

By [Anthony Breznican, USA TODAY](#)

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Vampire baby will keep you up all night

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"Do you have kids?" a moviegoer asked.

The guy who made the vampire-baby movie looked like he'd heard this question a lot. "I don't have kids, no ..." said *Grace* writer-director Paul Solet, sounding like he longed for a scarier answer.

This Sundance midnight-movie is the spooky story of a mother who gives birth to a stillborn baby but finds the child is somehow still alive -- and feeds on something far more sinister than milk. Think *Rosemary's Baby* meets *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Horror veteran Jordan Ladd (*Cabin Fever*, *Hostel: Part II*) plays mother of the bloodthirsty little munchkin, but is ironically a vegetarian, forced by motherly love to find blood for her undead child.

An important part of making the movie was finding an infant whose parents had a sense of humor about letting their little bundle of joy play a cooing, deadly ghoul. "It's very important to cast parents when casting a baby," Solet said. "They were a beautiful and amazing couple who were very interested in the process."

He said he was careful not to make the real infant do anything unpleasant beyond painting a little red on her lips. "There are a lot of restrictions working with a baby, and beyond that there are moral restrictions," he said. "Unless you're a sociopath, you're not going to manipulate a baby into doing *anything*. And despite what you've just seen, I'm not a sociopath."

The story's exploration of parental instinct and unconditional love makes it more like a Stephen King tale than a splatter-fest horror flick like the *Saw* sequels. "As a genre fan, it's a shame to me the way we do so much paint-by-numbers, purely visceral stuff," Solet said. "I love a gut-punch, but I'd rather kick you in the soul, you know what I mean?"

Grace is set for distribution by Anchor Bay Entertainment, but a

release date has not been set (though nine months from now would be funny.)