Hey! I'm Jette Black (or Jb).

I'm an aspiring filmmaker; writer, production designer, actor, currently pursuing a BA in Film and Television at Columbia College Chicago. For three years prior to transferring to CCC, I was enrolled at the University of Illinois-Urbana, Champaign, as a Media and Cinema Studies student.

I'm an aesthete, as passionate of a cinephile and film analyst as I am a creator. While there is no media genre I don't enjoy consuming, I'm first and foremost a diehard horror fan, and most of my own work is at least rooted in horror elements. I've always been a fan of gothic aesthetics (re: my budget middle school emo phase), having maintained an obsession with the dark and macabre, black cats and candlelight, and a high tolerance for gore.

I'm a true horror advocate. I think we rightfully assume that the intent of horror media is to scare you, and while I can't overstate the gratification derived from delivering a well-timed jump scare, I'd argue the most important of the genre's intentions is in its provision of catharsis.

I think all horror, and my work especially, is an acknowledgement of the horrific circumstances under which our real world operates. I'm a black, queer, gender-fluid woman, who grew up relatively poor on the west-side of Chicago. I've witnessed and experienced firsthand some of the most disturbing and tragic failures and consequences of our ruling capitalist institutions, and regressive dominating cultural structures. And I've had it relatively easy, compared to my peers, especially across other parts of the globe. This world is, of course, beautiful, and humanity is sacred, but at the same time, our existence has been routinely defined by continued acts of absurd and illogical evil, horror, and violence.

Horror is an interesting and important art form because it is, unabashedly, in direct conversation with this darkness and evil persisting in our society. And, I'm of the belief that "good" horror gives its audience a power through its characters that is not (easily) attainable in our real lives. Horror provides a safe space to confront this darkness; to conquer it, and unleash upon it the built up fear, anger, and aggression it has stirred within us. It validates the pain we have felt and continue to feel due to the evil's persisting presence in our lives, and asserts it as deserving of our retaliation. I think it is, at best, silly, and otherwise, dangerous to underestimate the value of narratives such as these.

Also practical horror makeup and sfx just look really awesome.

Art and media, I feel, is in a dangerous spot right now, as it becomes increasingly removed from its original intent. Though of course this is nothing new, I think it's important to remind ourselves of why we create art to avoid its devaluation. Art at its core is a celebration of people; our collective humanity and consciousnesses, along with our differences, unique experiences and creativity. I fear, in film especially, it stands to lose its value, at least in mainstream dominant culture, as it continuously becomes profit and power driven.

I want to see more stories rooted in art at its core. I want those stories to be easily accessible and broadly marketed. I want to be a part of this change, both as a creator and a consumer. I want art to continue to matter and mean something to us all. And I'd love to collaborate with those who share a similar mission:)

Stay metal.