THE FUNHOUSE – Movie, TV Pilot, or MiniSeries Copyright 2026

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PITCH: *Something Wicked This Way Comes* if Kevin Williamson or Joss Whedon did it.

LOGLINE: The Carnival of Fear - the price of admission is your soul!

SUMMARY:

(Based on the short story The Funhouse, part of the Carnival of Fear series)
A group of teenagers sneak into a carnival from Hell the night before Halloween and get caught by the head barker, a skeletal figure named the Proprietor. He offers them a chance to see all the exhibits and rides before it opens to the public. They take him up on the offer. Some go into the Freak Show, where they are attacked by beasts of various kinds, and others try the Funhouse, where each room opens doors into Hell. At the end, the two surviving couples split up; one escapes to alert the police and attempt to burn the carnival down, the other goes back into the past to try and save their friends. They end up in a nuthouse and turned into carnival freaks, respectively.

SYNOPSIS:

A group of 8 teenagers sneaks into a mysterious Halloween carnival. Led by JORDAN FAITHE and MATTY ASHE, the teens are planning on checking out the games and rides before the Carnival of Fear opens in the morning. They get caught by the carnival's manager, the skeletal PROPRIETOR, but instead of kicking them out, he tells them to enjoy themselves and spread the word at school the next day. Delighted to have the carnival to themselves, the four couples play games and explore the sights. Things seem fine until ELISSA disappears inside a game and the freakish carnies become surly.

Told that Elissa can be found in the Funhouse, the teens make their way to the giant tent and split up inside, only to find it's a trap. Matty and SARA are pushed into a dark pit. Jordan and KERRI meet up with a mermaid who arouses their carnal desires, and then they are attacked by THE BEAST and THE TATTOOED MAN, who captures them. TAYLOR and REGINA end up in the Hall of Mirrors, where they are decapitated by a tentacled beast.

The survivors waken in a dark cave and find their way to another room in the Funhouse, where they are confronted by three doors. In one, Roger hears Elissa screaming, and he jumps through, only to end up being eaten by his now-zombie girlfriend. The second door opens to the Hall of Mirrors, where the remaining two couples watch Taylor and Regina get killed. The third door opens to a time tunnel. The Proprietor appears to them and says if they go back in time correctly, they can undo everything that's happened.

Matty and Sara go through, while Jordan and Kerri choose to leave the carnival. Matty and Sara end up lost in the past. Jordan returns later that night and lights the carnival on fire, putting an end to the Proprietor's evil plans – for that year. Jordan ends up in an asylum, but vows to be ready next year wherever the carnival appears. In the final scene, the Proprietor and his henchman turn Matty and Sara into their newest exhibit – the Siamese twins.

MAIN CHARACTERS:

Matty Ashe: 16, punk-style look, but he's the rational, careful one in the group. He keeps Jordan in line, and Jordan gets Matty out of his comfort zone to take risks and be a little rebellious.

Jordan Faithe: 16, in leather, with some piercings and tattoos. He's the rebel, and the leader of the group. He's also Matty's best friend since they were little kids.

Kerri Delgado : Jordan's girlfriend; like him, she's into leather, piercings, and tats, and has a wild streak.

Sara Hahn: Matty's girlfriend. Although she dresses the part, she's more like Matty-not daring enough to be fully rebellious—and would be just as at home in a jeans and a nice shirt, going to dinner with her parents.

The Proprietor: The demon who rules over the Carnival of Fear. Tall, skeletally thin, he dresses like a cartoon caricature of a carnival barker, with a long jacket and pants done in all the colors of fall: oranges, yellows, and reds. He wears a black stovepipe hat and has a taste for the flesh of children.

SECONDARY CHARACTERS:

Roger Esposito, Elissa Jones, Taylor Thorp, Regina Plotkin: The rest of Matty and Jordan's group. All in the same high school classes, all hang out together on the weekends.
Molach: The Proprietor's main henchman. A tall, muscular man-demon with a terrible scar on his face.

TONE:

The overall tone, either as a movie or a series, would be dark but geared toward a new adult audience, much like American Horror Story, Carrie, Crystal Lake, or Yellowjackets, but with a touch of humor like Nightmare on Elm Street. Violence, nudity, and sex would be applicable to whatever extent possible.

CARNIVAL OF FEAR SUMMARY:

This would be episode 2 or season 2, or the second movie.
What was supposed to be an evening of fun and laughter for JD Cole and the other students of Whitebridge High turns into a never-ending night of terror. Trapped inside the Castle of Horrors by the demonic Proprietor, good friends and bitter rivals must band together to make it through the maze of torturous attractions, where fictional monsters come to life, eager to feast on human flesh. Vampires, zombies werewolves, and aliens lurk around every corner as JD and his friends struggle from one room to the next before their final showdown with Satan himself. In the end, the few who survive are left wondering if they have defeated the Carnival forever, or if it will be back next year.

CASTLE BY THE SEA SUMMARY:

This would be episode/movie/season 3.
A young couple visits the Carnival of Fear and gets into the Tunnel of Love ride. But something goes horribly wrong for them; heavy waves rock the boat and they capsize. In the next instant, they are no longer in the ride at all, but in the actual ocean, with a rocky beach not far away. They swim to shore and find themselves on an island, complete with mysterious castle. Inside, the meet another couple, in their 40s, who also ended up there after visiting the carnival-15 years in the past. The mysterious owner of the castle makes 1 short appearance at dinner, just long enough for them to discover they've gone back in time to the 1800s and it will be days before the storm breaks and a boat can reach from the mainland. Strange things begin to happen. People disappear, ghosts wander the halls. The owner turns out to be a madman who is using the black arts to bring back the family he lost – by using the bodies of his unexpected visitors to house their souls.