

WHITE NIGHT FILMS PRESENTS

A Film by
SEAN SPENCER

PANIC

Starring
DAVID GYASI
PIPPA NIXON

World Premiere – Raindance Film Festival, London,
Nominated for Best British Feature

85 Minutes
Shot on Arri Alexa, Exhibited on DCP

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PANIC

Synopsis

PANIC is the story of one man's obsessive quest for redemption in contemporary London. Haunted by a recent trauma, Deeley must confront his deepest fears when the woman he is infatuated with is kidnapped. David Gyasi and Pippa Nixon star in Writer/Director Sean Spencer's striking feature film debut.

PANIC

Interview with Writer / Director Sean Spencer

Why did you make PANIC?

As a filmmaker I am attracted to strong, engaging stories that have something unique to say about society and human behaviour. I wrote PANIC because I wanted to explore two big ideas; London's intricate and often brutal ghost economy, where migrant labour and the criminal underworld intersect, and the ever-growing feeling of social alienation in our urban environments.

In researching the ghost economy and its links to human trafficking it became clear that the former is largely possible because of the latter. Locating all of these themes within a neo-noir narrative felt like an organic fit and great jumping off point for a film that is very much about the way many people live in our major cities.

What research did you undertake?

Before starting the screenplay I felt it was necessary to get a fully rounded sense of the world I wanted to write about. I spoke to a number of journalists and refugee charity workers, all of whom proved to be invaluable resources over the fourteen month writing period. I also spent time with people suffering with agoraphobia and associated disorders in order to draw a believable and accurate portrait of the condition.

PANIC has some strong music choices. Why do you use music in this way?

The score, composed by Christopher Nicholas Bangs, is a combination of strings, lo-fi electronica and sub-sonic orchestration. I wanted it to subtly disturb the audience, creating confusion and paranoia, while drawing them deeper into Deeley's internal state as he slowly starts to unravel in a city that he has grown to fear.

Most of the music Deeley listens to in the film is music I selected when I began writing the screenplay to give me a sense of the world I was trying to capture. We worked with a number of record labels over a twelve month period to get the rights to these specific tracks as I felt they were vitally important in conveying who Deeley is. The final track was written specially for the film by the recording artist Fink, who responded strongly to a rough cut of the film and felt he could write a song that really captured the breadth and depth of Deeley's journey; I truly believe he has done that in an incredibly moving way.

What is your process for working with actors?

My approach to working with actors is to give performance priority on the floor. I believe a successful creative collaboration has to be a conspiracy. I like to clear the set and begin with a conversation about what is happening in the scene. We then rehearse, shaping the intellectual and physical journey of each character until the dramatic energy feels dynamic and compelling. Only then do we bring in the camera.

How long was the shoot? Where did you shoot?

Eighteen Days. East London.

You shoot some scenes in a single, unbroken take – why?

Unbroken takes helped to capture an authenticity and emotional rawness that I wanted for the film. They also helped to condense shooting time and keep energy levels and concentration high throughout principle photography. There is also an excitement to seeing actors work in this way that an audience really responds to.

How did you choose to photograph PANIC?

Our primary challenge as filmmakers was to tell a story in one of the worlds most photographed cities and have it feel like a unique experience. Given the scale and logistical constraints of our production I elected to make the budget a deliberate part of the aesthetic and work within the limitations of our schedule and resources to craft a film that feels both dynamic and truly cinematic.

PANIC was shot on the Arri Alexa. I wanted a striking, cool minimalism to the cinematography, a high contrast of shadows and light. Bold architectural shapes and the stark urban landscape underpin the compositional approach, updating the aesthetic tradition of the noir genre, presenting the city as a character - unpredictable - dangerous; resulting in a graphic sense of space with real emotional resonance that also conveys the sense of dislocation felt by our protagonist.

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About the Cast

DAVID GYASI / ANDREW DEELEY

David Gyasi grew up in Hammersmith, West London. He appeared in numerous UK TV series before his notable portrayal of Victor in the 2012 BBC six-part drama WHITE HEAT. That same year he appeared in two US feature films, George Lucas' RED TAILS and Christopher Nolan's THE DARK KNIGHT RISES.

However it was his first major film role in the Wachowskis' CLOUD ATLAS that garnered most critical acclaim. Wired magazine opined that "Gyasi's intense take on Moriori stowaway Autua is the movie's most compelling performance." David then appeared as Peterson in the BBC film THE WHALE featuring Martin Sheen.

In 2013 he returned to work with Christopher Nolan for the all-star cast INTERSTELLAR. In 2014 Indiewire named him as a rising actor to watch.

PIPPA NIXON / AMY

During her early stage career Pippa took on a mixture of roles in both contemporary and classical writing. In 2011, after stints at Shakespeare's Globe where she was commended in the Ian Charleston Awards for her portrayal of Jessica in THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, Pippa took on a three year residency with the world renowned Royal Shakespeare Company. Her portrayal of Titania in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM drew critical attention, with The Daily Mail declaring "Miss Nixon has an assurance and poise worth many bags of showbiz gold." In 2012 Pippa played the Lightmaster in JOHN CARTER, directed by Oscar winning filmmaker Andrew Stanton.

However it was Pippa's performance in Maria Aberg's 2013 production of AS YOU LIKE IT that garnered most critical acclaim. The Guardian wrote "Nixon joins Vanessa Redgrave, Adrian Lester and the late Susan Fleetwood in the select pantheon of memorable Rosalinds ... It is a captivating, wittily androgynous performance that ushers Nixon to the threshold of stardom."

YENNIS CHEUNG / KEM

The daughter of two Beijing Opera performers, Yennis Cheung was raised in Hong Kong. At fifteen she won a place at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, majoring in classical opera. At around this time, Yennis was signed as a recording artist and released three solo albums: YENNIS CHEUNG, SEALED ROOM and ECCENTRICITY.

Yennis made her screen debut in the independent film UNDER THE RAINBOW. Roles in more commercial Hong Kong films followed, including LOVE AND LET LOVE, TAKE FIVE, PR GIRLS, and HERO OF THE CITY. Her recent film roles include the John Cusack drama SHANGHAI and Sam Mendes' SKYFALL alongside Daniel Craig.

JASON WONG / DAO

Jason was born in West London and studied at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. He got his US TV break with the role of Fitzpatrick in the Primetime Emmy Nominated ABC Drama series MISSING starring Ashley Judd and Sean Bean. Following this he appeared in Steven Knight's REDEMPTION starring Jason Statham before co-starring in the horror action film ASYLUM with Oscar nominated actor Stephen Rea (THE CRYING GAME).

CRISTIAN SOLIMENO / PETE

Cristian was born and grew up in Paris, of English and Italian descent. His first notable role was his portrayal of Jason Turner in FOOTBALLERS WIVES. Cristian went on to make a number of TV guest roles and appeared regularly in the series STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

In 2007 he played the Guardian in HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE. The next year he made his writing and directing debut with the short film LOVE. It won the Grand Prix Asturias in Gijon Film Festival, the Best Acting Award in Rhode Island Film Festival and was nominated for the Grand Prix in Puchon Film Festival.

Cristian followed this up by writing and directing the feature thriller THE GLASS MAN with Andy Nyman, James Cosmo and Neve Campbell. In 2013 he played Arturo Merzario in Ron Howard's double Golden Globe nominated RUSH. He is currently playing Dexter in WELCOME TO CURIOSITY.

PANIC

About the Filmmakers

SEAN SPENCER / WRITER / DIRECTOR

PANIC is Sean's feature debut.

In 2005 he wrote and directed STRIPES. The film screened in Manchester Kino before being featured in Sight and Sound Magazine's Best British Short Films issue.

Sean's next short film ROMANCE was distributed by the BFI. It premiered in Edinburgh Film Festival before screening at festivals worldwide including Clermont Ferrand and Soho Rushes. It was broadcast on BBC, Sky and Carlton.

Originally from the West Midlands, Sean now lives in London.

OLIVER GRAY / PRODUCER

Oliver started the Production Company White Night Films in 2006, producing urban music promos with artists such as Roni Size, DJ Fresh and Kano. He then moved into the commercial film sector and made a number of short documentaries for broadcast on Channel Four and Sky.

In 2006 his directorial debut short film WHITE OUT won Best Short at Les Diablerets Film Festival before being broadcast on ARTE.

In 2012 he produced the feature documentary NAKED AMBITION which played in fourteen film festivals worldwide, winning Best Foreign Film in Yosemite Film Festival, The Gold Kahuna Award at Honolulu Film Festival and the Platinum Reel at Nevada Film Festival. Oliver lives in London.

JOE WIHL / PRODUCER

Joe started his career as an assistant director on feature films in the UK and abroad. ROLLIN' WITH THE NINES was nominated for a BAFTA and won the Raindance Independent Film award whilst MRS PALFREY AT THE CLAREMONT was number one at the New Zealand and Japanese box offices. He was Production Supervisor for GI JESUS which won the Cine Vegas award.

In 2012 he directed the feature documentary NAKED AMBITION which played in fourteen film festivals worldwide. It won Best Foreign Film in Yosemite Film Festival, The Gold Kahuna Award at Honolulu Film Festival and the Platinum Reel at Nevada Film Festival. Originally from Leamington Spa, Joe splits his time between London and Abu Dhabi.

NUALA O'LEARY / CO-PRODUCER

A 2010 graduate of the NFTS Producing Course, Nuala joined Embargo Films later that year. There she worked on I, ANNA starring Charlotte Rampling and Gabriel Byrne, PUSHER starring Richard Coyle and Agyness Deyn and the UK number one box office hit, THE SWEENEY starring Ray Winstone and Ben Drew.

In 2011 she was Associate Producer on LOTUS EATERS starring Antonia Campbell-Hughes, which premiered in Tribeca Film Festival. She is currently finishing her most recent short film as Producer, AUGUSTINA, whilst working on MISS YOU ALREADY starring Drew Barrymore.

CARL BURKE / DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Carl is a London-based Cinematographer with wide-ranging experience of filmmaking. He has shot music promos with Kelly Rowland, Mark Owen and Little White Lies and commercials for John Lewis, Honda and Persil.

In 2012 he lensed his debut feature, the critically acclaimed JASON BECKER: NOT DEAD YET. This was nominated for the Raindance award in the BIFAs and won the Special Jury Prize in Hamptons International Film Festival.

CHRISTOPHER NICHOLAS BANGS / COMPOSER

Chris writes music for film and television and also for the experimental pop band TALK IN COLOUR. He established himself as a film composer in 2011 with his contemporary score for Tinge Krishnan's JUNKHEARTS, starring Eddie Marsan, Tom Sturridge and Romola Garai. Krishnan was nominated for Best British Newcomer at London Film Festival. In 2013 the feature length documentary BATTLE OF THE SEXES was released. Scored by Bangs, the film tells the story of the legendary tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs. Bangs also wrote and produced the music for the online sci-fi drama DIMENSIONS and the short film THE APPOINTMENT.

KATE COGGINS / EDITOR

Kate began her career on short films in London before cutting long-form documentary and fiction. In 2012 her feature documentary TRASHED featuring Jeremy Irons was Official Selection at Cannes and won the Earth Grand Prix in the Tokyo International Film Festival.

Kate went on to edit THE FACILITY and TOWER BLOCK starring Sheridan Smith. She then cut Oliver Gray and Joe Wihl's feature length documentary NAKED AMBITION. In 2013 she edited THE LIST, Written and Directed by Palme d'Or short film nominee Klaus Huttmann.

LUKE HULL / PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Luke began work in the camera department before studying Production Design at the NFTS, graduating in 2010.

Since then he has worked on numerous short films including STANLEY PICKLE which won Raindance and Dinard Film Festivals in 2010. He also Production Designed Tanel Toom's Oscar nominated Short Film THE CONFESSION.

In 2012 Luke was in the Art Department for PROMETHEUS and QUARTET before he Production Designed CONFINE starring Daisy Lowe.

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Credits

WHITE NIGHT FILMS

Presents

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DAVID GYASI

PIPPA NIXON

JASON WONG

YENNIS CHEUNG

CHI CHAN

CRISTIAN SOLIMENO

ORION LEE

VERA CHOK

Casting Director	SACHA GREEN
Make-Up Designer	HARRIET THOMPSON
Costume Designer	YANN SEABRA
Production Designer	LUKE HULL
Sound Designer	JAY PRICE
Editor	KATE COGGINS CHRISTOPHER NICHOLAS
Composer	BANGS
Director of Photography	CARL BURKE
Co-Producer	NUALA O'LEARY
Produced by	JOE WIHL OLIVER GRAY
Written and Directed by	SEAN SPENCER

CAST

Deeley	DAVID GYASI
Amy	PIPPA NIXON
Dao	JASON WONG
Kem	YENNIS CHEUNG
Zhang	CHI CHAN
Pete	CRISTIAN SOLIMENO
Yi	ORION LEE
Ling	VERA CHOK
Alan	BRETT ALLEN
Han	CHIKE CHAN
Mai	SUNI LA
Ru	REBECCA YEO
Kirsten	VALENE KANE
Madam	CHOY LING
Punter	DOMINIC KINNAIRD
Thom	CHRIS BANGS
Mike	JOSEPH STEYNE
Laura	ALICE HAUGHTON
Police Emergency Officer	KATE BRAITHWAITE
Lead Singer	ALAN POWNALL
Eksman	KEVIN FORRESTER
Dao's Enforcers	LING WHYE HANG

Prostitutes	EDDIE RUBEN CHONRADEE KULTHAP MEI LIM JESSIKA LI MEI CHERN UM
Waiter	MARK CHAN
DVD Sellers	SHENG-CHIEN TSAI EMILY ING KOICHI MIYASHIRO
Residents	HUA LI KEVIN TRAN
Internet Café Punter	CHO CHO
Chinese Voices	CODY CHOI KHENH DO
First Assistant Director	JAMES EMMOTT
Location Manager	PRUDENCE BEECROFT
Unit Production Manager	CRISTIAN WINDER
Additional Editor	SAMI ABUSAMRA
Line Producer	OLIVER GRAY
Production Manager	NUALA O'LEARY
Production Supervisor	JOE WIHL
Script Supervisor	ZAIRA BRILHANTE
Assistant Directors	AYLWYN MICHEL BEN DAVIDSON CHRISTIAAN FABERIJ DE JONGE
First Assistant Camera	THOMAS DUNNE
Second Assistant Camera	EDWARD RATCLIFFE
Focus Puller Dailies	FELIX SCHMILINSKY JAMES MATAI
Second Assistant Camera Daily	DUNCAN RICE
Additional Photography	OLIVER KEMBER
Gaffer	AARON SZOGI
Spark	GREG WHITBROOK
Gaffer Dalies	JONNY FRANKLIN TOM MAINE
Spark Daily	PAUL MCKENNA
Sound Recordist	XAN MARQUEZ CANEDA
Boom Operator	FRANCIS CULLEN
Locations Assistant	MICHAEL MERRITT
Production Buyer	ELISABETH SCHUSSER
Standby Art Directors	JANNECKE NILSEN SALLY ABBOTT CATRIONA DICKIE
Art Dept Assistant	LINDSAY HILL
Costume Assistant	AMY SAUNDERS
Assistant Make Up Artists	JENNA WRAGE ROBBIE DRAKE
Prosthetic Supplier	DOMINICK KINNARD
Stunt Co-Ordinator	PIP WHITE
Production Assistants	DAVID GLUCKSTEIN STUART HASTIE
Production Assistant Dalies	RACHEL LINEHAN SAHAR ALAVI
DIT	JOSHUA WARREN
Crane Suppliers	NATIONWIDE PLATFORMS
Crane Driver	LENNY WOODCOCK
Stills photography	SCOTT JOHNSTON

Production Accountant BEN RIGBY
Insurance Broker JOE OSUNSANMI
ESSEX INSURANCE

Post Production

Supervising Sound Editor JAY PRICE
Sound Mix ENCORE
Re-recording Mixer MATHEW KNIGHTS
Dialogue Editor JUSSI HONKA
Foley Artist RUTH SULLIVAN
Additional FX Recordings GEORGE LINGFORD
Post Production Picture SPLICE
VFX OUTPOST
Post Production Coordinator DEVAN VIMAL
Post Production Assistant EDDIE NUTTALL
Colourist CHRIS RODGERS
Online Editor TRISTIAN LANCEY
VFX Supervisor DUNCAN MCWILLIAM
2D Supervisor MARCIN KOLENDO
Compositors ELENA ESTEVEZ SANTOS
MICHAEL AGOULAS
DAVE SADLER-COPPARD
Matte Painter STEVE MOLLOY
Title Designer DAVID CAINES

Post Production Advisors
NIKOLAJ BELZER
HENRY LLOYD BAKER
ANDREW HAUSER

The Producers would like to thank
FILMSCAPE MEDIA
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OLIVER SLINGER
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EMBARGO FILMS

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AMEN ALI
ANDREW MARK SEWELL
ANDY MUNDY-CASTLE
ANGGA NGGOK
ARIEL LIM
AUDIO GOLD
BENE GALLY
BILLY MEAD
BOBBY GALEA
BROWN BARTHOLOMEW
BRUCE MELHUIHSH
CAFÉ OTO
CARLA MATTHEWS AND NIGEL
WIHL
CHEUNG KO YUEN
CHRIS MARSH
CLAIRE ZAKIEWICZ
DARIO SWADE
ED COOPER CLARKE
EMMA GYASI
FOCUS 24
FRAME
GEZ MEDINGER
HABERDASHERY
HENRY WHITFIELD
IAN, ALY, CHRIS AND LIZ
PEACOCK
ISHAN MAINI
JACEK RUDZKI
JAMES MARCHANT
JULIETTE ATKINSON
KALEEM AFTAB
KENNETH THOMPSON MARCHESI
KEVIN OSBORNE
LENKA RAYN H
LI SHAN SHAN
LIZ AND JOHN MANZAROLI
LONDON FIELDS BREWERY
LOTTIE WIHL
LOUIS WIHL
MARK KINGSTON
MATTHEW MISHORY
MATT KALEDA
MAX MCGILL
NATALIA ZABALA
NATIONWIDE PLATFORMS
NICHOLAS SINGER
NURULHUDA MAHMUD
PATRICK FISHER
PAULA AND JOHN O'REGAN
PETE KING
ROB HARDMAN
RUTH HANAHOE
SIAN SANDHU
SIMON NARRACOTT
SIOBHAN O'LEARY
SP LOCATION RENTAL
STEVE BROWELL
SUVI MAKELA

THE ARCOLA THEATRE
THOMAS SKINNER
TIM MEWTON
WAVEVEND

BIRD
Performed by Cymande
Words and music by Patrick
Patterson/Steve Scipio
Published by Cymande Music/Conexion
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ANOTHER
BROTHER'S MOTHER
Written and performed
by Get The Blessing
from the album 'All is
Yes'
Licensed from Candid
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Courtesy of Jim Barr
Used with permission

KITE
Performed by Empirical
Words and music by
Courtney Pine Published by
Shane Forbes for the world
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ALL IN
By Fink
Written, performed and arranged by Fin
Greenall
Recorded and produced by Fin Greenall
at 39Nachbarn, Berlin
Bass by Guy Whittaker
Drums by Dave Oliver
Mastered by Max at Isonic, Brighton
Fink appears courtesy of R'coup'd
Records

UNDER MY WING
Written and performed
by Deekie
Copyright Control

SONG OF A SINNER
Written and performed by
Top Drawer
Best endeavours were taken
to find the band without
success.

NIGHTSHIFTS
Written, performed and produced by Talk
In Colour
Copyright NightCabin 2012

SHOT ON LOCATION IN
LONDON

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