

THE SIN-EATER

A WELSH GOTHIC SUPERNATURAL HORROR

Director **Kelly Holmes** and Newtown, Powys writer **Matthew White's** new short film THE SIN-EATER, set in 1850s Wales, has just completed and is heading to film festivals. The film is brought to the screen with the support of BFI NETWORK, awarding funds from The National Lottery and was filmed in North Wales in November 2022 in local locations Holywell and Llangollen.

THE SIN-EATER follows new mother Jemima (**Carly-Sophia Davies fresh off starring with Tilda Swinton in THE ETERNAL DAUGHTER**) who has just lost her baby boy Benjamin before he could be baptised. She employs local 'sin-eater' Thomas (**Bafta Cymru-winning Jack Parry-Jones**) to release her child from his original sin. Unknown to her husband (**BANG star Gareth Jewell**) and his pious mother Eliza (**3-times Bafta Cymru-winning Sharon Morgan**) who both want Jemima to move on with the help of young local vicar Samuel (**YOUNG WALLANDER guest star Lewis MacKinnon**). Thomas tricks Jemima, leading to a dark finale.

THE SIN-EATER is created by writer Matthew White, whose previous films include the SXSW Final Draft Screenwriter's Award winner, and 7-times Toronto After Dark winner PAUL DOOD'S DEADLY LUNCH BREAK, which is also now available to watch on Sky Cinema. Matthew is part of the cohort for the prestigious 2022/23 BIFA Springboard programme.

Directed by Kelly Holmes whose previous films include ATTRITION, FAMILY PORTRAIT and DOLLS, which have screened at many Bafta and Oscar qualifying festivals including Krakow International Film Festival, Leeds International Film Festival, Rhode Island Festival, London Short Film Festival and Glasgow Short Film Festival. Both ATTRITION and FAMILY PORTRAIT have been broadcast three times on national French television channel France 3. Kelly also recently shadowed the lead director on Sky's Studios new original series A TOWN CALLED MALICE.

THE SIN-EATER is produced by **David Brown** (Gallus Films). David brings a wealth of production experience, including line producing the feature film MY OLD SCHOOL starring Alan Cumming which launched at Sundance, the Peter Mullan starring BBC series SKINT and he also recently launched DOG DAYS by writer/director James Price at Glasgow Film Festival before a premiere on BBC Scotland and iPlayer. David and Kelly previously worked together on their short film FAMILY PORTRAIT and have a feature film in development together called YEAR OF THE HEART.

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THE SIN-EATER press release contd.

Matthew White says 'The SIN-EATER is about a lot of things that are important to me: the class systems, women's rights and the oppression of Wales, its people and its language. So to have Kelly, David and the amazing cast and crew making this happen is a dream come true. And it was an honour to work with Mandi Moore at Aberystwyth University to bring the Welsh language to life in the script.'

Kelly Holmes says 'THE SIN-EATER is a period film exploring universal ideas - grief, familial protection and a woman's place in 1850s Wales. It surrounds a little known part of Welsh cultural history called 'sin-eating' that was a ritual performed more for the sake of the living rather than the dead. I am thrilled to work with such a strong Welsh cast of actors'.

Director of Photography is **Alan McLaughlin** who has just completed photography on Hulu/Disney's MATRIARCH and is a previous winner of BAFTA New Talent Award for LOST SERENITY. The film is cast by **Anna Dawson**, (OUTLANDER, GOOD OMENS). The film will feature a new score by **Die Hexen** whose previous work includes YOU ARE NOT MY MOTHER available to watch on Netflix. Post-production is provided by the Scottish Bafta winning company **BLAZING GRIFFIN** whose production work includes ANNA AND THE APOCALYPSE.

Greenfield Valley Heritage Park in Holywell serves as the interior location for the family in THE SIN-EATER at their Victorian building Cym Llydan. And the exterior graveyard location scenes were shot at the beautiful 13th Century **Llantysilio Parish Church** in Llangollen.

THE SIN-EATER is currently heading to film festivals and is so far official selection at Abertoir Festival in Wales and FilmQuest in Utah, USA where it won Best Supporting Actor for Jack Parry-Jones.

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For more information contact:

David Brown

david@gallusfilms.co.uk

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