

Title: Wounds

Logline: After surviving a serial killer attack, a young woman decides to use her Twitch channel to catch her attacker.

Synopsis

After getting stabbed 23 times in a dark alley and surviving, a top videoblogger re-launches her live-streaming channel as a tool of identifying her attacker -- accidentally painting herself as a target for every social media-obsessed creep in the U.S. Now she must work with a police officer -- the youngest sheriff in the history of Calhoun County, -- to survive a fresh wave of attacks and I.D. her original would-be killer in the army of crazies gunning for her.

Summary

"Wounds" is a 20-minute longform black comedy/horror-thriller series set entirely within the confines of a Twitch-esque livestreaming app. Our main protagonist is a professional videoblogger who, after surviving 23 stab wounds in a seemingly random serial killer attack, decides to use her knowledge of the platform and mastery of social media to bring her attacker to justice.

"23" -- as she becomes known after re-launching her gaming/unboxing channel with an openly declared agenda of hunting down her near-murderer -- uses her ever-growing popularity to sift through tips and assemble clues about the killer's terrifying identity. In her efforts to set an elaborate trap for her attacker, 23 inadvertently makes herself a target for every gun- or knife-wielding psycho and serial killer trivia-fixated freak in the country and must cooperate with the police simply to survive long enough to bring her own, original killer to justice.

Nick Cutter, the youngest sheriff in the history of Calhoun County, was the only person in the entirety of law enforcement to take 23 seriously and appreciate the potential effectiveness (and the inherent dangers) of her social media-oriented investigative methods. After saving 23 from the first in a series of countless would-be murderers by running the creep over with a John Deere tractor, he's her unwilling liaison to the world of professional serial killer hunters.

Of course, as the John Deere incident was streamed "In Real Life" by 23 (388,000 concurrent viewers!), Nick is a celebrity in his own right... in all the wrong circles.

Writer's bio

Born in 1981 in the city of Irkutsk, I've been a professional video game journalist/movie and TV critic for the last 22 years, writing scripts as a hobby for the last 10. I'm currently employed as Managing Editor (TV and Film) by Russia's leading entertainment site Kanobu (<http://kanobu.ru>).

My two big genres are crime and sci-fi, and I have no preference as to the language I'm writing in (English or Russian).

Format

"Wounds" is a single app show: the Twitch-esque interface creates the illusion of us actually watching 23's exploits in her live-streaming channel.

It's a procedural series with some "mythology" episodes concerning 23's mysterious stabber (whose M.O. turns out to be chillingly close to a prolific serial murderer's executed a long time ago in another country).

Each episode is propelled thru the usual serial killer "procedural" steps by our show's unique single-app approach and the 20-minute format.

For example, in the pilot, after a brief introduction dealing with 23's stabbing (caught on an ATM camera in blurry footage) and its consequences (getting thru the physical therapy and learning to defend herself with a gun and a knife while streaming the teaching sessions to her most elite subscribers), we jump straight into the action with a mysterious stranger stalking 23 (and her filming him with her phone and a network of webcams she has installed around her apartment) culminating with her GoPro streaming directly from the inside of A HORRIBLE MASS GRAVE in an underground cistern on a remote snowbound farmstead in Western Illinois.

Each episode begins "live" with either 23 in the field investigating a new lead while live-streaming or in her stream room receiving a tip from her chat or her voice channel. It progresses into a real-world investigation carried out by camera-shy Nick and extremely game 23 with the help of a cast of "The X-Files"-esque supporting characters (bounty hunters, county coroners, profilers, true crime buffs, convicted murderers), presented as various IRL clips shot and edited by 23 for her channel.

23's very first case gets her in hot water with the platform - her channel is blocked for content violation and then unblocked following a public outcry that, for once, sees a youtuber showing dead bodies as a poster child for victim empowerment and social justice.

Subsequent episodes satirize the reactionary nature of such streaming platforms' parent corporations with multiple content warnings, a disclaimer that 23 must read in the beginning of every stream, a "company lawyer" character prone to calling the heroine under the worst possible circumstances and with most of the gore blurred in "archived" stream content (like in footage from past episodes).

The climax of each episode -- the confrontation with a killer, -- is "live" again for the maximum amount of tension.

An approximate budget

The most attractive part of "Wounds" is that at its core, the series could be produced at the same budget as any regular Twitch stream (i.e. approximately zilch) with a sensible allowance for professional character actors/gore effects/IRL footage on top of it. It all depends on the scale of the production as it can work equally well as a cult hit web series with young unknowns in the lead parts (\$200,000 the pilot, \$50-60,000 a show) or a more mainstream show with studio-grade IRL setups and budget.

Writing-wise, I can scale it to basically any production level by simply dealing down/up the ratio of the "in-field" vs "in the stream room" segments. As the success of Twitch shows, even a simple "girl talking to a camera" narrative could be extremely compelling.

BONUS!

And the very first scene of the entire series is...

INT. STREAM ROOM - NIGHT

Your typical unboxing video. 1080p, 60 FPS of going thru a cardboard box with UPS markings.

A GIRL in her early 20's, extremely attractive if not for the yellowish-pink webbed scarring of 4 recent stab wounds in her face, cutting through the tape on a fresh box of "swag."

Her subs count: 468,472, her total views: 88,499,252

And ticking upwards.

"What's in the box?!" Well, it's mostly horror/thriller memorabilia: a full Blu-ray set of "Hannibal," a dog-eared vintage early 2000s James Patterson paperback... Judging by the posters in the background/comments in her constantly scrolling chat, it's the theme of this channel.

Your first sign of something going terribly wrong: the girl is wearing surgical gloves.

Your second: one of the gloves comes out the box glistening thickly with something dark and red.

And then... the girl reaches deeper into the box... and with her gloved hands pulls out a thing, tongue-shaped, but with a couple of biological pipes snaking around it... red, wet and dripping... vaguely identifiable as some gruesome part of human (?) anatomy.

She sets the horrible object down on the pile of her previously unpacked swag, wipes her brow with the back of her glove and consults the screen of her phone, very calmly. With her face now covered in blood, as is her hands, her clothes and her work desk (there's even some drips of human bean juice on her webcam), she turns her phone toward us (we see it's a Wiki article on human anatomy) and says, evenly:

23

No genitalia this time. My best guess is... the pancreas? Must be the Asteroid Spree Killer. Again. Now excuse me, gotta call Nick... hi, Nick, if you're watching. And the FBI... I guess.

OVER BLACK: "MUCH EARLIER"