

The Watergaw

Electronic Press Kit

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FILM DETAILS

Title of film: *The Watergaw*

Country of Production: Scotland

Date of Completion: 15th January 2024

Budget: approx. £5,000 (self-funded)

Shooting Format: Blackmagic URSA Mini, ProRes 4444, 2048x1152, 25fps

Screening Format: MP4, ProRes and Quicktime available. DCP on request

Ratio: 2:0, 1:3

Sound: 5.1 or 2.1 Stereo available

Duration: 16 minutes, 7 seconds

Genre: Folk Horror

Language(s): Scots and English – Subtitles at request

Synopsis

A man attempts to initiate the sale of his ancestral land in the Scottish Borders but in the process finds himself confronted by his own past and the mystical qualities of the landscape.

Writer/Director/Producer: Lewis Cranston

Contact: lewiscranstonemail@gmail.com, +44 7504 279371

Production Company: Foula Films

Contact: foulafilms@gmail.com

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Watergaw is my first narrative short, and a coming-together of many ideas that I have collected over the years.

The film was initially based upon a story one of my friends from the Scottish Borders told me. It was about his father, a landowner, and his long-term conflict with the tenant in the farm he owns. His father wanted to evict the tenant due to a disagreement over rent but because of a Labour party act introduced in the UK in 1990s, the current tenant and two further generations of his family had the right to permanently work and live on the land.

This stuck me an interesting conflict for a story because it was possible to see both points of view. The landowner, whose land it is, and the farmer, who had grown attached to the land and raised a family there.

Gradually, as I delved into the writing process, I uncovered new sources of inspiration in the works of Scottish literature. In particular, the Hugh MacDiarmid poem *The Watergaw* from which the film takes its name and *To Alexander Graham* by W.S Graham which inspired me to take a more emotional approach and explore the theme of family.

I had always intended to make a folk horror film and these initial sources of inspiration seamlessly blend into my vision. This vision already strongly influenced by the BBC *Ghost Stories For Christmas* Series and films such as *Whistle and I'll Come For You* and *The Signalman*. Furthermore, Modernist European filmmakers such as Bela Tarr and the great Scottish filmmaker Bill Douglas have been huge influences in all my work and this film is no different.

But the making of the film itself and diving into the beautiful uncertainty of filmmaking was the where the true inspiration came from. In my eyes, despite its farmland setting, this is a film about the conflict in filmmaking. It is about the plight of uncertain, creative and spiritual people in the face of certain, greedy and ignorant people. These were themes that felt very prevalent during a difficult but highly rewarding shoot and post-production process.

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BTS



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BTS CONTINUED



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CAST AND CREW

Colin McCredie as Iain

Strath Martin as Cammy

David R. Montgomery as Fleckie

Writer/Director: Lewis Cranston

Producer(s) for Foula Films: Lewis Cranston, Anton McPhilemy

Producer at Screen Academy Scotland: Mia Bloomfield

Director of Photography: Jonathan Gardner

Editor: Anton McPhilemy

Production/Costume Design: Su Smee

Sound Recordist: Lewis Shipley

Sound Mixer: Lewis Cranston

Score: Anton McPhilemy, Lewis Cranston

1st Assistant Director: Mia Bloomfield

1st Assistant Camera: Robyn Thomson

Gaffer: Sullivan Russell

Colourist: Beth Woodruff

Production Design Assistant: Kate McGarry

Catering: Sean Hussein, Pete Thompson

Further Cast:

Jude Cranston as The Masked Man

Todd White as The Capturer

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