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RELEASING//**

Presents

LET'S BE EVIL



**In selected UK cinemas and available on VOD from Friday 28th Oct.
2016**

Starring Kara Tointon, Isabelle Allen, Elliot James Langridge,
Helene Wilson

Directed by Martin Owen
Running Time: 82 mins

Press Contact:

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SYNOPSIS

LET'S BE EVIL is a psychological sci-fi thriller that follows Jenny, a single, early-twenties woman who lives in Los Angeles with her sick mother.

As the film begins, Jenny is heading to a new job, to act as a chaperone for a group of children in downtown Los Angeles. In return, Jenny will receive a life-changing sum of money that will help towards the growing costs of her mother's medication.

Jenny arrives at her new place of work and is immediately greeted with a level of security that is way beyond what would be expected at a regular nursery. She finds herself in an underground facility and is introduced to two other chaperones, Tiggs and Darby. The purpose of the facility is explained to them, as are their roles within it, by Arial, the voice of the system that controls the establishment. They are informed that its purpose is to contain an experiment to try and further the minds of a group of privileged children using Augmented Reality Glasses (ARG's).

Arial talks our intrepid tutors through the features of the ARG's. She informs that without them they cannot function in the underground facility, even the most basic survival tools such as sight are impossible without wearing the glasses.

Once into the main facility, the Chaperones soon realise this for themselves. The children in the facility have become not only reliant on the glasses, but also removed from the normal social interactions the chaperones have grown to expect from young children: they hardly speak, are well behaved and emotionally cold.

The isolation of one child in particular, Cassandra, stirs demons from Jenny's past. Be it echoes of her history or the strange environment she finds herself in, Jenny begins to experience bizarre events and is soon convinced that things are not all they seem. Jenny elects to leave, but is convinced by Tiggs to give it another go and focus on the money. But Jenny's motivation to stay is inspired by Cassandra and the other children; she is terrified how the place affects them. Jenny's decision to remain proves to be the greatest mistake she ever made. And the last.

As events unfold and the situation becomes increasingly tense and strange, the three chaperones find themselves isolated and disorientated, and Arial, erstwhile the font of all knowledge and their support kingpin ... suddenly has no answers.

Jenny, Tiggs and Darby embark on a journey of terror. Cassandra reveals that the children's minds have been changed and all this is a game of cat and mouse, controlled by the kids. What the chaperones discover with each terrifying step is a truth more deadly and more unpredictable than their minds can possibly comprehend.

Let's play a game... *Let's Be Evil*.

DIRECTOR'S VISION

Let's Be Evil presented me with a rare creative opportunity as a Director: to discover a new way of storytelling that was both exciting and challenging. Even with limitations on time and budget, I nonetheless never want to compromise, not for a second, so with *Lets' be Evil* we had set ourselves a massive task. Ultimately ... somehow ... we got there.

We wanted to create a film that was primarily multi-character point-of-view and to try and make that feel stylish, immersive, acceptable to audience tastes and not leave them feeling disorientated.

The concept was to fashion a film that made the viewer perceive they were putting on a pair of augmented reality glasses and travelling along with the characters on their journey; living, breathing and experiencing every beat of the movie.

We lit the film entirely with practical LED lightning, which became interactive with the action and allowed us to create some quite extraordinary effects. This, along with the cinematography, permitted us to develop a shooting environment in which the camera operator and actors could roam freely.

We wanted to draw the audience into 'our world' and take them further and further down the 'rabbit hole', alongside with our central character, Jenny; to feel trapped, claustrophobic, isolated.

We also desired to explore the relationship between technology and children. The more kids become reliant on machinery, the less involved they are in simple and basic human interaction. When does that become too much? If you push anyone too hard, eventually they'll push back. Or snap.

The central theme of the story is one that we hope audiences will talk about and theorise over when they leave the cinema.

I am incredibly happy that the identity of the film is clear and committed. I watched the final cut with my cinematographer, Chase Bowman, and we looked at each other, strangely surprised, and said: "This is exactly what we wanted to make!" As a filmmaker, I don't suppose you can ask for more than that.

We really hope audiences enjoy the cinematic experience of *Let's Be Evil*.

Martin Owen

KEY CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Elizabeth Morris | Jenny

Elizabeth was born in Gloucestershire, England, and currently resides in London.

She is a relative newcomer to the industry, making her acting debut in a supporting lead capacity in the social satire *LA Slasher* (2015). Elizabeth was part of some of the film's most memorable moments, subsequently picking up a 'Scene Stealer' award for her comedic performance.

Impressed by the range of her talent, Martin and Jonathan cast Elizabeth in *Let's Be Evil* as the movie's central character, Jenny, which marks her lead role debut.

Elliot James Langridge | Darby

Elliot James Langridge, who plays 'Darby' in *Let's Be Evil*, was born in Kingston, London, and started his career on the other side of the camera, working in the cinematography department of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*.

He broke into the acting with various TV roles in *Primevil* and *Hollyoaks*.

Now a British rising star, Elliot played the lead role in the 2015 BAFTA-nominated feature film *Northern Soul*, alongside Steve Coogan, Antonia Thomas and Lisa Stansfield.

Elliot will be seen in leading roles in several upcoming independent features, as well as *Let's Be Evil. Beautiful Devils* a modern day retelling of Othello, directed by James Marquand, where Elliot plays the infamous Iago.

He was also recently seen playing a guest lead in the new series of UK ITV's hit crime drama *Vera*.

Kara Tointon | Tiggs

Kara Tointon (born 5 August 1983), who plays 'Tiggs' in *Let's Be Evil*, is an English actress best known for playing Dawn Swann in BBC soap opera *EastEnders* and as the 2010 winner of the BBC television series *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Kara's first professional acting experience came when she played the part of Brigitta in *The Sound of Music* at the Cliffs Pavilion. Her first appearance on television was as an extra in *EastEnders* in 1994, when she played a school friend of Sonia Fowler. She played the part of student Pauline Young in 2001's first series of *Teachers* on Channel 4. She also starred in BBC's *Curriculum Bites* as a presenter in 2002.

In September 2011 it was announced that Kara would play a lead role in the new film *Last Passenger* acting opposite Dougray Scott and directed by Omid Nooshin.

Kara recently finished filming for the role of Rosalie Selfridge in ITV hit series *Mr Selfridge*.

Most recently, Kara played the part of Maria in *The Sound of Music Live*, broadcast in the UK on 20th December 2015, for which she received fantastic reviews for her performance. One viewer wrote: "This #SoundOfMusicLive is incredible. @karatointon is so brave, TV singing debut, and live. Flawless."

Kara was born to Ken and Carol in Basildon, Essex, England. Together with her actress sister, Hannah (born 1987), Kara was brought up in Leigh-on-Sea. Both sisters attended St Michael's School, Leigh, and St Hilda's School, Westcliff-one-Sea.

Isabelle Allen | Cassandra

Isabelle Allen was born in Salisbury, England, on 16th March 2002.

Isabelle showed a love for music and dance from a very early age. While performing in one of her school plays, *The Piper of Hamlyn*, Issy was 'spotted' and then suggested and chosen for the role of 'Young Cosette' in the Tom Hooper feature *Les Miserables*, with Hugh Jackman & Russell Crowe. It was her first professional role.

Issy spent the summer of 2013 performing at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in London, playing 'Brigitta' in *The Sound of Music* and was subsequently cast in the hit BBC TV series *Hetty Feather*, before playing Cassandra in *Let's Be Evil*

Isabelle attends to Moira House Girls School in Eastbourne, to which she won a scholarship.

CREW

Martin Owen | Director

Martin initially joined the industry as a performer and made a seamless switch to the other side of the camera.

Understanding the process from an actor's perspective has given Martin a useful advantage as a Director: being able to comprehend performers' needs and how to get the very best from any given individual has allowed him to create strong and lasting relationships with talent.

Martin has a clear identity as a Director, creating work with an edgy shot choice and vivid colour palette but at no point jeopardising the narrative. Martin lists his influences as Stanley Kubrick, Ridley Scott and John Carpenter.

Sci-Fi Thriller *Let's Be Evil* marks Martin's second outing as a feature film Director, his first being the 2015 social satire *LA Slasher*, with Dave Bautista and Danny Trejo.

Martin is currently working on his third film in conjunction with Producer partner Jonathan Willis, *Kung Fu Princess*, to be shot in LA through 2016.

Jonathan Willis | Producer

Jonathan Willis of Posterity Pictures began his career as an actor, appearing in the UK's longest-running soap opera, *Coronation Street*, before disappearing behind the camera and backstage, as Producer of film and theatre.

In between times, Jonathan has been a lecturer in Theatre Arts at New York University and an author, his first title selling 286,000 copies in under six months. Jonathan founded and chairs the UK's leading angel investment network, which has fund-raised and launched over 90 new enterprises, from which he became a Producer and Executive Producer of film and theatre.

Jonathan's film credits include: *Clubbed*, *Twenty8k*, *7 Lives*, *Don't Let Him In*, *It's A Lot*, *Silent Hours*, *The Lucifer Effect*, *Dartmoor Killing*, *Romans 12:20* (which won the Grand Prize at The Rhode Island Film Festival, 'Best' prizes at the LA and NYC Film Festivals and won the Soho Film Festival), and highly acclaimed sci-fi thriller *The Machine* (winner Raindance 2013 and BIFA 2013 and 3x BAFTA awards, reaching No 2 on iTunes). 2015 saw the completion of two further movies: social satire *LA Slasher* (winner NYC International Film Festival 2015) and sci-fi thriller *Let's Be Evil*, both in partnership with Writer and Director Martin Owen.

Jonathan's most recent theatre credits include: *The Pixie Led*, which played in both London and New York and the current West End of London productions of *The Railway Children* at the Kings Cross Theatre and *Guys & Dolls* at The Savoy Theatre.

Jonathan lives in Bath and London and has four children from two marriages (non-concurrent).

Jonathan is currently working on his next movie, *Kung Fu Princess*, to be filmed in LA through 2016, again as Exec and Producer and also in conjunction with Martin Owen. This will be their third feature together.

Chase Bowman | Cinematographer

Chase is a magical realism cinematographer with a focus on the dark and colorful style known as neon-noir. He cut his teeth by studying art and photography in Italy. Chase has shot over a dozen feature films on five continents and lectures internationally. His work has been screened in festivals such as SXSW, TriBeCa, and Cannes. He has also shot music videos for Common, Major Laser, and The Roots.

Technical Data

Title	Let's Be Evil
Genre	Thriller
Production Year	2016
Country of Origin	UK
Language Spoken	English
Duration	01:22:00
Domestic release Incl. Distributor name	October 28 th 2016 Vertigo Films
Admission/rating Incl. PG, 18+ etc	15
Cinematographer	Chase Bowman
Editor	Daniel Gethic
Composer	Julian Scherle
Scriptwriter	Elizabeth Morris, Martin Owen, Jonathan Willis
Director	Martin Owen
Cast	Kara Tointon, Elizabeth Morris, Isabelle Allen, Elliot James Langridge