



Shivers

David Cronenberg

CANADA, 1975
English
87 minutes | Colour/DCP (D-Cinema)

Producer: Ivan Reitman
Screenplay: David Cronenberg
Cinematographer: Robert Saad
Editor: Patrick Dodd
Sound: Michael Higgs
Music: Ivan Reitman
Principal Cast: Joe Silver, Ronald Mlodzik, Susan Petrie,
Paul Hampton, Lynn Lowry, Alan Migicovsky,
Barbara Steele, Fred Doederlein

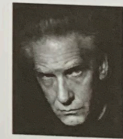
In support of our major fall exhibition, *David Cronenberg: Evolution*, TIFF has restored and re-struck many 35mm prints from this notable Canadian filmmaker's library. Among the most complex projects was *Shivers*, his first feature film. The story of a homemade science experiment gone awry, it features a greedy, remarkably large, and rapidly reproducing parasite that infects the residents of an apartment complex in Montreal, creating sex-crazed, zombie-like creatures that face off against a sad-sack doctor and terrified nurse.

The film brought Cronenberg to the attention of the international genre community, winning him a Best Director prize at the Sitges Film Festival, and announced him as the master of "body horror." Back home, it created intense controversy—including a debate in Parliament—after being denounced by then-editor of *Saturday Night* magazine Robert Fulford and soon after that by leading film scholar Robin Wood.

Shivers' standing has seen a continuous upswing since, with critics identifying within it key founding principles of Cronenberg's work, including a wariness of and attraction to science, an embrace of polymorphous perversity, and a deep interest in recherché transformations of the human body.



Our digital restoration was assembled from various elements archived at Cinéma-thèque Québécoise, principally from a 35mm print of *They Came From Within*, the US-release version. At David Cronenberg's urging, we have rebuilt the Canadian title card to return the film to its proper name, *Shivers*.
NOAH COWAN



David Cronenberg was born in Toronto and studied at the University of Toronto. He has won Genie Awards for best director for *Videodrome* (83), *Dead Ringers* (88), *Naked Lunch* (91), *Crash* (96), and *Spider* (02). Many of his films have screened at the Festival, including *M. Butterfly* (92), *A History of Violence* (05), *Eastern Promises* (07), and *A Dangerous Method* (11). His other films include *Shivers* (75), *Rabid* (77), *The Brood* (79), *Scanners* (81), *The Dead Zone* (83), *The Fly* (86), *eXistenZ* (99), and *Cosmopolis* (12).

A TIFF digital restoration in partnership with Technicolor Creative Services Toronto. Colour correction was supervised by David Cronenberg.