

AT THE END OF THE WORLD THE JOURNEY
FOR HUMAN CONNECTION BEGINS

WALKING AGAINST THE RAIN

CROSSROAD PICTURES IN ASSOCIATION WITH RED ROCK ENTERTAINMENT AND M&M FILM PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

A SCOTT LYUS FILM "WALKING AGAINST THE RAIN" SOPHIA ELENI REECE DOUGLAS
JOHNNY VIVASH DIANE SPENCER FRANCESCA LOUISE WHITE AND JAMES SWANTON

WRITTEN BY MITCH BAIN PRODUCED BY NEAL PARSONS EDITED BY DAN MARTIN

PRODUCTION DESIGNER KELLY TOODE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS VIKKI JONES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MARIA PAVLOU

CASTING NEIL BABBAGE GARY COLLINS MALCOLM WINTER MONIKA GERGLOVA

PRODUCED BY SCOTT LYUS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRIS NIALS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MEL MORLEY

WRITTEN AND
DIRECTED BY SCOTT LYUS



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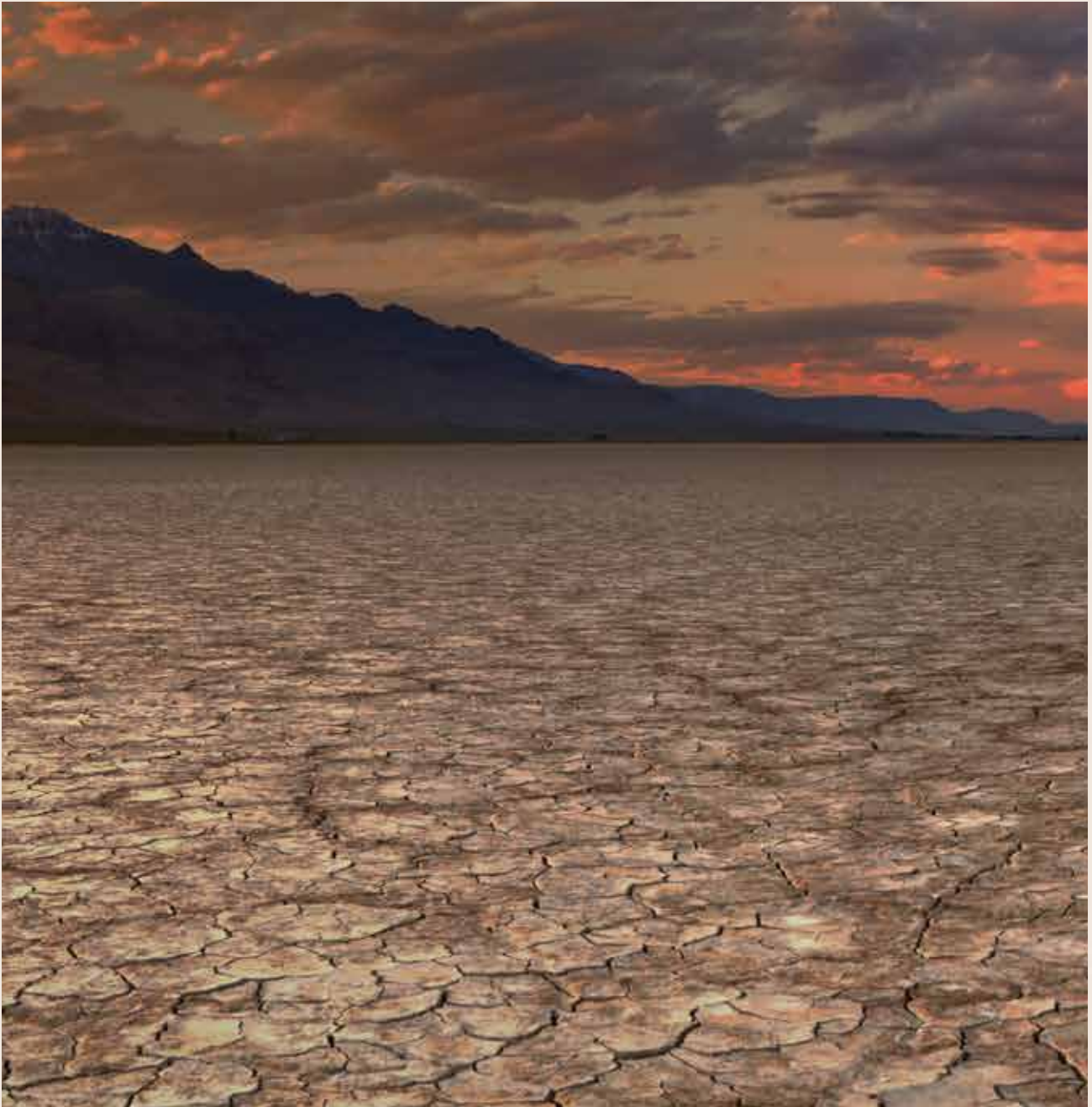
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SYNOPSIS



Set six months after a biblical plague has fallen upon the world, *Walking Against The Rain* tells the story of two strangers, Tommy and Blair, who are navigating their way across a barren landscape in a desperate attempt to find each other.

Their only form of communication being two soon-to-die battery operated radio mics. And with a new evil in the shape of 'The Forsaken' tracking them down, they must learn to confront loss and rediscover a trust in humanity.

Not just another post-apocalyptic film, *Walking Against the Rain* is an exploration into how people accept change and loss in different ways, and how, in this lightning-paced technological age, we take human interaction for granted.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



When I wrote *Walking Against the Rain*, I wanted to create a grounded compelling and jaw-dropping exploration into a world where the smallest items, that we now so often take for granted, have been removed.

How would we survive without constant communication, information and social media? And as a result, would we start to reassess how we look at our families' basic level human interaction and what it really means to be alone.

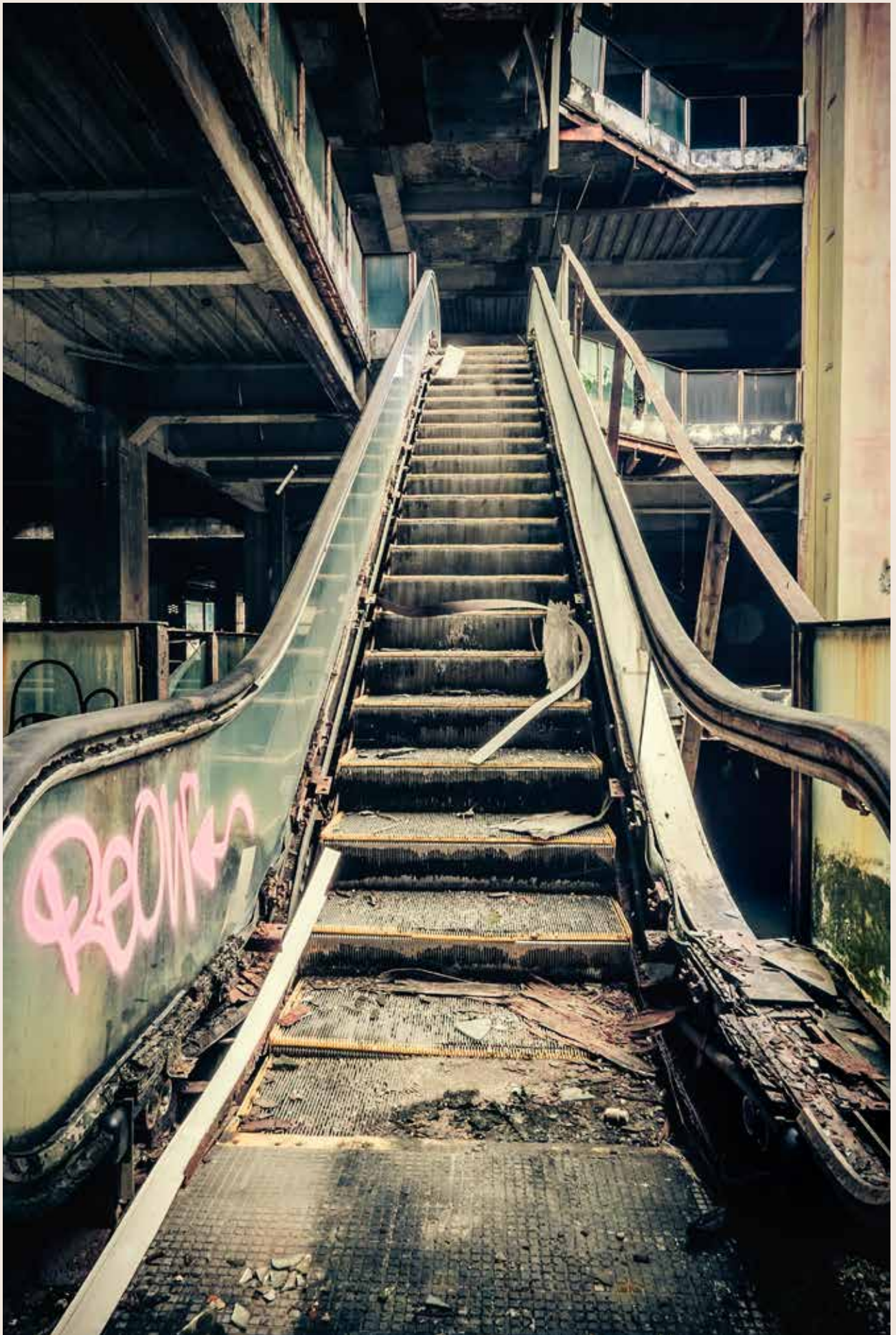
Walking Against the Rain takes place six months after an apocalypse-level biblical plague, which has stripped the world of everything we once held dear.

The underlying theme of the film is an exploration into loss, grief and how our characters are coming to terms with a new life in an empty but at times beautiful landscape. Looking back at a time when horror films dealt with social issues and the state of the world we live in, my aim with *Walking Against the Rain* is to create a horror film that terrifies the audience on a much deeper level.

Whilst I guarantee that you'll be jumping out of your seat in the cinema and screaming at the horrors our characters endure, this is a story that will stay with you long after the credits roll and make you question if you too might be taking the smallest things around you for granted.

Scott Lyus





DIRECTOR

SCOTT LYUS

Writer | Director | Producer



Scott Lyus is an award winning filmmaker behind festival hits like 'Silently Within Your Shadow', 'Echoes of the Passed' and 'Black Mass'.

'I am a self motivated individual, with a main goal to achieve the best that I am capable of. I strive to do my best within every role, be that working alone or part of a team.'

Having wrote, directed, produced and edited several films over the last several years, I personally push myself to achieve the high standards I set for myself and those put forward to me in a brief, working closely with clients to help them achieve their goals while maintaining my own creative input'.

His shorts have screened at well over 100 festivals worldwide including Frightfest, Panicfest, Shriekfest and the Starburst International Film Festival from Starburst Magazine, where he was awarded Best Short Film in 2018 and Best Screenplay in 2020.

Scott's short film work has also received press attention from gene heavyweights Bloody Disgusting, Dread Central, Scream Horror Magazine and Starburst Magazine.

Scott was also the first short film filmmaker to receive a feature interview in Starburst Magazine.



CAST



SOPHIA ELENİ

Role: Blair

Taking on the lead role is the incredible Sophia Eleni. Sophia is a multi award-winning actress based in London. She has worked on film and television projects with the BBC, FOX21 and Paramount, and made her West End debut with two one woman shows which both received critical acclaim.

Sophia trained at Rose Bruford College in London, England and The Estonian Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Tallinn, Estonia.

A multi talented actress of stage and screen, as well as a musician, model and talented writer in her own right, Sophia once again joins the team having previously starred as the lead in the Crossroad Pictures festival hit 'Black Mass'.

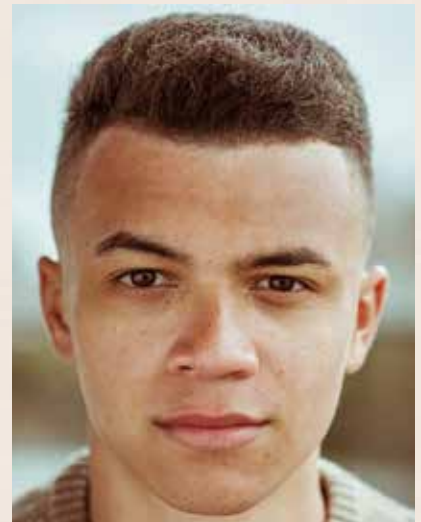


REECE DOUGLAS

Role: Tommy

Taking on the male lead role is hugely talented Reece Douglas. Reece Douglas is a 23 year old British born actor based in Manchester, UK. His career started following a nationwide casting for one of BBC's most popular dramas named 'Waterloo Road'. After a successful string of auditions, Reece landed his first major role as Denzil Kelly in this hit TV show.

Reece has proven himself to be one of the UK's promising young actors, with breakout roles in BBC drama Waterloo Road, 'The Knife That Killed Me' and the indie horror smash-hit 'Cruel Summer'.



CAST

JOHNNY VIVASH

Role: Old Man

Taking on the role of the mysterious Old Man who Blair encounters during her journey to find Tommy is indie film legend Johnny Vivash. The team has been lucky enough to work with Johnny on their previous project Black Mass, where Johnny won the Best Performance Award 2020 at the Starburst International Film Festival from Starburst Magazine.

Johnny Vivash is originally from Dublin but trained in London where he is now based. He has a strong theatre background, having toured nationally for a number of years working with various theatre companies in the U.K.

He has worked on numerous award winning short films and Independent features in the UK, Europe & the U.S. He is an on going collaborator with numerous directors both as an actor and script developer.

'I'm so excited to be working with Johnny once more on what is one of the most important supporting roles in the film. In truth the role was written with Johnny in mind, and I am honoured he is joining the team. I have no doubt he will bring something special to the film'.

Scott Lyus



CAST



JAMES SWANTON

Role: The Forsaken

Donning the heavy make-up and bringing The Forsaken to life as our creature is the incredible actor James Swanton. James has very quickly made a name for himself within the horror genre as the man behind the make up last seen in Shudder's smash hit 'Host', as well as bringing Scott's previous monster to life 'Darkness' in their festival hit 'Black Mass'.

James Swanton has been described as 'remarkable' by Simon Callow, as 'extraordinary' by Miriam Margolyes and as a 'horror star of the future' by Kim Newman. James continues to drive his critics to raid their thesauruses: in times past, they have dismissed him as 'a tattily dressed raven', 'a young Boris Karloff', 'positively stunning in his grotesqueness' and 'lanky'.



In 1991, James was born in the ghost-drenched city of York, thus inaugurating his lifelong passion for the macabre. In 2009, James went to read English at Selwyn College, Cambridge - appearing, whilst there in some twenty-four productions. And in 2013, James made his professional stage debut in 'Sikes & Nancy' at the Mercury Theatre, Colchester. Since then, he has been reliably in work and occasionally a parrot.

James's performances from Dickens have been particularly acclaimed. He took Sikes & Nancy to Trafalgar Studios in 2014, thus making him the youngest actor in history to perform the title role(s) in his own West End show; meanwhile, his Ghost Stories for Christmas have become an annual staple at London's Charles Dickens Museum.



James is also known for his work in horror films, most notably the Spirit in the phenomenally popular 'Host' (now streaming on Shudder), the starring role in 'Frankenstein's Creature' (which won him two awards, and was nominated for a third), and decaying Daddy in 'Double Date' (encased in a BIFA-nominated make-up).

At various points, James has also been Lucifer, Count Dracula, Marley's Ghost and the Hunchback of Notre Dame. He plays nightly for Richard III.



ON LOCATION STILLS



CINEMATOGRAPHER

NEAL PARSONS

Cinematographer

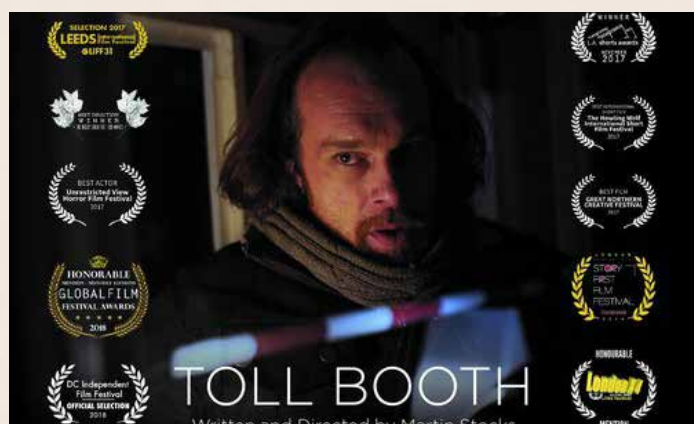


Neal is a camera operator with experience working on features, TV, branded content, and corporate promo films. For TV I have shot for BBC, Channels 4 & 5, ITV and Sky. I'm also a trained Movi operator with experience using them for TV, films, commercials and online content.

In the summer of 2017 he shot the feature film, 'Into The Mirror' for Dean Street Productions, and was second camera on a second feature, 'Beyond Existence' for Capital Pictures; horror short 'Toll Booth' has played festivals including Leeds Int Film Fest and The DC Independent Film Fest and won awards worldwide. The feature is now in pre-production. Aside from those films that he shot that were shorts for Wicked Winters Films, Monreel Entertainment, Crossroads Pictures, Three Pegs Productions, and many more.

He was gaffer on the Oscar winning short, 'The Silent Child', and have been gaffer on other shorts including horror short 'Echoes Of The Passed' which has played at festivals around the world.

As an operator he does freelance for agencies including M&C Saatchi, Refinery29, White Label UK, Fresh Cut Creative, Picture Book Films, Hodes, and more. Through these networks he has worked on commercial branded content for Reebok, Diet Coke, Universal Music, Virgin Active, Relentless Energy Drinks, Magic FM, El Tesoro Tequila and many more.



SPECIAL EFFECTS

13 FINGERFX

Since childhood, Dan has been fascinated with special effects as a form of magic; a deceit in service of a narrative for an audience eager to suspend disbelief. As such he approaches every effect as a unique challenge, not just an isolated product but as an event integral to the world of the story.

From his main workshop in Croydon he designs makeups, puppets, rigs and speciality props that are used all over the world.

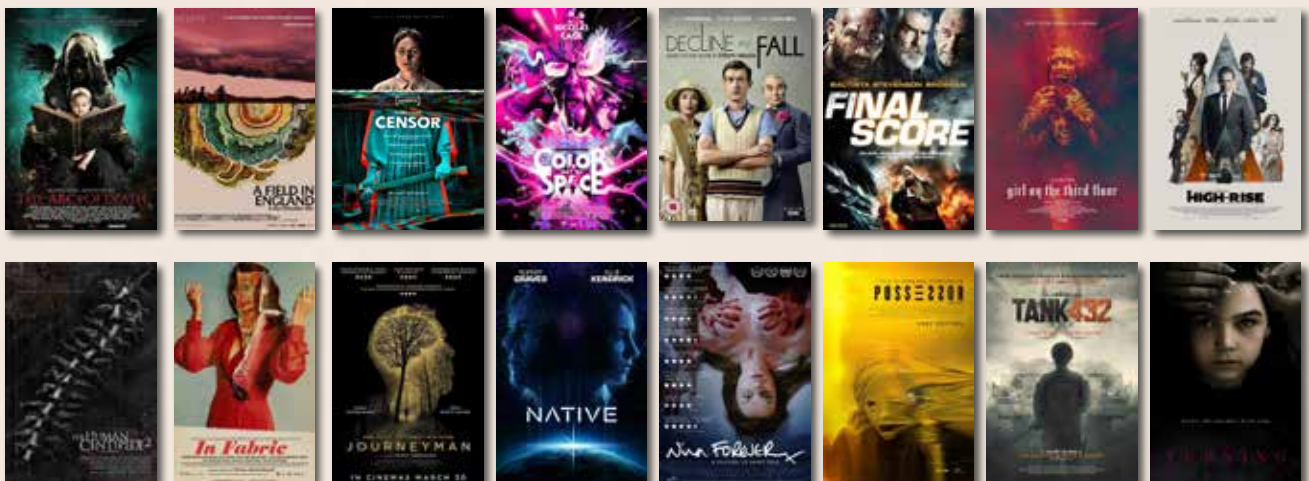
Walking Against The Rain will feature a brand-new breed of monsters known only as the Forsaken.

The Forsaken will be created using full body special effects, designed and implemented by award winning artist Daniel Martin. Daniel and his team at 13FingerFx have created some of the best special effects work of the last ten years, including award winning hit films like the 'Possessor', 'Colour Out of Space' and 'Girl on the Third Floor'.

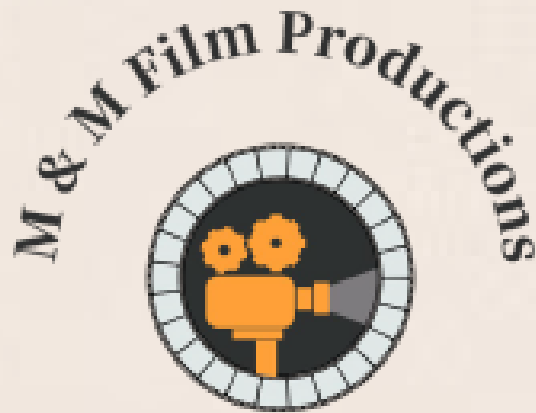


DANIEL MARTIN

Special Effects



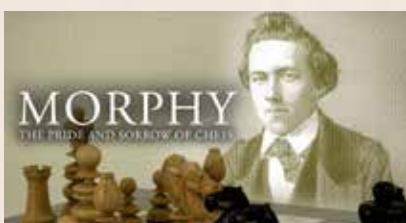
PRODUCTION COMPANIES



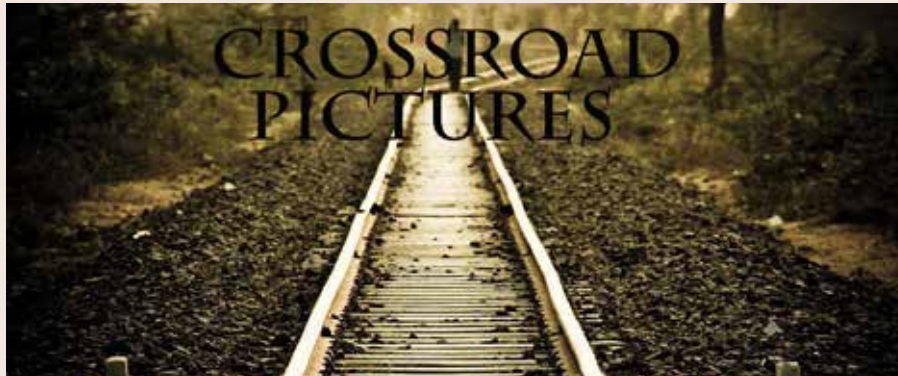
Incorporated in 2018 and based in London and South West England.

M & M Film Productions Ltd is an independent motion picture production company with the directors having over a cumulative 25 years of production and distribution experience. Managing Directors and Founders Monika Gergelova and Malcolm Winter have produced numerous feature films and TV shows. M and M Film Productions have worked with award winning directors, producers and screenwriters.

The company's growing success lies in talent-driven projects carefully nurtured with a wide network of international finance, sales and distribution partners. The principals also possess well-respected relationships with production suppliers and distribution outlets on a needed basis.



PRODUCTION COMPANIES



Crossroad Pictures offer genre films unlike anyone else on the market: compelling, character driven pictures that ask topical and on-trend questions about the world around us. They are specifically produced to not be the usual 'schlocky' films that are prevalent in this sector, but contain enough of the much-loved tropes to please even the most die-hard genre fan. In today's world of prequels, sequels and reboots, we pride ourselves on offering original and compelling genre cinema.

KEY PLAYERS: Scott Lyus and Chris Nials are now committed to creating feature length films via Crossroad Pictures Ltd. Both Scott and Chris have assembled a team of award-winning collaborators including Director of Photography Neal Parsons who worked on the OSCAR winning short *The Silent Child* and BAFTA nominated SFX designers KM Effects.

VISION: After successfully navigating the world of short films, Scott and Chris registered Crossroad Pictures Ltd at the end of 2019 ready to make the jump into feature filmmaking. Our aim is to produce one feature film every 18-24 months for the next 10 years. Each time expanding slightly in budget, scale and audience reach, starting with our debut feature film *Walking Against the Rain*.

'Via the London Horror Society, which Chris has built over the last 7 years, we have a farreaching network of genre film fans that we can directly market our products to. We have already tested audience reaction via our short film screening events over the last few years, which led to huge turn outs and interaction success.

In addition, we have built up a working relationship with several PR companies, who will advise us on how best to position each project in the marketplace'.



PRODUCER



CHRIS NIALS

Producer

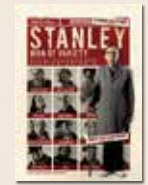


Chris Nials is a producer and director, known for 'Walking Against the Rain', 'Early Bird' (2014) and 'Echoes of the Passed' (2017).

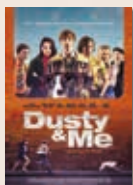
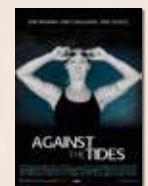
'Walking Against the Rain is the culmination of many years' work for Scott and myself whom I have been working alongside ever since he broke into the indie horror scene with Sliently Within your Shadow'.



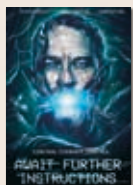
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS



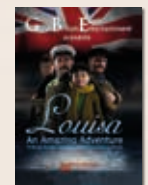
Red Rock Entertainment is a film-finance company based at the world famous Elstree Studios, home to some of the biggest TV shows on UK television and the studio of choice for many successful British filmmakers.



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.



Primarily working on projects that are at an advanced stage and are looking for the final tranche of financing, they focus on film and TV projects that have commercial appeal, an identifiable audience, controllable costs and a sound financial structure. They also require that certain elements are in place before they commit investors to any film or TV venture.



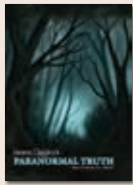
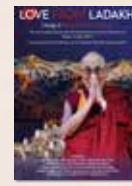
As an executive producer, Red Rock Entertainment can arrange for investors to visit sets during filming, appear as extras and attend private screenings. It also regularly arranges seminars at Elstree Studios, at which high-profile corporate and financial specialists offer advice and insight into the various tax advantages of investing in the UK film industry.



Executive producers either personally fund or raise the funding for motion pictures or television shows. They essentially act as the financial backer, helping production companies to secure the finances they need to drive their creative projects to the distribution stage.



As executive producers, Red Rock Entertainment's main role during the production process is to ensure that its film and TV projects are progressing according to schedule and budget. Although they have no direct input into a project's editorial or artistic execution, they do have a say over anything that could affect its timing or marketability.







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.



SEIS

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 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.

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.

PERK & BENEFITS

Film Set Visits

Patience is a virtue — and never more so than on a film set. Pick your moment to approach an actor carefully: it's never a good idea to disturb talent when they are shooting a scene, or preparing to shoot one.

So be prepared to wait for the right moment to take a picture or ask for an autograph. You will probably be assigned with a 'runner' from the production company, whose job will be to look after you and let you know what's going on.



Appearing as an Extra



Being an investor also gives you the opportunity to be cast as a background actor, or extra.

This is a performer in a film or television show who appears in a non-speaking capacity, usually in the background to the central action —as an audience member, for example, or a passer-by in the street. Punctuality, reliability and the ability to take direction are important if you want to experience of thrill of appearing in front of the camera.

Private Screenings

Private film screenings form part of a film's production and release cycle. To show off the film to its best advantage, special preview screenings are routinely held in low seat-count theatres offering high-quality projection and sound equipment.

These events, which are usually accompanied by food and drink, also feature commentary from the film's producers, writers or actors. The guest list for a private screening typically includes VIP media personalities, investors, and key marketing and distribution executives.



PERK & BENEFITS

Red Carpet Events

A red-carpet premiere is the highpoint of a film's release.

Attended by its stars, alongside A-list celebrities, industry moguls and the media, they epitomise the Hollywood dream. When one of our films premieres, our investors are invited to join us on the red carpet, and experience the glitz and glamour of showbiz for themselves.



Name in the Credits

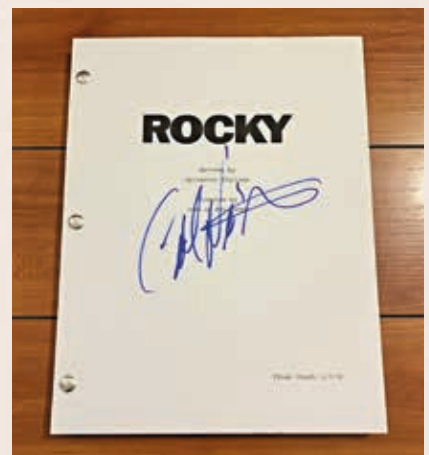


Photos with the Stars



Memorabilia

As an investor, if available, you could have access to film memorabilia, including autographs, brochures, props and scripts. These are not just great keepsakes — if a film goes on to be successful, they can also be valuable in their own right. Photo's below are only examples.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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