



GODIVA FILMS

# BRITISH MADE

A GODIVA FILMS PRODUCTION



UK / 98 minutes / 2019

Written and Directed by SIMON RICKARDS  
Additional Screenplay Material by PAUL RICKARDS & ANNIE POWER

STARRING: JAMES KNAPP, CORDELIA LEVINSON, JOHN SLADE,  
GORDON ROUND, MATEUSZ MALECKI, JENNIFER PRESTON, JOHN BAGENAL

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## LOGLINE

After his release from prison, a member of a banned nationalist gang begins to uncover the truth behind his troubled past, leading to violent consequences.



## SYNOPSIS

When Daniel is released from prison, he attempts to put the past and his involvement with The National Squad, a far-right group, behind him and rebuild his life. But on returning home, he finds his mother is an alcoholic, living alone, and his best friend has lost his job and is scared from the gang that once looked after both of them. Far worse is the disappearance of Daniel's girlfriend, who never visited him in prison or left any trace of her whereabouts.

Fearing he will breach his parole conditions, Daniel must hold down a grueling job at a printing factory, where the majority of the workers are 'shipped-in' immigrants who symbolise the very problems Daniel once fought against. His old beliefs are further challenged when he meets Nadja, a sympathetic Polish colleague at the factory, who seems just as lost and in need of escape as he is. The two develop a romantic attachment, but are hampered by Nadja's older brother who disproves of her relationship to a non-Polish man.

As Daniel is drawn back towards the gang he once served, he learns that The National Squad have been disbanded, with their leading figure Alan gaining prominence in local politics. Alan attempts to lure Daniel back into his fold, hoping that he can manipulate his position at the factory to help him extort money and bring further power to his organisation. As Daniel rejects Alan's offers, the gang attempt to use violence to intimidate him, but we slowly learn that he is more than a match for them.

Seemingly with little hope or help, Daniel finds he has no choice but to turn back to the hatred that once filled him with anger, and he heads towards a path of self-destruction from which there is no return.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have always been passionate about cinema and film making and set up Godiva Films in 2005, then formed a film Collective in 2015. I worked with many cast and crew members on a variety of genres, making around 15 short films and 5 documentaries in 2 years. I learnt the core disciplines of film making during this time, working as a Producer on each film, as well as either Writer, Director, Assistant Director, Editor or Cinematographer. It wasn't glamorous but it taught me a great deal!

I wanted to make a feature film in the style of other British film-makers that I admired - Ken Loach, Lynne Ramsey, Mike Leigh, Shane Meadows and Danny Boyle to name just a few. These film makers all made very uniquely British films, usually depicting the 'under-class' of society, and doing so with very little funding but of the highest quality of story-telling. It therefore seemed obvious that part of the success of this type of film making, is writing a script that relies on narrative and good acting rather than intricate set designs and glamorous locations. Being a young film production company with a very limited budget, I set about writing a script that could be produced at minimal cost, with sufficient flexibility in it to allow for location changes and, most importantly, with a story that could be told with a realistic film aesthetic.

I had begun to research true crime events in Britain in 2015 and developed outline ideas for the script. The majority of crime films set and made in Britain tended to either glorify or trivialise the characters and criminal behavior which I wanted to avoid and I decided to focus on killing sprees - a much darker side of British crime that is difficult to rationalise. There had been a number of these incidents in Britain over the years, where a deranged mind decides to inflict as much death and destruction on an area in a very short space of time, with no obvious motive. I considered making a re-enactment of one of these events but instead decided to make a fictional account which would draw heavily on my research into real-life events.

The first draft script was completed in 2016, but I felt the central character and narrative of the film lacked grit and substance. This was at a time when real world events were seeing a rise in nationalism and populist politics were gaining momentum in Britain, Europe and America. The news covered stories about nationalist gangs and crimes, arrests of right-wing leaders and an



increasing amount of violence and intimidation against ‘foreigners’. There was a rise generally in right wing sentiment across the world, with social media becoming a valuable and effective platform for spreading this toxic rhetoric. Closer to home, politicians were being murdered by lone killers and right wing extremism was becoming more visible. I was well aware that prejudice and racism wasn’t a new feature of modern life – it is unfortunately a type of behavior that is as old as time and is unlikely to ever disappear, but it is a very visible part of current times and I wanted to capture this within the script.

The next version was therefore very heavily influenced by these events and the charged atmosphere that was developing within British communities. In this third draft, I built the story around a young man involved in a right-wing gang, whose ideas and feelings were shaped by the hate being preached by prominent but dangerous members of society. This would give his already disturbed mind the justification it would need to commit the violent crimes he carries out. The script continued to develop and by the fifth draft, the film weaved political propaganda, austerity, revenge and retribution into the original idea of a killing spree set in Britain. Whilst the film focusses on a masculine character, there are a number of female characters central to the narrative. I didn’t want to produce film centred around men and appealing only to men, but wanted to reflect modern society including the compelling, strong and flawed females within it.

As the script neared completion, we brought together a talented cast and crew and early in 2018, embarked on an ambitious shooting schedule. During this time, I became a father – which brought further excitement and challenges – but with the dedication of the Godiva team and a hugely supportive family, we completed the film early in 2019.

- Simon Rickards



## BIOGRAPHY - CAST

### JAMES KNAPP (DANIEL)

After training in Meisner at the Actor's Temple, James enrolled at the Identity School of Acting where he won the Clive Daily award for Best Actor. He has had roles in fringe theatre productions across London and has worked on a number of short films being nominated for the National Student Short Film Awards. In British Made, James worked closely with the Director to bring the complex and demanding character of Daniel to life, portraying the deranged and violent mindset that is core to Daniel's character as well as the tortured soul who yearns for some hope in his life. To immerse himself in the role, James wore his costume for several weeks before production to truly become the embodiment of Daniel.

### CORDELIA LEVINSON (NADJA)

Cordelia trained in Method acting at the Lee Strasbourg theatre and film institute in New York City and is known for her roles in films such as An Affable Devil, Baan Muay Thai and Bitter Suite. As Nadja in British Made and the central female character in a violent setting, she developed a detailed backstory for her character. Her versatility as an actress is evident as she combined the need to show compassion to Daniel with her desire to remain loyal to her background in a compelling portrayal. She embraced the naturalistic style of film-making promoted by the Director, who encouraged improvised moments during filming and incorporated suggestions from her to narrative changes.

### JOHN BAGENAL (ALAN)

John began acting in 2013 and has since been involved in over 40 projects, with roles in films, commercials and music videos – he appeared in the video for 50 Shades Darker with Zain Malik and Taylor Swift. British Made is John's seventh feature film, where he depicted Alan Lamb with a villainous and threatening performance, combining the characteristics of a typical British gangster with the political astuteness that right wing movements now display.



### JENNIFER PRESTON (REBECCA)

Jennifer trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and the International Film School in Prague as an actress and writer. She began her career on the stage before moving onto the screen, appearing in Sky Amazon's 'Britannia' and in SyFy channel's TV series '12 Monkeys'. In this role as Daniel's mother, she presents the flaws in Rebecca's character whilst showing her emotional vulnerability as she watches her son resurrect his troubled past.

### JOHN SLADE (MIKE)

John studied acting at the Poor School and also at Laban, where he trained in movement and dance. He has worked with a variety of prestigious theatre companies including Lazarus, Fight or Flight, NMT Automatics and State of Flux and will soon be playing a young Howard Hughes in an ITV production. In British Made, John plays Daniel's best friend Mike who seems to offer Daniel some much needed hope. Whilst this is a supporting character, John demonstrates the desperation in Mike's life with clarity and conviction, drawing both sympathy and disappointment from the audience.



## **BIOGRAPHY (CREW)**

### **SIMON RICKARDS (PRODUCER/WRITER/DIRECTOR)**

Simon studied Film and Television at the University of Surrey, and has worked for Cineworld, Arqiva Media, BBC and Sky TV. He has a passion for all kinds of cinema, particularly social realism and drama and established Godiva Films in 2005. He has written, produced and directed a number of short films and documentaries, many of which have been selected for Film Festivals around the world. He wrote British Made over a two-year period, researching the subject intensively, always trying to base the script on real-life events. As a Director, Simon tries to draw out natural performances from his cast whilst providing guidance and direction to help actors refine their delivery and he encourages improvisation through script and acting workshops.

### **NITI SIDPRA (PRODUCER & LINE MANAGER)**

Niti joined the Godiva Films Collective in 2016 and has shaped the vision and structure of the production company, working closely with Simon to make a number of successful short films in a very short time. As a qualified project manager working for high profile clients such as the Home Office and Google, Niti meticulously organises the film-making process, steering it through pre and post production, whilst meeting the high production demands that Godiva strives for within the limits of a low budget. On “British Made” Niti managed the end to end production of the film, from providing notes on early script drafts, through cast selection, location searches and edit decisions.

### **MIKHAIL NEKRASOV (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)**

Mike graduated from Christchurch University with a degree in Film Studies and has worked as a Photographer and Director of Photography on many productions. He joined the Godiva Films Collective in 2016 and worked on a variety of genres, each bringing both lighting and terrain challenges. On British Made he worked closely with the Director to produce a stylised realism, where the use of ‘found’ lighting was always favored over the artificial and his expert use of the steady-cam allowed the audience to immerse themselves in the action with long uninterrupted takes.



### RICHARD DUTNAL (COMPOSER)

Richard is a successful musician who has worked on both commercial and artistic projects. To date he has worked on several commercials, shorts and documentary news items for the BBC. On British Made, he developed the score alongside the edit process, allowing it to be shaped as the film was being compiled. A key requirement of the score was that it mirrored Daniel's inner torment and his angst at the circumstances of his life as well as being recognized as a 'British' soundtrack.

### ROGER BUTLER (EDITOR)

Roger studied Fine Art at De Montfort University and since graduating, has worked in the corporate sector whilst continuing to create short films and experimental art pieces. He has worked on a number of independent and short films as well as producing promotional material for OnTrax TV, Shorts on Tap and Collaborative Media.



## GENESIS OF BRITISH MADE

At its core, Godiva Films is a British production company looking to make films that reflect society and depict realistic scenarios. British Made was an idea that first took shape 2 years ago and was originally centred on the idea of criminal activity taking a tragic turn. Writer and Director Simon Rickards developed this initial idea into a script that explored a killing spree, having been intrigued by the number of incidents that had taken in place in Britain over the years. The idea of a single individual, normally male, being so deranged and unstable that he would harm innocent people at will for no rational reason, was a concept so alien to most people that it warranted further research and investigation. As Simon's research continued, British and international politics saw a growth in right wing sentiment and there seemed to be more reports of violence and aggression being carried out by nationalist groups and individuals – the idea of a single person using his patriotism as a reason to justify senseless killing, was woven into the script and the main character of Daniel Beorn was fixed.

Whilst it would be easy to set the film's narrative at this particular point in time, given the current political climate, both Simon and fellow Producer, Niti Sidpra, were keen to avoid direct reference to the Brexit debate or the rise in nationalism across Europe and other parts of the world. Prejudice and racial hostility is not a recent phenomenon and it is unfortunately, likely to remain within the fabric of society long into the future. The Producers were content to depict controversial issues around these subjects but, as film makers, wanted to present these in a balanced and responsible way by offering a range of views and attitudes through the characters in the film, rather than providing answers to these issues. Nevertheless, the idea that violent nationalism leads to despair and tragedy, is a clear message throughout the film.

Godiva Films has always sought to work in a collaborative way and at Draft 6, a script group was formed to test the pace and tone and access different opinions on the narrative. The script group included actors to read the dialogue which brought the script to life. The group found the concept and script compelling but felt that the audience needed to feel more hope for Daniel and a reason why he might steer his way to a different ending. Whilst the script featured strong female characters in important roles, there was further scope to develop the role of Gemma and to use this as a reason for



Daniel to take an alternative route. The readings also led to changes in some of the dialogue to maintain the flow.

Further revisions to the script took place and in the autumn of 2017, pre-production work began.

Over the years, Godiva has produced many short films working with a wide range of talent and the Producers were able to quickly and confidently form a production team for this first feature film. The casting process, led by Annie Power, started toward the end of November 2017 with auditions held just before Christmas. Whilst some of the actors were cast immediately in the roles they had auditioned for, there was some deliberation and discussion over some of the other roles before final decisions were made. Aside from selecting actors for specific characters, it was also important to ensure the chemistry between actors worked – many of the scenes depict confrontational situations and this tension needed to be evident between the characters.

Having secured all the main actors, rehearsals took place in January 2018, using a storyboard developed by Assistant Director, Top Tarasin. During rehearsals, further amendments were made to the dialogue and the actors developed their back stories. Costume direction was given and the script was finalised.

Being a small production company, securing good and accessible locations was essential to the success of the film. Visits were made to various locations including the factory, which features throughout the film. Although the location of the factory was a 2 hour drive away, Simon, Mikhail Nekrasov (Director of Photography) and Top, visited the factory before casting was finalised, to frame shots and check the layout and circulation space for the camera and sound equipment. This was an important pre-production task as it allowed the filming at the factory to be more efficient, particularly as filming was scheduled for January and February 2018, when poor light can become an issue.

As part of the pre-production process, the main crew, which also included Sound engineer, Sophie Marchant and Publicity Manager, Yiwen He, had several meetings to discuss the film schedule, camera, lighting and sound equipment, technology requirements, social media coverage, props and transport logistics. Having completed the pre-production tasks and with a film



schedule in place, filming began at the end of January 2018, in a cold printing factory in Suffolk.

British Made was a hugely ambitious film for Godiva's first feature, with a cast of over 70 people, several locations and a controversial subject all making this so much larger than many other films at this budget level. The commitment by many of the film-makers working on the production was due to the great work Godiva had done during the previous years, when over 15 short films and 5 documentaries were made. All this hard work and dedication really paid off with the results of British Made, which is expected to become a huge success in the upcoming film festival calendar.

- Niti Sidpra



## **CREDIT LIST**

### **CREW**

**Writer and Director**  
**SIMON RICKARDS**

**Additional Screenplay Material**  
**PAUL RICKARDS**  
**ANNIE POWER**

**Producer**  
**SIMON RICKARDS**  
**NITI SIDPRA**

**Casting Director**  
**ANNIE POWER**

**Director of Photography**  
**MIKHAIL NEKRASOV**

**Editor**  
**ROGER BUTLER**

**Music Composer**  
**RICHARD DUTNALL**

**Production Manager**  
**NITI SIDPRA**

**Assistant Director**  
**TOP TARASIN**

**2nd Assistant Director**  
**LAYLA ROMIC**



**Script Supervisor  
EMILY BENNETT**

**Sound Recordist  
SOPHIE MARCHANT**

**Foley & Mixing Artist  
CRIS FELLS**

**Sound Designer  
DIANA SHKLOVER**

**Boom Operator  
AISHA ANTWI**

**1st Assistant Camera  
MICHAEL WALDRON**

**2nd Assistant Camera  
LAYLA ROMIC**

**3rd Assistant Camera  
JONATHAN LANE**

**Colour Grader  
FRAN VERGARA**

**SFX Designer  
RICARDO FERRIERA**

**Storyboard Artist  
TOP TARASIN**

**Make-Up Artist  
HANNAH BROWN**

**Publicity Manager  
YIWEN HE**



**Art Department**  
**APRIL WALKER**

**Art Department**  
**VICENTE TORRES**

**Graphic Designer**  
**JIM BROWN**

**Graphics**  
**HAYLEY EVERITT**

**Armourer**  
**GORDON ROUND**

**Production Assistant**  
**ADELE CRISTEA**

**Production Assistant**  
**JESSICA NEVIN**

**Publicity Assistant**  
**AKASH BERI**

**CAST**

**Daniel**  
**JAMES KNAPP**

**Mike**  
**JOHN SLADE**

**Nadja**  
**CORDELIA LEVINSON**

**Alan**  
**JOHN BAGENAL**



**Brutus**  
**GORDON ROUND**

**Rebecca**  
**JENNIFER PRESTON**

**Sonny**  
**SUMIT RAISINGHANEY**

**Marek**  
**MATEUSZ MALECKI**

**Harry**  
**SIMON EILE**

**Neville**  
**TOM EVERATT**

**Gemma**  
**RUBY PADWICK**

**FFA Speaker**  
**JACOB WARD**

**Barry**  
**BEN HALL**

**Katie**  
**ANWEN BULL**

**Christopher**  
**T'JEAN UTER-DINH**

**Brutus' Gang - Mickey**  
**KER MILAN**

**Brutus' Gang - Lucky**  
**TERRY JAY**



**Woman on bus  
LAYLA ROMIC**

**Man on bus  
SAL JOBE**

**Mugger 1  
JORDAN COVER**

**Mugger 2  
CHRISTOPHER BURRIS**

**Mugger 3  
ASSILE YACOUB**

**Mugger 4  
KAREESAN S**

**Prison Guard  
OWEN LLEWELYN**

**Neville's Gang - Bailey  
HARRY MILES**

**Neville's Gang - Tommy  
SIMON RICKARDS**

**Mr Alowasi  
SEGAN AKINWOLEOLA**

**Mrs Alowasi  
GEMMA GOULD**

**Marek's Friend Jakub  
SAM MORGAN**

**Was filmed on location in London and Surrey, England  
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