



ARROW  FILMS

THE CURED

A FILM BY DAVID FREYNE



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In UK Cinemas Friday 11th May 2018

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SYNOPSIS

Years after Europe was ravaged by the Maze virus, transforming people into cannibalistic monsters, a cure is finally found. Senan Browne (**Sam Keeley**) is haunted by what he did while infected. As he returns to the home of his brother's widow, Abbie (**Ellen Page**), fear and suspicion threaten to plunge the world back into chaos.



DIRECTOR'S BIO

DAVID FREYNE

Following an MA in Film Studies at University College Dublin, David co-founded Tilted Pictures through which he made several award-winning short films. He initially developed the script for THE CURED at the 2012 Binger Film Lab, having won Best Story Pitch at the Edinburgh International Festival Lab. With the backing of the Irish Film Board, David shot a prequel short to the film, which went viral and attracted the attention of several international financiers. THE CURED is David's debut feature.





WRITER AND DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT DAVID FREYNE

GENESIS

As a filmmaker my passion has always been in making smart genre films, with a particularly morbid fascination with zombies. It is a genre that can, at its best, brilliantly reflect contemporary issues. Once I started thinking about what would happen if there were a cure to such a zombie infection, I couldn't stop. What does it mean to be an ex-zombie?

The idea of the cured being haunted with the memories of what they did while infected was terrifying and, above all, heartbreaking. The thought kept swirling in my mind: Would their families accept them? Can you ever truly become human again? The characters formed and then the world of the *THE CURED* built around it.

I began writing the film as the bailouts and protests spread throughout Europe. There was and still is this intense mood of anger amongst the people, which fused with my writing. It was all about people suffering and being held responsible for things beyond their control, just as the cured are. Where does the responsibility and guilt for their actions lie? And does that actually matter when you're the one haunted with the memories?

I was also fascinated with how the media and politicians stoke fear for their own ends. Whether it be fear of immigration, religion, Zika. It creates an atmosphere of anger and division that can be so much more harmful than any disease. It is an exaggeration of this fear that lays the foundation for the world of *THE CURED*.

For me the best genre films are those that are brilliant character pieces at their heart. Films like *ALIEN*, *THE ORPHANAGE*, *LET THE RIGHT ONE IN* or *CHILDREN OF MEN*. It has always been my ambition to make films like these, which manage to be both tense genre pieces while reflecting the world we live in.

Ultimately *THE CURED* is about fear. It's not just the fear of the infected or the fear of infection. It's the fear of within, of what we are capable of when scared.

STORY BACKGROUND

Years after Europe was ravaged by the Maze virus, causing a violent psychosis in the infected, a cure was found. In 75% of cases treatment was successful. But the cured remember everything they did while infected.

Three years into this great hope, the final wave of cured are ready for release.

Once released they find the dream of reintegration has failed with a two-tier society emerging. Many are shunned by their remaining families, while others hold a deep bitterness over the government restrictions placed on them.

Amongst the cured is Senan, a man haunted by what he did while infected. He is released alongside his friend, Conor.

Senan is taken in by his brother's widow, Abbie, while Conor is rejected by his remaining family, becoming disenfranchised and subversive.

Now, as the government debates the fate of the resistant 25%, fear and suspicion threatens to drag Senan's family into the terrifying chaos erupting around them.

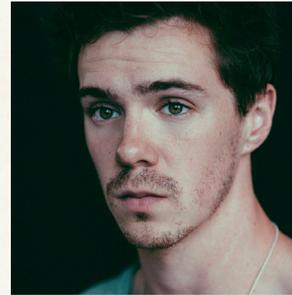








CHARACTERS



Sam Keeley

Senan is racked with guilt and struggling with the fear that the infection is screaming to get out, endangering those around him. Like most cured, he is suffering from PTSD and being plagued with nightmares. He feels he is a danger to Abbie and his nephew, Cillian, and instead gravitates towards the cured. He begins to witness

the mistreatment of the cured and becomes radicalised alongside Conor, falling in with the terrorist group, The Cured Alliance.



Ellen Page

Abbie is American but came to Ireland as a young journalist where she met Luke. Conor and Senan may have been infected, but Abbie had to survive the outbreak, while protecting her infant son, Cillian. She is a widowed immigrant, alone in a foreign country and struggling to continue as a journalist without any support network.

Abbie has created a cocoon around her son and only cautiously opens this world to include Senan. However she becomes suspicious of Conor's hold over Senan. She begins to investigate Conor and the growing unrest amongst the cured, which places her and her son in the crosshairs of the Cured Alliance.



Tom Vaughan-Lawlor

Conor is a man who has lost everything. A former barrister with political aspirations, now reduced to cleaning the streets. He is all shades of grey. Vulnerable and heartbroken, machiavellian and ambitious. Unlike Senan, Conor doesn't suffer from nightmares. He doesn't feel the same guilt. All he sees are the injustices facing him and

the cured. Conor clings to the power he holds over Senan and will do anything to maintain it. His sense of betrayal at Senan's eventual rejection of him sets many of the major plot points in motion.



Paula Malcomson

Dr. Joan Lyons is introduced as the doctor trying to perfect the cure in the face of mounting pressure from the government to euthanise the resistant. However it is revealed that she is desperately trying to cure her wife, Jo, who became infected while working alongside her. Lyons will do anything to save her, a desire that pushes

her to align with Conor and become the linchpin in the eventual breakout of the resistant 25%. She is a brilliant doctor blinded by her love.









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