Review: Crystal Lake suffers a bit from its obsession with Pam Voorhees

Peacock's series, *Crystal Lake*, doesn't feel like a *Friday the 13th* movie when you first press play, even though it's set up to be a prequel to the original film. (This review includes spoilers of the original *Friday the 13th* movie but avoids major *Crystal Lake* spoilers.)

Instead, *Crystal Lake* strives to build a drama that's half homage, half uncharted territory while giving a long-awaited backstory to Pamela Voorhees. The original villain in the first film, Pam Voorhees, shocked audiences in 1980 by popping up out of nowhere in the midst of a brutal camp counselor killing spree, then confronting the final girl with a Norman Bates-like delivery of the movie's chilling tagline, "Kill her, mommy," using the voice of her drowned son Jason.

Betsy Palmer as Pam Voorhees in *Friday the 13th*. Credit: via Paramount Pictures

Linda Cardellini as Pam Voorhees in Crystal Lake. Credit: via Peacock

Although the hockey-masked killer, Jason Voorhees, became the horror icon at the center of the franchise, his mom, Pam, continued to fascinate fans who knew very little about her. Beheaded in the first film after just 13 minutes onscreen, her spirit would occasionally appear in later films, but the original actor, Betsy Palmer, who portrayed Pam refused to return, largely because the character has no depth.

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