

HUNTINGDON VALLEY  
AND HATBORO

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Photo courtesy of Alex Rodemich

Doug (Jody Quigley) and Jamie (Lili Bordán) sit by a pond outside the Penrose Strawbridge House in the movie 'Apparition.' The film will be screened for the first time on June 14 at The County Theater in Doylestown.

Lights,  
camera,  
action

By: Matt Schickling, The Wire

Buying a house is risky—inspectors aren't trained to find spiritual baggage.

That's where *Apparition*, a psychological thriller filmed in Hatboro, Horsham and surrounding areas, takes off.

Doug (Jody Quigley) and Lori (Katrina Law) are set to get moving on renovations of their 300-year-old

'Apparition' is a psychological thriller filmed in Hatboro, Horsham and surrounding areas.

Pennsylvania farmhouse after their engagement party, but Lori never makes it home. She's killed in a car accident, leaving Doug to navigate a sea of grief and memories that never were. All the while, he remains living alone in their house,

which he quickly learns has a history of darkness.

"It's not one of those blood and gore movies," said Guy Quigley, co-producer and owner of ThunderSmoke Media in Doylestown. "The house is

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mentally destroying him."

The house looms over everything, almost like a character itself, one that's played by a local landmark. The movie is filmed almost entirely at the Penrose Strawbridge House at Graeme Park in Horsham.

"Location always set the tone for the film. This mansion in particular helped us tell the story," Lili Bordán said. "It becomes about the house because Doug let it become about the house."

Bordán's character, Jamie, is drawn into the middle of Doug's mess. She meets him by happenstance just before Lori's death, and after, acts as his confidant. The two develop an emotional connection and she, too, is exposed to the horror transpiring in the house as well as Doug's unraveling psyche.

Bordán, a New York native and Los Angeles resident, emphasized the importance of the setting of this film to drive home its crux: "It's the study of a man who has avoidance issues that he's not strong enough to deal with."

Hatboro serves as the backdrop for some pivotal scenes, too. Doug meets Woody (Thomas Roy), an old man and longtime local of the town. He warns Doug several times about the danger of the house.

Two of these meetings take place in present-day Hatboro businesses. In the first, Woody runs into Doug in Village Hardware Store on South York Road. In the second, the two have a drink at the Stroker Roadhouse on Jacksonville Road. These locations are less important to the plot than the Penrose Strawbridge House, but their appearance matches the film's visual aesthetic perfectly. Main Street even makes an appearance toward the end of the film.

The placement of Hatboro held extra significance for Roy—he grew up there and was a 1962 graduate of Upper Merland High School.

"We filmed in a bar that my dad used to drink in, on a street that was part of my paper route and three blocks away from the elementary school that my mom used to teach at," he said. "It was weird, I'd be inside at the bar with Jody, talking about ghosts and then I'd stand outside and look at all these houses and remember where I served the paper."

