Midnight League

ONE NIGHT - ONE MATCH - ONE PROBLEM

THE MIDNIGHT LEAGUE

SUDDEN DEATH HAS NEW MEANING

PARKLAND PICTURES in association with CHIZU MEDIA & RHIZOME presents CONTRAPTION MEDIA production of "THE MIDNIGHT LEAGUE"

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Two young professionals, Dan and Steve pay their easily earned wages for the rare, yet illegal privilege of playing on their favourite clubs pitch after hours, in an underground eleven aside match.

Meeting the head security guard who has set up a cottage industry of taking payment, to allow twenty or so aspiring footballers the opportunity to fulfil the fantasy of playing in a stadium.

Little do they know, that they are being watched, and when a few of the boys are “accidentally” locked in, they spend the remainder of the night trying to escape.... and trying escape the darkness.

Steve’s worried girlfriend tries make contact, with no luck. After a call to the police proves fruitless she takes matters into her own hands. With Dan and Steve caught in a lethal game of cat and mouse, it's down to the clock as morning ticks closer and help on the way.
“I see this film as a gritty view of sports culture, the “fans” vs. “Super Fans”. Although a thriller in many ways, ultimately this film will be a fun, fast paced horror, that does as it should - scare the hell out of people. A strange scenario, in a familiar setting, imagery that will burn impressions in the minds of all who see it. Given an opportunity to do something largely original from a story point of view, I wanted to make THE MIDNIGHT LEAGUE different from other films, in that it’s a mixed media experiment, shot over a prolonged period of time, in multiple countries and evolving script that crosses genre at times.

Handheld camera work on some of the sports action, mixed with a traditional story telling approach to some of the suspense and drama. THE MIDNIGHT LEAGUE is a new take on the horror/thriller genre, to which I intend to make a film that is horrifying, thrilling, an fun blend of reality and fantasy. Inspired by such films as HOSTEL, SAW, TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE, in which you didn't know if you were looking at a documentary or a work of fiction.
The story is one that starts from fan mania surrounding football. Our introduction to this world is told in a way that is both unique and visually engaging. Using this lore to set the tone of a story that might in part or certainly in possibility be true. Because our story is set largely around one location, for which we created by in fact shooting in multiple locations. Shooting at Arsenal, Wembley, Leighton and Manchester stadiums among others, to create a fictional super stadium.

The locations are rich in texture, which I believe it to be an asset to our story. The feeling of intimidation that grows the moment our characters see the imposing structure. The isolation and foreboding, are as much characters in this film as was “Norman Bates” home was to Hitchcock’s PSYCHO.

A strange killer, dark corridors, grotesque imagery will burn impressions in the minds of all who see THE MIDNIGHT LEAGUE.
Writer and Director Marcus Warren left home to fuel a passion for films and the process of filmmaking. Moving from Detroit to Hollywood he immediately went to work on one of the most popular television series in the United States, ‘In Living Color’.

Starting at the bottom and working his way up, he absorbed all he could about production along the way. When the series ended, he was drawn into writing and directing. In tandem with directing commercials and music videos and developing his skills as a writer, Marcus worked with some of Hollywood’s biggest stars – Tom Cruise, Will Smith, Anthony Hopkins as director/cameraman producing featurettes and documentaries for the release of various studio productions.

Marcus’ first feature The Heavy was a multi-million dollar production starring many award winning actors, including the legendary Christopher Lee (Dracula, Lord Of The Rings, Star Wars), Vinnie Jones (Sword Fish, Snatch), Gary Stretch (Alexander, Dead Mans Shoes), Shannyn Sossoman (A Knights Tale, 40 Days and 40 Nights) and Stephen Rea (Interview With A Vampire, V for Vendetta). Also written and produced by Marcus, THE HEAVY was released globally including LIONSGATE in the U.S. and U.K. His second feature THE MIDNIGHT will be released in the U.K. Oct 2018, while ZERO TOLERANCE produced by Marcus through his company, Contraption was released in the U.S. by LIONSGATE.
His numerous movie appearances include Batman by Tim Burton, Mona Lisa by Neil Jordan, and Gangs of New York by Martin Scorsese. He can be seen in the Harmony Korine movie Mr Lonely, playing the part of Abraham Lincoln, and the last episode of Harry Potter.


In 2009 he was part of Jarvis Cocker’s Meltdown Festival, at the RFH, in an evening of songs from Walt Disney movies, and in 2010 performed with the producer/arranger Hal Wilner in Brooklyn and at The Barbican, alongside such luminaries as David Byrne, Tim Robbins, Steve Buscemi, Shane McGowan and Suzanne Vega. Richard’s memoir “Strange- Punks and Drunks and Flicks and Kicks”, was published to critical acclaim by Andre Deutsch in 2005.

Richard curated a night of Live Art in Glasgow in 2011 as part of the This Is Performance Art Festival. Mary Brennan of The Glasgow Herald described it: “One of the most open-minded, far-reaching and rewardingly varied programmes of radical new work in the world.”

He recently co-wrote and presented This is Not Magritte, a programme about the Belgian surrealist, for BBC Radio 4. Last summer he chaired a discussion on Watercolours for the Tate Gallery at Camp Bestival, and performed his one-man show An Accent Waiting to Happen at venues across the UK...

He has recently completed filming Theatre of Dreams with Brian Cox, Toby Stephens, Natascha McElhone and Philip Jackson, and a short film, Lady Luck. He also played Smiley in the film “The Kick” directed by Marcus Warren, and The Figure in the film “Norfolk”.

In 2012 he curated Cabaret Apocalyptica for the Tate Britain, Millbank, to celebrate the “John Martin and the Apocalypse” exhibition. Richard made a commissioned special Performance/installation work with Kelly Dearsley Strange, and the show featured many artists including Kate Tempest, Gavin Turk and Richard Wilson.
Rik Young was born on April 25, 1978 in London, England as Ricky James Young. He is an actor and producer, known for Beowulf (2007), Hijos de Dune (2003) and Bones (2005).

Daniel Bayle is an actor and director, known for I Only Have Eyes for You (2014), Hollyoaks (1995) and PhoneShop (2009).
Kellie Shirley is an English actress who works in film, television, theatre and radio. She has also co-presented programmes for BBC2 and Channel 5. She is known for her role as Carly Wicks in the BBC soap opera EastEnders from 2006 to 2008 following the death of character’s father Kevin Wicks (Phil Daniels). Shirley returned to the soap in September 2012 where she was reunited with her on-screen mother Shirley Carter.

Shirley’s other credits include playing the female lead opposite John Hannah in ‘Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde’ (Working Title), The Office Christmas specials and Twenty Thousand Streets Under the Sky. She has also worked extensively in theatre at the Royal National Theatre and Royal Court.

In June 2009, Shirley co-hosted the BBC Two show Something for the Weekend with Tim Lovejoy, standing in for Amanda Hamilton who was on maternity leave. She has since appeared on “Sunday Brunch” and regularly on magazine show “The Wright Stuff” she featured in the Pencil Full of Lead video by Scottish singer Paolo Nutini.

Shirley played the role of “Louise” in the 2012 Lionsgate feature film Riot about the London Riots. In February 2013, she starred as Susie Browning in Run for Your Wife with Judi Dench and Danny Dyer. In the film Girl on a Bicycle, directed by Jeremy Leven, Shirley plays ‘Marta’ opposite Paddy Considine.

She portrayed Ali in the independent film “Everyone’s Going to Die” as well as the role of ‘Lydia’ in the 6 part series ‘Self Centered’ for Pollibee Pictures. She played “Stella Stone & Gemma” in Royal National Theatre play about the phone hacking scandal “Great Britain” directed by Nick Hytner. Shirley has also finished a run at The Theatre Royal Haymarket in One Man, Two Guvnors as “Pauline” after its international tour clocking up over 650 performances.

Shirley works extensively for BBC Radio 4, including three series of comedy “House on Fire” written by Chris Sussmann and long running series “A Small Town Murder”. Her most recent TV appearance was in Sky drama series “The Marriage of Reason and Squalor” directed by “The Chapman Brothers”

Stuart Pearce, MBE is an English football manager and player. Pearce was the manager of the England national under-21 team from 2007 to 2013 and also managed the Great Britain Olympic football team at the 2012 Olympics.
London-based Parkland Films was formed in 1998, initially producing documentaries and now principally feature films.

In 2006, Parkland was formed as an International Sales Agency to sell our own films and to acquire international sales rights to other films from outside the company.

In 2010, Darkland Distribution was created, focusing on the distribution of genre feature films.

Parkland has numerous films in development, pre-production and production and is the appointed International Sales Agent for a slate of films. Parkland continually considers new material in the form of books, scripts and ideas.

London-based producer John Cairns is the founder and CEO of the company.

An independent film company established with a fresh perspective, Contraption produced and released it’s first feature film, The Heavy in 2010, distributed in the UK, US and Canada by Lionsgate.

The Heavy attracted attention for its scale of production, world class cast of talent and garnered Contraption its brave reputation for an intrepid commitment to entertaining cinema.

Contraption continues to be a maverick creative force behind commercial British and international films that derive their success from their standards of production. It is the goal and intention of Contraption to create and grow without limits, developing a slate of entertaining commercial films under its banner.

Exercising a strategic and flexible approach suited for the current state of the ever-evolving film industry. Contraption is a hybrid company embracing new media and new distribution models and prepared to take cutting edge action to best serve its place in cinema history.

Contraption looks to develop and make films that dice head first into the popular culture and reveal the bonafide expanse of the potential of cinema and new media. This working attitude has encouraged the company to take on several projects for development and production.

The company is becoming known for its ability to develop, finance and produce at high standards, to compete in an international market place.
Red Rock Entertainment is a film-finance company, based at the world-famous Elstree Studios, home to some of the biggest TV shows on UK television and the studio of choice for many successful British filmmakers.

Working in conjunction with many of the UK's top production companies to raise equity for film, TV content and film distribution, Red Rock Entertainment offers a number of tax-efficient opportunities to investors.

It primarily works on projects that are at an advanced stage and are looking for the final tranche of financing. Its focus is on film and TV projects that have commercial appeal, an identifiable audience, controllable costs and a sound financial structure.

As an executive producer, Red Rock Entertainment can arrange for investors to visit sets during filming, appear as extras and attend private screenings. It also regularly arranges seminars at Elstree Studios, at which high-profile corporate and financial specialists offer advice and insight into the various tax advantages of investing in the UK film industry.
The Midnight League intends to establish a model for localised production and roll out that could be mirrored in other territories, drawing on various relationships in and around sports.

The producers seek to work with global partners on sequels and remakes and continuing the story in various territories around the world with a focus on casting talent and celebrity athletes that would elevate the franchise.

The Midnight League brings an original and novel theme to football which we are looking to bring direct to fans via direct participation with their clubs.

Taking the buzz to global audiences is the next step.

Significantly football in the US is also breaking local records for homegrown audiences.
Red Rock Entertainment works in conjunction with numerous UK film companies to raise equity for independent film projects. It focuses on those films that have already been completed or are almost complete, but require a final tranche of funding to cover the distribution costs.

Investing in films can offer generous returns. The benefits extend far beyond the sale of box-office tickets: DVD sales, licensing to TV broadcasters and online platforms, and merchandising revenue all count towards a film’s profit and can continue to generate returns for many years after its theatrical release. The chance to be part of the magic of the movie industry is another perk of many film-investment opportunities. In some cases, your investment entitles you to appear in the movie as an extra, attend film premiers and red-carpet events, and see your name appear in the credits at the end of the film.

As well as the potential for high returns, long-term earnings and a close encounter with show business, investing in the British film industry can also offer tax-relief benefits. A range of incentives is available to those who chose to invest in an SEIS or EIS film-investment scheme.
The UK has two government-sponsored investment schemes for direct investment in companies: the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS). Both schemes, which offer generous tax relief, were set up to encourage investment into start-up businesses that are not listed on a stock exchange. Investment in unquoted companies often carries a high risk. The tax relief is intended to offer some compensation for that risk.

Enterprise Investment Scheme

The Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) was introduced by the UK government in 1994 with the aim of helping small UK companies to raise capital from private investors.

While an EIS investment is not without risk, the incentives for those looking for tax-efficient ways to invest are extremely attractive.

These benefits include:

**Income Tax Relief**

Investors can claim a rebate of 30% of the amount invested from income tax paid in the year prior to investment, or on tax that is owed in the tax year of investment.

Relief can be claimed on up to a maximum of £1,000,000 invested in shares in EIS-qualifying companies, giving a maximum tax reduction in any one year of £300,000, providing the investor has sufficient income-tax liability to cover it. Shares must be held for at least 3 years.
Capital Gains Tax Deferral

If investors have any capital gains tax to pay in the current or next tax year, or if they have paid capital gains tax in the last two to three years, they can claim back or defer tax to the equivalent of up to 20% (or 28% if the gain is on a residential property or for 2015/16) of the capital they have invested in the EIS-qualifying company. If the gain is deferred, when the EIS shares are disposed of then the gain will crystallise at the prevailing rate at that time.

The payment of tax on a capital gain can be deferred where the gain is invested in the shares of an EIS-qualifying company. A capital gain can arise from the disposal of any kind of asset, but the investment must be made within a period of one year before or three years after the gain arose. There are no minimum or maximum amounts for deferral, nor is there a minimum period for which the shares must be held. The deferred capital gain is brought back into charge whenever the shares are disposed of, or are deemed to have been disposed of under the EIS legislation.

Loss Relief

If a loss is made on the disposal of EIS shares then the loss, less the 30% initial relief may be set against income or capital gains for tax purposes.

Key Points

- EIS investors can place a maximum of £1,000,000 in a single tax year, which can be spread over a number of companies.
- A company can raise no more than £5,000,000 in total via EIS investment in a 12 month period.
- Investors have no control over companies that receive their capital and must not hold more than a 30% stake in any company in which they invest.
- Companies seeking investment must be based in the UK and have a permanent base in the country.
- The company’s trade must be no more than seven years old.
- Tax relief of 30% can be claimed in the current or previous tax year (from date of share certificate).
- A capital gains deferral can be claimed against the current tax year.
- No inheritance tax to be paid after two years. No income tax or capital gains tax to be paid on any profits on disposal.
- Loss relief on any monies lost can be claimed at current tax rate.
- Monies must remain in the company for three years to benefit from the above.
The Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) complements the EIS by offering a range of tax reliefs to individual investors who purchase shares in smaller, early-stage companies. The SEIS is intended to compensate for the difficulties faced by start-ups in attracting investment by offering tax relief at a higher rate than that offered by the existing EIS.

**Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme**

As with the EIS, a percentage (50% in the case of SEIS) of the cost of an investment can be claimed against the investor's income tax liability for the tax year in which the investment was made.

The maximum investment through the SEIS in any tax year is £100,000. As with the EIS or there is no capital gains tax, or inheritance tax to be paid on an SEIS investment opportunity.

**Income Tax Relief**

Income tax relief is available to investors who subscribe for qualifying shares in a company that meets the SEIS requirements and who have UK tax liability against which to set the relief. However, there are certain rules:

- Shares must be held for a period of three years. If shares are disposed of within the three-year period, or if any of the qualifying conditions cease to be met during that period, relief will be withdrawn or reduced.
- Relief is available at 50% of the cost of the shares, on a maximum annual investment of £100,000.
- Relief is given by way of a reduction of tax liability, which requires that there is sufficient tax liability against which to set it.
- A claim for relief can be made up to five years after the 31st of January of the following tax year in which the investment was made.

**Capital Gains Tax Relief**

If the investor has a Capital Gains Tax liability in the year of investment, then up to 50% of the amount invested can be offset against that Capital Gain, with a potential saving of 10%, being half of 20% (14% for gains on residential properties).
If a loss is made on the disposal of SEIS shares then the loss, less the 50% initial relief may be set against income or capital gains for tax purposes.

**Who can Participate in SEIS?**

Unconnected shareholders should be entitled to all the aforementioned relief schemes. For connected shareholders, income tax relief and capital gains tax exemption are not normally available. Connection’ is defined by a financial interest in, or employment by, the company. Financial interest occurs where the subscriber and their associates (such as parents, children and business partners) control more than 30% of the company.

Employment generally includes directorships but precludes the employment of associates, although directors can participate in SEIS companies if holding under 30%. Furthermore, there is an exemption for business angels who become directors.

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**Key Points**

- SEIS investors can place a maximum of £100,000 in a single tax year, which can be spread over a number of companies.
- A company can raise no more than £150,000 in total via SEIS investment.
- Investors have no control over companies that receive their capital and must not hold more than a 30% stake in any company in which they invest.
- Companies seeking investment must be based in the UK and have a permanent base in the country.
- Companies must have fewer than 25 employees. In the case of parent companies, that figure applies to the entire group.
- The company’s trade must be no more than two years old and the company must have gross assets of less than £200,000.
- Tax relief of 50% can be claimed in the current or previous tax year (from date of share certificate).
- A capital gains write-off of 50% of any gain can be claimed against the current tax year.
- No inheritance tax to be paid after two years.
- No income tax or capital gain tax to be paid on any profits on disposal.
- Loss relief on any monies lost can be claimed at current tax rate.
- Monies must remain in the company for three years to benefit from the above.

The above is intended as a brief guide only, and not financial advice, as with any investment or tax-related issue, it is important that potential investors, seek advice from a financial advisor.
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