Underground filmmaking doesn’t get much more underground than this. We’re in a basement in Queens that’s serving as a location for the independent fright feature THE SUPER, and a better setting for ghastly violence would be hard to find. The walls are crumbling, paint peels off them, pipes are exposed. Down a back passageway lies a cramped space full of junk that one would be loath to explore alone.

All involved in the shoot have been assured that there are no health concerns down here—but that’s not the case for the movie’s characters. On one corner of the floor lies an old mattress, and cowering on top of that is actress Ruby LaRocca, staring up in fear at SUPER stars Demetri Kallas and Manoush. He’s got a knife and she’s got a camcorder and they’re about to enact a horrific act of violence upon their poor victim. Behind a camera of their own, writer/directors Brian Weaver and Evan Makrogiannis, who make up Hallows Eve Films, capture every last drop of the bloodshed, true to their mission statement of making THE SUPER a no-holds-barred homage to the down-and-dirtiest horror/exploitation cinema of decades past. LaRocca’s fate may be seriously unpleasant, but it’s far from the only horrible act that THE SUPER will unflinchingly depict; in particular, a character played by new actress Kathryn Zawicki is subjected to acts of perversion so profound and disgusting, decorum prohibits listing them here.

“Brian and I agree that even though there are horror movies coming out that are very graphic and gory, they’ve lost the edge, the griminess, the sleaziness you saw in the ’70s and ’80s,” Makrogiannis says. “They’ll show someone splattering guts everywhere, but they’re still politically correct; they don’t want to offend people when it comes to certain subjects. We just decided, let’s do a movie the way they used to be made. I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE, LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT, MANIAC—those guys weren’t concerned with who they were going to offend. If anything, they wanted to offend people to make audiences think.”

here