

THE HOLE IN THE GROUND (15)



Fast Sell:

Something nasty is lurking in the forest in what might be the most frightening film of the year, a nerve-jangling mix of *The Witch* and *Heredity*, from a formidable first time director.

Synopsis:

Sarah moves her precocious son Chris to a secluded new home in a rural town, trying to ease his apprehensions as they hope for a fresh start after a difficult past. But after a startling encounter with a mysterious new neighbour, Sarah's nerves are set on edge.

Chris disappears in the night into the forest behind their house, and Sarah discovers an ominous, gaping sinkhole while searching for him. Though he returns, some disturbing behavioural changes emerge, and Sarah begins to worry that the boy who came back is not her son.

We like it because:

A bold and brilliantly constructed cross between *Pet Sematary* and *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, the debut feature from writer-director Lee Cronin is a genre game changer that masterfully builds the tension, delivers the frights and leaves the audience reeling.

Cronin elicits terrific performances from a brilliant cast, particularly Seána Kerslake (*A Date For Mad Mary*) as a single mother driven to her wits end, and a wonderfully unnerving James Quinn Markey (from the TV series *Vikings*) as her son, who might not be what he seems after his disappearance in the forest. Also appearing are Simone Kirby (*Peaky Blinders*), Steve Wall (also from *Vikings*) Eoin Macken (from horror films *Resident Evil: The Final Chapter*, *The Forest*) and veteran character actor James Cosmo (*Highlander*, *Braveheart*).



VERTIGO// RELEASING //

RELEASE DATE

In Cinemas

1st March, 2019

KEY TALENT INFORMATION

Cast

- **Seána Kerslake** (*A Date For Mad Mary*)
- **James Quinn Markey** (*Vikings*)
- **Simone Kirby** (*Peaky Blinders*)
- **Steve Wall** (*Nails*, *Vikings*)
- **Eoin Macken** (*Resident Evil: The Final Chapter*, *The Forest*)
- **James Cosmo** (*Highlander*, *Braveheart*)

Writer-Director

- **Lee Cronin** (*Minutes Past Midnight*)

Writer

- **Stephen Shields** (*Zombie Bashers*)

Producers

- **Hilary Davis** (*War On Everyone*)
- **Tara Finegan** (*John Wick*)
- **Phil Hunt** (*Boar*, *Black Mass*)

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Beautifully filmed in the misty, mysterious Irish countryside, and with an ominous, powerful score Stephen McKeon (*Black Mirror*) that recalls the rank dread of *The Witch*, **The Hole In The Ground** is a startlingly assured first film that marks Cronin as a name to watch. Following in the footsteps of acclaimed Irish horror like *The Hallow*, *Wake Wood* and *Isolation*, this is a surefire scarer that'll chill you to the bone.

Hot Quotes:

"A masterclass in crafting terror and striking frights... a strong contender for horror film of the year!" *Starburst*

"Say hello to the first great horror of 2019" ★★★★ *Ian Sandwell - Digital Spy*

"Sends shivers down your spine from beginning to end... very very creepy" *Fortean Times*

"Brilliantly ominous and unnerving" *Any Good Films*

"Creepy and moving" *DMovies*

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2019 REACTIONS

THE HOLE IN THE GROUND received its world premiere at this year's prestigious film festival, on January 26th 2019, in Park City, Utah.

"A nifty debut... abounds in bristly calling-card atmospherics" *Variety*

"Cronin has crafted a formidable work of horror" */Film*

"Holds the attention and pays off in some genuinely tingly moments... right up to the genuinely scary climax" *Michael Gingold, Rue Morgue Magazine*

"Another family horror winner... it's a simple, sinister film that really digs its claws in" *Collider*

"Small, economic and actually cool... Sarah deserves a spot among the great heroines of horror" *Birth. Movies. Death.*

"We could be looking at this year's *Hereditary*" *Ryan Scott, Movieweb*

"a fantastic performance from Seana Kerslake" *Joe.ie*

"Brilliantly satisfying" *Horrorbuzz.com*

"A terrifying experience" *JoBlo*

"Fans of *Hereditary* will get some intense, in your face moments" *We Live Entertainment*

