

# BLACK POOL



A FILM BY DUSTIN MORROW

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## **New Feature Film Thriller Tackles Contemporary Ireland**

PORTLAND, OR – The new film from Emmy-winning filmmaker and professor Dustin Morrow will hit screens in 2019. *Black Pool* is a gripping thriller of imprisonment and interrogation, as three desperate people engage in a battle of wills that may leave one of them dead. Michael is a tortured Irishman living with his wife Emma in America. Perpetually down on his luck, he has projected the responsibility for his life's misfortune onto a stranger, a man who shattered his world in a tragic incident thirty years earlier. This man has always been a shadowy figure that he saw for only a fleeting moment. But tonight, through a chance encounter, he believes he's found the man who ruined his life, and he's going to make him pay.

But does he have the right man?

This question ignites a revenge-fueled game of cat-and-mouse that will test Michael's understanding of his past. And caught between the two men is Emma, who may hold the only key to escaping the night alive.

*Black Pool* tells a dark story of immigration. Ireland has long been a nation of immigrants. People have been driven from its shores for hundreds of years, for a number of reasons, from the Great Famine of the 1840s to the economic collapse of the 2000s. James Joyce once wrote that Ireland is a nation that confers honor only upon those who've left it. With *Black Pool*, Morrow wanted to tell a story about the conflict in Ireland, and contemporary Irish identity, through the lens of immigration. What must it be like to feel as though you have been expelled from your home, a refugee of sorts? The two men in *Black Pool* who engage in a deadly battle of wills are both set adrift.

They've left their homeland to seek something better in the U.S., only to find that they can't outrun the past.

William Faulkner once wrote, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." *Black Pool* is about a man who allows one incident, one small moment from deep in his past, to inform every action of his life for three decades. Like a cancer, it eats him alive, from the inside out. He kidnaps and interrogates a man he believes is responsible for all of his pain, but the interrogation is really of the self. It's a reckoning. He's been on this collision course with violence and chaos for a long time, and it finally comes to a head in this one terrifying night. The film is, in some ways, about imprisonment - both literal imprisonment and imprisonment to an idea.

That is: when you are a prisoner to your own thoughts and ideas, what happens when you can't break free? Where do you hide? What happens when you just *can't let it go*?

Says Morrow of the film, "*Black Pool* is my attempt to question religion, politics, and nationalism in the culture of contemporary Ireland through a small-scale story about a deadly conflict between two men. And of course, I wanted to make a suspenseful thriller about revenge and retribution that will keep the audience on the edge of its seat."

*Black Pool* is an Irish/American co-production shot partially in Dublin and Belfast and partially in Portland, Oregon. It is the 14<sup>th</sup> film Morrow has shot in Ireland. It will be distributed through streaming services after its run in U.S. and international film festivals.

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Prof. Morrow, the producers and the cast are available for press interviews about the project. Inquiries can be directed to Ms. Molinelli at [everythingwentdown@gmail.com](mailto:everythingwentdown@gmail.com). For photo support of this press release, please visit the press page of the film's website to download stills:

<https://blackpoolfilm.com/media/press-materials/>.