and false memory cases in the 90s, including the McMartin Trial in 1983.



BLANCHE BARTON

Former high priestess of the Church of Satan and former lover of its founder Anton LeVay. She was part of a libel lawsuit by the Church of Satan against Larry Pazder and Michelle Smith and their publishers in 1981.



JEFFREY VICTOR

Sociologist and retired professor. Worked with a team of researchers to track and debunk satanic conspiracy rumours in the '80s and '90s and wrote a book about the experience: *Satanic Panic: The Creation Of A Contemporary Legend*.



Directors, Steve J. Adams and Sean Horlor

DIRECTORS

Sean Horlor and Steve J. Adams are the directors, writers, and executive producers of *Satan Wants You*, a thrilling account of the extraordinary story that ignited the Satanic Panic of the 1980s. They are directors and writers of *Someone Like Me*, a critically-acclaimed National Film Board of Canada documentary that won top honors at international film festivals, including the Audience Choice Award at Hot Docs 2021.

Sean and Steve have directed and produced over 20 projects together, including the award-winning *The Day Don Died* (Palm Springs Shortfest 2019). Their path to feature filmmaking began after an appearance on OUTtv's *Hot Pink Shorts* reality series in 2012. They are proud members of the LGBTQ+ community.

PRODUCERS



Producer Michael Tanko Grand's most recent work includes feature documentary *SATAN WANTS YOU*, directed by Sean Horlor and Steve J. Adams, which is having its World Premiere at SXSW 2023; feature documentary *THE GRIZZLIE TRUTH*, directed by Kathleen S. Jayme, which won the Audience Award at its World Premiere at VIFF 2022, and *GAME 7*, a feature documentary under ESPN's 30 for 30 banner which will be released summer 2023.

Michael is also known for the 2018 cult hit documentary *Finding Big Country* (Telus, ESPN, ABC, Sportsnet), 2019's controversial breakthrough mini-series *Surviving R Kelly* (Lifetime Network, Netflix), 10-part documentary series *Abandoned* (VICE), and snowboard documentary *Unbroken: The Snowboard Life of Mark McMorris* (CBC, ABC, ESPN). Michael has also produced critically acclaimed video content for CBC, the New York Times, as well as award winning podcasts, such as *This Sounds Serious*, and *Hindsight*.



Melissa James is a producer of *Satan Wants You* (2023), a feature documentary chronicling the untold story of the Satanic Panic. Her previous work includes co-producing the Oscar-qualifying feature documentary *Letter from Masanjia* (2018) which premiered at Hot Docs, and was hailed by the New York Times as a "potent documentary, well told". She was an associate producer on *Human Harvest* (2014) which won the Peabody Award for Documentary.

Prior to this Melissa wrote, directed and produced the critically-acclaimed indie music documentary *No Fun City* (2010), which won Best Documentary at the Victoria Film Festival, screened at CMJ Music & Film Festival, and was broadcast on Superchannel.

Melissa has contributed to many documentary programs such as *The Nature Of Things* (CBC), *The Devil You Know* (OWN/ID), *Holmes Family Effect* (CTV), *The New Corporation* (Crave), *Dark Cloud: The High Cost of Cyberbullying* (Telus), *Precious Leader Woman* (Telus/ESPN), *Dear Reader* (Knowledge Network), *Someone Like Me* (NFB). Most recently she directed and produced a short documentary called *Witch Hunt* (2023) which will be released later this year.

SATAN THANKS YOU

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SATAN WANTS YOU

Credit List

Produced in association with documentary **Channel**

CARGO FILM & RELEASING *presents*

a **NOOTKA ST.** *production*

a **GRAND SCHEME** *production*

Produced with the Participation of **CANADA MEDIA FUND**

Produced with the Participation of **TELEFILM CANADA**

Produced with the participation of **Rogers Telefund**

Written & Directed by **Sean Horlor & Steve J. Adams**

Produced by **Michael Tanko Grand**

Produced by **Melissa James**

Executive Producers: **Sean Horlor & Steve J. Adams**

Director of Photography: **Blake Davey**

Editor: **Graham Kew**

Composer: **Mark Dolmont**

Production designer: **Juan Gonzalez**

FEATURING

Marylyn

Charyl

Theresa

Cheetie

Charles Ennis

Ken Lanning

Sarah Marshall

Blanche Barton

Debbie Nathan

Elizabeth Loftus

Jeffrey S. Victor

CAST

Michelle

Lauren Allen

Lawrence

Jordan Grey

Cult Members

Deborah Vieyra

John Bates

Celeste Lyon

Laurin Valentine

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Associate Producer

Hayley Morin

Production Supervisor

Melissa James

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Hayley Morin

Mike Johnston

1st Assistant Director

Tamara Black

Main Unit Camera Operator

Jon Thomas

Gaffer

Marc O'Reilly

Dolly Grip

Ryan Fehr

1st Assistant Camera

Ben Hopper

Additional Camera Operators

Kate Smith

Peter Planta

Additional Gaffers

Peter Planta

Phoenix Simon

Electricians

Ben Swan

Tom Circo

Grips

Charlie Ozburn

Martin Kostian

Cory Tremblay

Doug Lyngard

Graham Harrington

Sound Recordists

Alex Shamku

Taylor Roy

Matt Turner

Tad Chamberlain

Oscar Vargas

Sam Pappagallo

Kevin Sands

Steven Kavanaugh

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Stephanie Martinez

On Set Dresser

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Costume Designer

Oneil Drummond

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Snake Wrangler
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Daniel Code

Location Liaison
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Mandy-Lyn Antoniou

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Archival Supervisor
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Graham Kew

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Re-Recording Mixer
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Post Production Finishing Services provided by
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Post Production Assistant
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Nathaniel Lyman | CFA

Clearance Counsel
Donaldson Callif Perez
Chris Perez
Jacqueline Swett

Financial Services
Debbi-Jo Matias

Production Insurance
Front Row Insurance

E&O Insurance
HUB International

Tax Credit Consultant
Giuliana Bertuzzi

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JWL Accounting & Business Services
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Colorado Springs Gazette
Church of Satan

POND5
American Psychiatric Association
Shutterstock

Footage For Pro
Newspapers.com
Prelinger Archive

Wikimedia

Additional Material by:

20/20/ABC

Donahue/Multimedia Inc.

Nightline/ABC

Larry King Live/CNN

Hour Magazine/Group W Productions

CNN News/ CNN

48 Hours/CBS

The World Today/CNN

Saturday Night Live/NBC

Joe Pyne Show/Hartwest Productions

Maury Povich/NBC

The Oprah Winfrey Show/OWN

Leeza/NBC

DW News/DW

The Sally Jessy Raphael Show/NBC

Fox News/FOX

Sybil/NBC/Lorimar/David Petrie

Law Enforcement Guide To Satanic Cults/Gun Video/Devin Dehaven

The Geraldo Rivera Show/NBC

The Longest Hatred/Thames Television/WGBH/Nucleus Productions/

Rex Bloomstein

Frontline/PBS

The Vatican Revealed/A&E/Jupiter Entertainment/Jon Jefferson

Filmed on location in Canada on Vancouver Island, BC, Sunshine Coast, BC, and Vancouver, BC

Filmed in the United States in Orange County, CA, Buffalo, NY, Jamestown, NY, and PhillipSPORT, NY

The filmmakers gratefully acknowledge the traditional territory of the (Musqueam), (Squamish), and (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations

Thanks to the Cargo Film & Releasing team

SPECIAL THANKS RAW Camera Company

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