

MFA FILM THESIS - CODY PENTZOS

SUPPLEMENTARY PAGE

Preceding Demons is a psychological period thriller that explores the fictionalized relationship between *Dracula* novelist Bram Stoker and prodigious serial killer Jack The Ripper. Set in the years *before* both the infamous murders (1888-91) and the novel's publication (1897) took the world by storm, this feature screenplay repurposes the Ripper as an enigmatic young Londoner destined to serve as the primary inspiration for Stoker's legendary creation. Best described as a dual-origin story for both iconic figures, *Preceding Demons* also illuminates Stoker's struggles as a fledgling, doubt-addled writer, as well as his involvement with a murder investigation involving the Occult. A pastiche of historical fact and bloodthirsty fiction, this work ultimately provides an ominous insight into the dark side of creativity; culled through the emotionally vampiric bond between a tortured artist and his twisted muse.

For more information about this screenplay, please contact
the Graduate Program in Film at gradfilm@yorku.ca