# Final Destination franchise reinvents death with 1960s-set Bloodlines and emotional depth



Craig Perry, the producer and self-described "curator" of the Final Destination franchise, has been at the helm of one of horror's most enduring series for over 25 years. With the upcoming release of the sixth instalment, *Final Destination: Bloodlines*, Perry expresses enthusiasm rather than distress about the grim themes of the films, stating, “If you’re not having fun, don’t do it!” His upbeat approach is paired with the franchise’s remarkable commercial success, having earned over $657 million (£493 million) globally, frightening a generation into rethinking the safety of everyday activities.

The first film debuted in spring 2000 and introduced audiences to a world where mundane situations could lead to horrifying deaths. It began with a flight, where a teenager experienced a premonition of disaster, subsequently saving a handful of people only for death to stalk them relentlessly afterward. Each sequel escalated the stakes, featuring catastrophic events like rollercoaster malfunctions and horrific crashes on bridges.

Perry highlights an essential element of the franchise's lasting appeal: “It allows the audience to bring whatever baggage or notions they have about death.” He suggests that personal experiences shape how viewers engage with the film's narratives, making it a uniquely individual experience.

*Final Destination: Bloodlines*, directed by Jon Watts and the creative duo Adam Stein and Zach Lipovsky, shakes up the familiar formula by setting the plot in the 1960s and centering on a character who has found a way to evade death for decades. This twist leads to a tragic event—a space-needle restaurant collapse—that decimates a family, contrasting with the earlier films' focus on groups of youths.

The film arrives amid a wave of nostalgia within the horror genre, with recent productions linked to familiar titles such as *Scream* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. Stein poses an intriguing question for the genre: “What are the everyday experiences or everyday objects or everyday feelings that we can ruin for people?” The new instalment promises to explore fears associated with commonplace settings, as trailers tease horrors stemming from tattoo parlours, family gatherings, revolving doors, and glass elevators.

The depths of research behind the franchise's notorious death scenes aim to make them all the more conceivable. Perry mentions a graphic sequence involving an MRI machine, clarifying, “Top-end MRIs can literally pull entire gurneys into them and fold them over. That’s all true.” This commitment to believability signifies the creative team's dedication to capturing the audience's imagination while crafting terrifying scenarios.

Nevertheless, balancing the theme of inescapable death with a tone that remains palatable presents challenges. Perry remarks on the struggle of managing this balance, stating, “It’s knowing without diminishing, if that makes sense.” As discussions around sensitivity in media evolve, he reflects on the necessity of exploring dark themes without succumbing to over-analysis, which could dilute the films' impact.

Despite the series’ portrayal of violent deaths, the emotional weight of loss has not traditionally been its focus. However, the new film introduces a poignant moment, featuring actor Tony Todd, a staple of the franchise, as he shares a farewell that resonates significantly with viewers. Stein notes the uniqueness of Todd's participation, underscoring how his candid moments on-screen provide an emotional layer that goes beyond the film's conventional thrills.

As *Final Destination: Bloodlines* prepares to launch amid tumultuous global circumstances, it aims to offer escapism. Lipovsky remarks that the film could transport viewers “to a different place outside the real world for a few hours.” The communal experience of watching horror, Stein adds, holds a particular allure, evidenced by audiences cheering during character deaths in prior installments.

With anticipation building ahead of the release, the film signifies the franchise’s blend of entertainment and terror, continuing to captivate audiences with its unique exploration of mortality through an engaging lens.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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