



House At The End Of The Street (or HATES as the cast and crew call it) has nothing to do with gruellingly grotty '70s movies *The Last House On The Left* or *Last House On Dead End Street*. Neither, Tonderai promises, is it a "weak, insipid, horror lite" movie aimed at the teens of Middle America – there's been quite enough of those.

"It's similar to *Hush* in that if you took away the hooks, it could play as a drama. This is about the civil war between kids and adults when the kids start to step into adulthood. The core is a relationship between a mother and daughter."

The mother is played by Elisabeth Shue, the daughter by Jennifer Lawrence – hot off her Oscar nom for *Winter's Bone* and poised for suffocating levels of fame with *The Hunger Games*.

They move to a new town only to find themselves living next door to a house where, four years previously, a young girl murdered her parents. The killer has long since disappeared but her introverted brother (Max Thieriot) remains, ostracised by the townsfolk. Lawrence's plucky heroine befriends him and everything goes to hell in a blood-splattered handbasket...

"The most important thing the film's got going for it is that it second-guesses the audience," says Tonderai, whose streamlined suspenser *Hush* navigated its own share of twists and turns while following a road previously travelled by Spielberg's *Duel* and Ozploitation beaut *Road Games*. "It's great watching it with a crowd, seeing all the jumps."

Shot in America and Canada in 26 (union-appointed) 11-hour days, *House At The End Of The Street* is produced by Aaron Ryder (*Memento*, *Donnie Darko*, *The Prestige*), with Tonderai directing after beating out "30 to 40" other hopefuls. Lawrence describes the shoot as "a really good experience, I had such fun filming it", and the buzz is big. If all goes according to plan, Tonderai can expect an invite to the VIP party: "I've adapted a book called *The Terror Of Living* and I hope to get a deal sorted asap," he says. "It's pretty cool. Bigger budget, bigger names. It's like *The Fugitive* meets *No Country For Old Men*..." **JG**

ETA | 20 APRIL *The House At The End Of The Street* opens this spring. For more, go to totalfilm.com