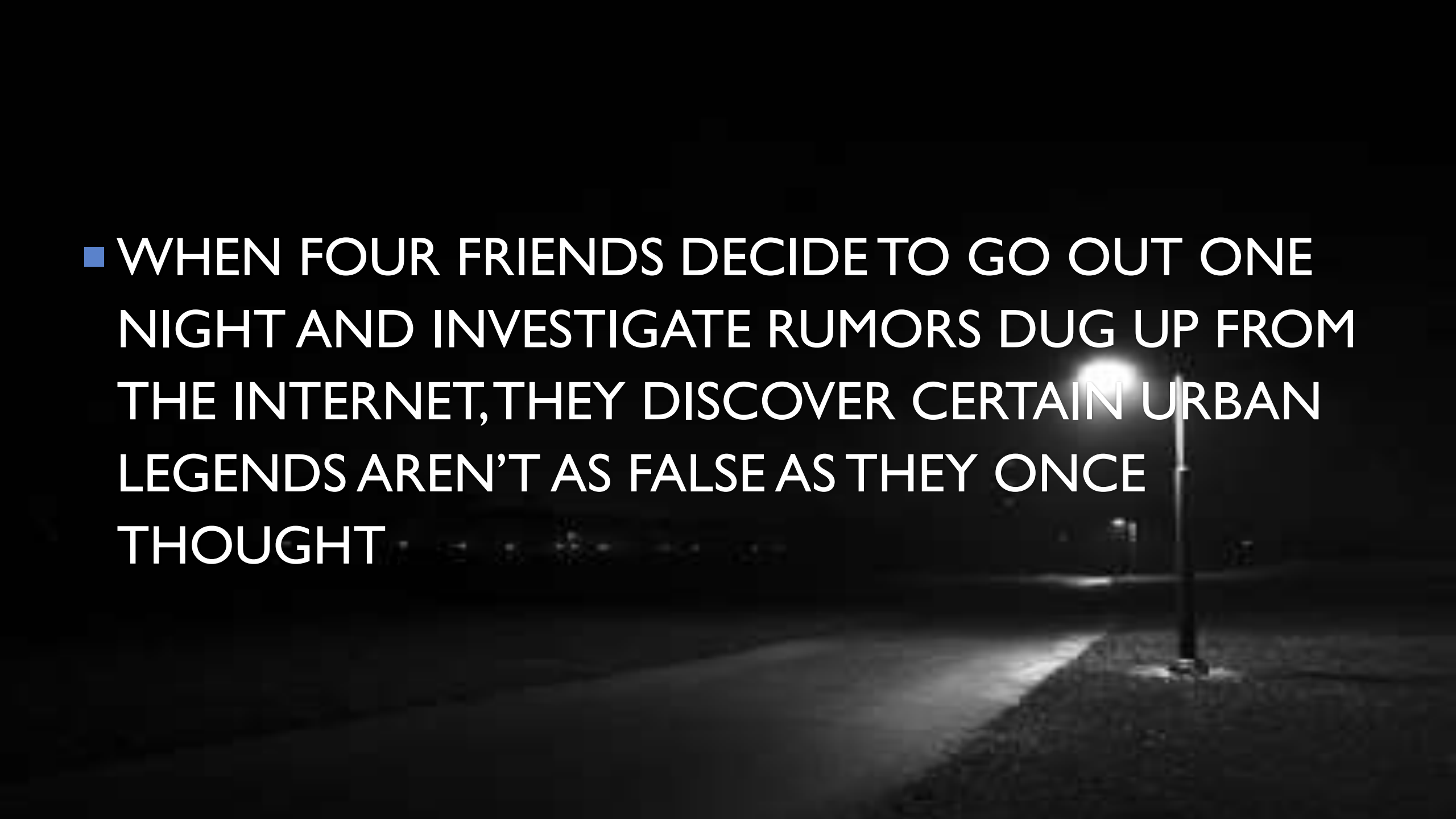




THE INTERNET
NEVER
LIES

A FILM BY MAX EDWARDS

- WHEN FOUR FRIENDS DECIDE TO GO OUT ONE NIGHT AND INVESTIGATE RUMORS DUG UP FROM THE INTERNET, THEY DISCOVER CERTAIN URBAN LEGENDS AREN'T AS FALSE AS THEY ONCE THOUGHT



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

- At the root of everything, TINL (The Internet Never Lies) is a horror movie like many other horror movies – there's no wild new tropes, no terrifying new monster. But it's a horror movie made with heart – with the desire, not to shock the masses, but to truly scare them like so few films seek to do. TINL is a movie that comes from a place of love for horror movies – love for the feeling of the hairs on the back of your neck standing up, love of chills that run down your spine and the instinctual need to pull whoever's closest to you that much closer. TINL is a film that I have to make to prove a point – that you don't need to scream at your audience to make them jump so you can call it horror. It's a film that wants to prove that the real horror of a movie is when the people who watch it are alone at home for weeks afterwards, jumping at the slightest noise, just in case.

I want to bring people back to the times when a horror film meant that you'd be peeking around corners at night, when the shadows could be anything after spending time in front of those screens. I want to be someone who can bring horror movies back to the golden ages of fear – when the desire came to make something that stuck with people, rather than something that they forgot about after leaving the cinema.

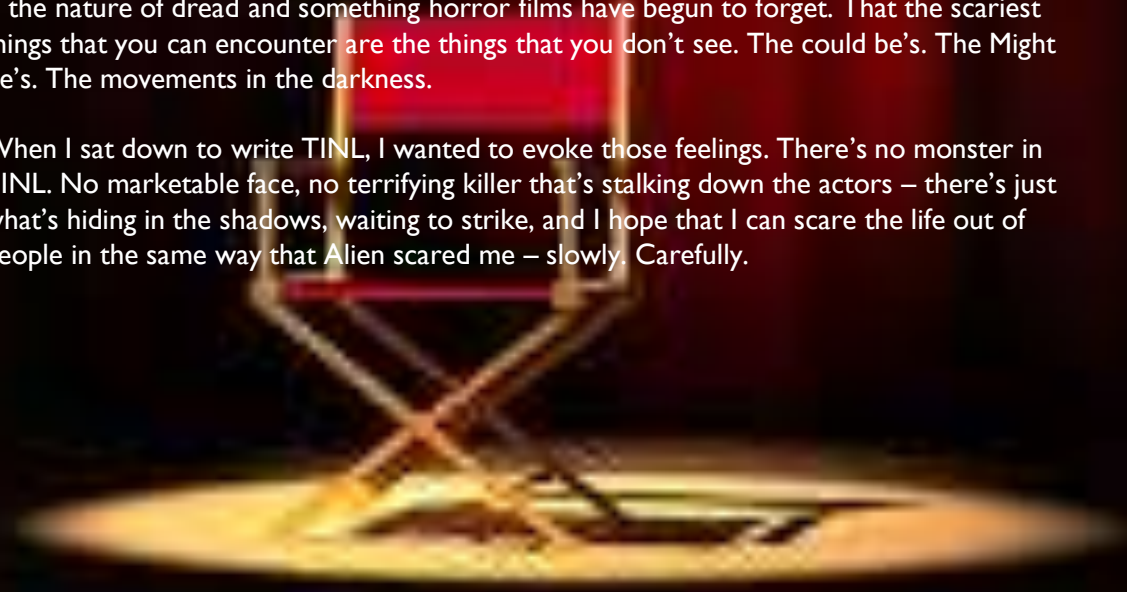
Dread feels like such a forgotten art in most movies – the sense of something coming, of something being there, the feeling that, at this very moment, you could be seconds away from the end of your life. I want to bring dread back to theatres.

- Max Edwards.

When I was a lot younger than I am, now, I managed to stay up late one night to watch a screening of the classic, *Alien*. For weeks after that point, I was scared of every bump in the night, every shadow around a corner – there were no screaming ghosts or murdering psychopaths in that film. In fact, for the majority of it, you never even saw the main villain. So why was I so scared of something that practically didn't exist at all?

The truth is, the fear came not from the creature itself, but from the feeling it evoked – a sense of dread, of discomfort, knowing that, at any point, you could be killed by this terrifying predator. I wasn't scared of what it was, but what it **COULD** be – and this, I feel, is the nature of dread and something horror films have begun to forget. That the scariest things that you can encounter **are the things that you don't see**. The could be's. The Might Be's. The movements in the darkness.

When I sat down to write TINL, I wanted to evoke those feelings. There's no monster in TINL. No marketable face, no terrifying killer that's stalking down the actors – there's just what's hiding in the shadows, waiting to strike, and I hope that I can scare the life out of people in the same way that *Alien* scared me – slowly. Carefully.



JEN

- Jen is a young, 21 year old college student with a fascination for the Macabre and Supernatural, and an even stronger desire to disprove it – she doesn't believe in ghosts, zombies, or legends, and takes enjoyment in disproving them live on Camera. To some, she's a killjoy, who, takes pleasure in ruining things for everyone, but her genuine passion for investigation and desire to find out more about anything that catches her interest reveals that her inquisitive nature comes from love and curiosity rather than a desire to ruin the fun of others.

Jen is based on an old friend of mine, whom I would often have lengthy conversations with about the nature of the supernatural and otherworldly – she was never happier than when she was figuring out how to disprove an urban legends, the cracks in the stories surrounding it, picking them apart thread by thread before setting out to disprove it herself.

- Unfortunately, it's Jen's curious nature and refusal to ever back down and admit that perhaps the supernatural in real, that leads to the fates her and her friends suffer, her stubbornness coming back around to bite her when she realises that things aren't always fake.
- (Picture Credit: Zendaya Maree Stoermer Coleman, Lovie Simone)



DAMIEN

- Damien is a 20 year old Aspiring Filmmaker and Jen's best friend since they were both very young. He's headstrong and bold, but has enough restraint on himself to know when to dial things back – his greatest shortcoming is a difficulty in reading situations, and a tendency to go along with whatever Jen has planned, something that's led to him getting hurt or in trouble before. Still, her wild nature means that whenever she plans out something with him, that he knows they'll likely get some pretty good footage out of it. He's friendly and easy-going, but finds it difficult to put his foot down.

A lot of Damien's character comes from how I was when I was younger – always willing to go along with whatever my friends had planned, often suffering the consequences and as reluctant as I was to go along with their plans sometimes, I always had difficulty in putting my foot down.

Damien's reluctance to put his foot down and tendency to follow along with most everything that Jen has in mind is what leads to his unfortunate undoing – which, as sad as it is, feels like a message that sometimes, no matter how good of a friend you are with someone, you need to stand up for yourself.

(Picture Credit :Ansel Elgort & Joe Keery)



SASHA

- Sasha is a long term friend of both Jan and Damien – tougher than the rest of them after being brought up in a difficult family, she sometimes finds it difficult to escape from the environment that she was raised in and finds herself falling back into the same trappings as other people in her family. She's stubborn to a fault, and has a tendency to think more about her own enjoyment than others, but is fiercely defensive of her friends and refuses to let herself be defined by who she used to be.

Sasha draws a lot of inspiration from an old friend from a club that I used to go to – it was a Martial Arts Class called Kuk Sool Wan, and she was one of the toughest people there. In sparring, she'd hold nothing back, but she was still one of the nicest people that I've ever met, and just like Sasha, she cursed like a Sailor.

Sasha's rather unfortunate fate comes at the expense of her own mistakes – following too far behind her friends and ending up, almost ironically, with the School's past catching up with her.

(Picture Credit : Lucy Hale, Maisie Williams)



MARK

- Mark is one of the newest members of the friend group, as it was – he’s only been around the other and known them for a year or so, but he still considers the lot of them to be close friends of his. The main thing that he disagrees with is Jen’s view on the supernatural, as someone who believes in the realm of the unseen himself, something that’s led to the two of them butting heads a few times. He’s a bit of a coward, but prides himself on his own judgement and the fact that he sticks to his own beliefs, even if they do end up getting him in hot water sometimes. He has a tendency to be somewhat antagonistic for the sake of being Antagonistic, and can be irritating, even for his close friends.

Mark is based a lot on a close friend of mine – from his beliefs in the supernatural, to his tendency to be annoying for the sake of being annoying. That being said, he’s still been my best friend for a long time, and I think part of the charm of people like that is being able to see past their irritation and knowing the person underneath.

It’s a shame that Mark’s reluctance to leave the group through fears of being ostracised and possibly excluded from them is what leads to his untimely demise.

(Picture Credits : Daniel Radcliffe, Miles Heizer)



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Dean Lawrence