

horror_rpg

Pontifex Ex Machina

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Preface

Welcome to “Untitled Horror Game.”

1 Game Rules

1.1 Resolution mechanic

There are two kinds of tests, Checks and Saves. Unopposed tests are versus a fixed Difficulty (Challenging or Formidable). Opposed tests are rolled between a PC and an NPC or another PC.

Meets Beats: On unopposed tests, meeting the difficulty is a success. In the event of a tie on an opposed test,

Check: $2d6 + \text{Stat} + \text{Skill}$ **Save:** $2d6 + \text{Stat}$

Challenging Difficulty: 8 **Formidable Difficulty:** 10

Unopposed test: Rolling an 8 or better succeeds at an Challenging task, rolling a 10 or better succeeds at a Difficult task. **Opposed test:** Both roll and add modifiers, highest wins.

Advantage: Roll 3d6, take two highest **Disadvantage:** Roll 3d6, take two lowest

Critical Success: Doubles on a success (so two fours on an Challenging task, two fives and two sixes on all tasks)

1.2 Stats

- Might
- Speed

1 Game Rules

- Wits

Your starting ability spread is 2, 1, -1. Put one in each stat.

Hit Points: 8 + Might Defense: 8 + Speed

1.3 Pushing

You can Push a Test to get an extra d6 (keep highest 2) on a roll, or offset Disadvantage on a roll by dropping the lowest die roll. You may do this after you see the results of the initial roll. Pushing causes a Stress Test.

1.4 Stress/Panic

Your starting Stress is 3. Every time you fail a Stress Test, it goes up by 1. It can also go up by 1 in other situations (monster abilities, etc.)

Stress Test: Roll 2d6, with the Difficulty being your current Stress.

If your Stress is 8 or higher, you are Panicked. A Panicked character can only perform one action, not two, in combat.

You can reduce Stress after an entire day of calm (no Stress Tests or Combat) by rolling a 2d6 check (not a Stress Test) against your Stress. On a success, reduce Stress by 1.

At 13 stress, you become unable to take actions in Combat and must use your movement to flee.

1.5 Dying

If you reach 0 HP, you are Wounded. (You cannot go below 0 HP.) A Wounded character can take only one action per turn in Combat, and must succeed on a Difficult Brace check at the end of each turn to keep from being Critical. Being healed for any amount ends Wounded.

A Critical character is unconscious and unable to take any actions. At the end of every turn, make an Challenging Brace check. On a Success you remain Critical. A Critical Success puts you at Stable but 0 HP. A Failure gives you a Shroud of Death. If you get three Shrouds, you are dead. Being healed for any amount ends Critical, but does not remove any Shrouds. (Removing Shrouds is a TBD item.)

1.6 Skills

Everybody starts with skill points to invest.

1.6.1 Might Skills

Brawl: Punching and using melee weapons **Brawn:** Lifting, throwing, climbing, breaking down doors **Brace:** Fortify yourself from injury

1.6.2 Speed Skills

Shoot: Use a firearm **Stunt:** Roll to break a fall without getting hurt, trip someone, etc. **Sneak:** Hide, do something without being notices

1 Game Rules

1.6.3 Wits Skills

Chat: Lie, charm, pressure **Clever:** Remember something important, notice something **Cure:** Help someone who's injured

1.7 Combat

1.7.1 Initiative/Rounds

Everybody rolls speed, initiative goes highest to lowest, ties go to highest d6 roll. Everybody takes a turn in order of initiative in each round.

1.7.2 Turns

During your turn, you can take move and take two actions in combat, only one of which may be a weapon attack.

1.7.3 Reactions

Some situations allow you to make a Reaction to someone else's Action. You may take one Reaction per Round.

1.7.4 Movement

You may move 30 ft. (6 squares) per round. Moving out of a square next to an enemy to a square not adjacent to that same enemy provokes a reaction attack.

1.7.5 Actions

1.7.5.1 Shove

Roll Brawn against target's Might. On a success, the target moves 5 ft. in the direction you choose. On a critical success, the target moves 5 ft. in the direction you choose and becomes Prone. Being prone gives enemies Advantage on attacks against you. Standing up from prone takes 10 ft. of movement and allows adjacent enemies to make a reaction attack against you.

1.7.5.2 Taunt

Roll Chat against target's Wits. On a success, the target has Disadvantage on actions against any combatant other than you on its next turn.

1.7.5.3 Trip

Roll Stunt against target's speed. On a success, target is Prone. Being prone gives enemies Advantage on attacks against you. Standing up from prone takes 10 ft. of movement and allows adjacent enemies to make a reaction attack against you.

1.7.5.4 Grit

Roll Brace for a Difficult task. On a success, heal 2 HP. On a crit, heal 3 HP.

1 Game Rules

1.7.5.5 Rally

Roll Charm for a Difficult task. On a success, target ally gets advantage on their next weapon attack. On a critical success, target ally also heals 1 HP.

1.7.5.6 Feint

Roll Steath vs Wits. On a success, you have advantage on a weapon attack on the target this turn.

1.7.5.7 First Aid

Roll Cure for an Challenging task. On a success, heal 1 HP on an adjacent ally. On a crit, heal 2 HP.

1.7.5.8 Attack

Roll Brawl for a melee weapon or unarmed attack, Shoot for a Firearm, against the enemy's Defense. On a success, do damage equal to your weapon's damage dice. On a critical success, take the max roll possible.

1.8 Weapons

These weapons are available to starting characters. Iconic weapons come later

1.8.1 Melee

1.8 Weapons

Name	Dmg	Effect
Unarmed	d4	N/A
Baseball bat	d6	N/A
Spiked bat	d6	Bleed

1.8.2 Firearm

Name	Dmg	Effect
Pistol	d6	N/A
Shotgun	d4	Knockback
Assault Rifle	d6	Auto

1.8.3 Effects

1.8.3.1 Bleed

If you are Bleeding, take 1 damage at the start of your turn. You can end Bleeding by using Grit successfully.

1.8.3.2 Auto

Fire two shots at Disadvantage.

1.8.3.3 Knockback

Target must succeed on a Difficult Strength save or be moved 5 ft away from the source of the knockback.

1 Game Rules

1.9 Talents

Each character gets one Talent to start. Potential to get more as you advance.

1.9.1 True Grit

You may replace one of the dice rolls with a 3 whenever you roll for Grit.

1.9.2 Sharp Tongue

You may replace one of the dice rolls with a 3 whenever you roll for Taunt.

1.9.3 Final Girl

Once per day, when you reach 0 HP, you are instead at 3 HP.

1.9.4 Healing Hands

Once per day, you auto-succeed at a First Aid check.

1.9.5 Inspiring Friend

You roll Challenging checks instead of Difficult checks to Rally.

1.9.6 Sweep The Leg

Spending two actions, you can do a Trip against all adjacent enemies.

Appendix N

You love vibes, right? Here's some things that inspired the vibes of this game.

Music

- “Screen Violence,” by CHVRCHES
- Rob Zombie. All of it.
- Goblin. Go check out the Suspiria soundtrack.

Movies

- The Evil Dead trilogy, dir. by Sam Raimi
- Halloween, dir. by John Carpenter

Video Games

- Resident Evil 4
- Alan Wake

