

MURMUR

A SHORT FILM BY

AURORA FEARNLEY



LITTLE NORTHERN LIGHT
LUNAR LANDER FILMS
& VITA NOVA FILMS

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LITTLE NORTHERN LIGHT

www.LITTLENORTHERNLIGHT.com

Film Information

PRODUCTION COUNTRY: UK

COMPLETION DATE: MAY 2015

RUNNING TIME: 8 min

LANGUAGE: English

PICTURE: Colour

ASPECT RATIO: 2.35

SHOOTING FORMAT: ALEXA XT

EXHIBITION FORMATS: DCP – mov – DVD

SOUND: 5.1 STEREO

Short synopsis

A young woman makes a dawn escape from a commune she has grown to distrust.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: @aurorafearnley

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4499390>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/littlenorthernlight>

DIRECTORS UK ARTICLE

Murmur was made through the Challenge ALEXA competition. Directors UK partnered with ARRI to offer members the chance to win free 2 day ALEXA shooting package with the groundbreaking Master Anamorphic lenses.

<https://www.directors.uk.com/news/challenge-alexa-2015-e45e69eb-44ed-4f70-8aba-bc3d90d6440a>



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Cast



Lucy Russell // Dee

Lucy Russell (born 1972) is an English actress, possibly best known for starring as Grace Elliott in Éric Rohmer's *L'Anglaise et le duc* (English: *The Lady and the Duke*). Her first starring role was in Christopher Nolan's *Following*. Russell and Nolan met as fellow students at University College, London, where she studied Italian.

She auditioned and received the role of Angel's personal assistant in the 2007 film *Angel*. She played Michael Fassbender's sister in the film. In 2002 she was named as one of European films' "Shooting Stars".



Olivia Morgan // Clorette

Olivia is currently working on *Brave New World* tour. Other credits include *The Taming of the Shrew* (Shakespeare's Globe), Jamie Lloyd's production of *Macbeth* (West End), *The Serpent's Tooth* (Almeida & Talawa) and *King Lear* (West Yorkshire Playhouse).

Screen include *Outlander*, *Holby City* and *Doctors* (BBC) and the film *Robbery on the Champs Elysees*.



Director's Statement

The appeal of the ALEXA challenge was the opportunity to create something of exceptional quality in a short time frame. It is very rare for Directors to have this creative opportunity. Having the support of Directors UK and ARRI for the film helped a lot with the small production budget.

I intended to shoot the film in one shot on one day. Our two lead actors would need some special qualities to handle the demands of a continuous six minute shot with actions and focus marks. Lucy Russell and Olivia Morgan were extraordinary overcoming the days challenges.

However, On the day we were met by weather obstacles and wet ground, making a one shot impossible. Luckily it was something we'd planned for and if visited the location numerous times in preparation. The positive outcome was the film could make full use of the Anamorphic lens package.

I decided to film in the Surrey Hills to make the best use of shooting with Anamorphic lenses on the ALEXA. I wanted the beautiful scenery to be in direct contrast to the chilling story unfolding.

The concept was taken from a short play by Simon Cookson. I love Simon's writing, his dialogue is ambiguous and subtle and always contains double meaning and visual fables. Having wanted to work with Simon for the past 5 years, we were both delighted to finally collaborate.

Making Murrur was also a chance to work with producers Jude Goldrei and Maria Forsstrom, both of whom I met years earlier at Screen Yorkshire's Triangle. So I'm really pleased that I took up the challenge to make new work and build on old relationships.

Murrur is a film about how we perceive events differently based on our past experiences. Comfort and security to one person is a confined prison to another.

Over the summer I'll be developing my Sci-Fi feature Tipping Point in Ireland with the VFX Script to Screen scheme. In Spring 2016 I have the premiere of my Sci-fi short Pulsar in LA.

- Aurora Fearnley



Film Makers



Aurora Fearnley // Director, Editor



An award winning writer/director with ten years professional experience. A visual storyteller inspired by science, myths and psychology. She graduated with a First BA Degree from The Northern Film School. In Leeds she started company LITTLE NORTHERN LIGHT and co-founded Production Company LEFT EYE BLIND, through which she directed a number of promos and commercials and in 2009 they signed to ACADEMY FILMS. Here Aurora won the EPIC and co-directed short film "Life on the Line".

Aurora recently won £25K through The Pitch at Pinewood to make her sci-fi short film "Pulsar". The film stars David Gyasi (Interstellar) and is currently in post production with Reel Issue Films. She was also funded by the UK Film Council and Vision + Media to direct her short "Shades of Living". The film screened at film festivals internationally; including Sarasota, The Smalls and Toronto and was subsequently signed by Shorts International. As a winner of the Nokia Shorts competition, her Sci-fi short film "Daniel" premièred at Edinburgh IFF.

Franc Roddam mentored Aurora through the Women in Film and TV's 2014 scheme. She is currently developing sic-fi feature "Tipping Point" through schemes including Birds Eye View's FILMONOMICS, 104 Film's Digital Revolutionaries, Screen Yorkshire's Triangle and Elevator.

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Jude Goldrei // Co-Producer

Jude's company Lunar Lander Films has a slate of feature films in development, with writers and directors including Aurora Fearnley (winner of The Pitch 2014), Nick Payne (whose play CONSTELLATIONS staged in New York, starring Jake Gyllenhaal) and Alex Winckler (director of BFI funded short TITS and MY MAD FAT DIARY).

Jude has produced a number of music videos and short films including documentary CLOSURE (selected for Sheffield DocFest 2013), Directors UK / ALEXA Challenge winner MURMUR, and 5 part animated series ZEBRA FACE for Channel 4. Jude has worked in the film industry for 9 years in a range of roles. She worked for Lifesize Pictures, as an executive producer on behalf of the UK Film Council on more than 70 short films, including a BAFTA winner. She has worked as a film adviser for the British Council, a development producer for Universal Spirits, a producer at Into Film, a production manager across Creative England's iShorts schemes, and she has shadowed sales company Bankside Films. She also assesses projects for schemes such as BBC Writer's Room and Creative England's new talent schemes.

Maria Fosstrum // Co-Producer

Originally from Finland, Maria moved to the UK in 2004 to study Cultural and Media studies. After graduating with a BA degree in Arts in 2006, she joined Vita Nova Films and has been involved in the management of all Vita Nova Films' feature, short and documentary productions.

In addition to attending various training courses including Drama Production Management at National Film and Television School in London and Producing Training Course - Film Program Cannes during Cannes International Film Festival in 2008, she is also a graduate of the European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs (EAVE) Film Marketing Workshops and a graduate of the 2010 EAVE Producers Workshops.

2009-2010 Maria produced five short films for the UK Film Council's Digital Shorts and Digital Nation schemes, including the short film 'Happy Clapper' by Tom Marshall, which has been in official selection at Edinburgh International Film Festival, Rushes Film Festival and Curtocircuito Film Festival in Spain, and 'Invertebrate', which won 'Best Experimental Film' at The European Independent Film Festival in Paris, 2010.

VITA NOVA FILMS <http://www.vitanovafilms.com>

www.LITTLENORTHERNLIGHT.com



Simon Cookson // Writer

Simon James Cookson is a screenwriter and director based in the UK. He began working as a playwright and director and as a sound designer and composer for theatre and film. He was awarded a place as a writer for Northwest Vision + Media's Greenshoots short film scheme, and in 2012 was shortlisted as a writer for Screen Yorkshire's Triangle scheme.

In 2013 he won the Enter The Pitch competition, writing and directing his debut short *The Light*. He accompanied it to Los Angeles for select screenings, in addition to spending time under the tutelage of screenwriter Gavin Scott (co-writer of Terry Jones' "Absolutely Anything"). The film was recently selected for the Aesthetica Short Film Festival, York.



Oliver Cronk // Costume

Oliver Cronk is based in London and works as an artist and costume designer. His current interest lies in the potential of costume and performance as fine art practice. He has recently designed for theatre and dance shows at the BAC and Yard Theatre in London. His performance work is often derived from an experimental composition and interpretation of text, as well as through collaboration with artists, writers and performers. Exhibiting internationally and with various publications such as 'The Migrant Feature' and "Monsters of the Wallace' Oliver Cronk's repertoire of work and languages (Arabic, French, Italian and Spanish) are both captivating and far reaching.





Phil Wood // Director of Photography

Phil Wood is a Canadian-born Director of Photography, who works internationally and is based in the UK. Phil gained a Master of Arts Degree in Cinematography at the Northern Film School. Since his time at University Phil has continued to work internationally on both film and digital formats, he has built his reputation by creating strong cinematic images.

Phil shoots features, TV dramas and commercials. His recent credits include STAN LEE'S LUCKY MAN : (tv drama - Sky 1) OUR WORLD WAR : Interactive Episode (BBC Three) CHICKLIT (feature film - Miles Jupp & John Hurt). THE VOORMAN PROBLEM : (Oscar and Bafta nominated short film - starring Martin Freeman and Tom Hollander)

UK • 2015 • 8 mins • Colour • 2.35 aspect ratio • Stereo • In English



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PRODUCTION CREDITS

Producers

Maria Forsström, Jude Goldrei, Sophie Reynolds

Director / Editor

Aurora Fearnley

Writer

Simon James Cookson

Director of Photography

Phil Wood

Executive Producer

Milan Krsljanin & Abigail Berry

1st Assistant Director

Gerry Maguire

Production Designer

Thea Von-Mantripp

Costume Designer

Oliver Cronk

Make Up Artist

Amy Louise Ellen

Focus Puller

Guillermo Álvarez Villaescusa

2nd Assistant Camera

Michelle Arbon

Steadicam Operator

Emilio Schläppi

Sound Mixer

Tom Osborn

Colourist

Max Horton

Sound Designer

Lucy Johnstone

