

Presenter: Johnny MacLennan

Session & Time: Oral I

Room/Time: GUZ 113 / 10:20-10:40

Discipline: English Literature

Faculty Mentor: Dan May

Digital Portfolio URL:

Title: A Creative Exploration of Trauma Damaging Relationships

Abstract:

My screenplay, a work in progress, highlights deep rooted familial trauma from the lens of a horror movie. This idea originated from my desire to write about the generational trauma that exists within my family. I wanted to cover those issues, but not simply write a memoir about real life experiences, so I transposed these events into the supernatural horror genre. This allowed me to modify and accentuate certain aspects of my familyâ€™s history and tell a unique story about how unhealed trauma damages relationships between loved ones. The script format allows for the ambiance to be built in a way far different from prose horror, in that it highlights the dialogue and set pieces. Aside from the goal of shooting the film, it allows a character driven story to focus on the interactions and responses that convey the trauma. The plot follows a girl returning home for spring break at the emotional behest of her mother. Ever since she went away to college she made it a point to avoid returning home as much as possible, but her

mother begs, claiming to want to fix their relationship. Once home she realizes her mother has been deeply struggling, leaving the house a mess and not taking care of herself. The daughter suspects that something sinister could be at play. The narrative aims to demonstrate the mothers unhealed trauma through an entity possessing and altering her brain, as well as her daughterâ€™s trauma fueled responses to these actions. I wanted to capture the negative feelings within my family and use their essence to tell a cathartic story about how trauma lies dormant and drives behavior unconsciously.