

About the Film: The Presence of Snowgood

Neill McKenzie: Writer and Producer

A Wine Merchant for the best part of 35 years, he retired a few years ago to spend more time on his passion of writing and acting. Having acted in film and involved in local theatre for a number of years, writing a screenplay was something he had always wanted to do.



When Leigh Tarrant, the Director, asked Neill to write a sequel to Leigh's last film, 'A Curious Tale', released in 2021, a classic ghost story set in the heart of the 1980's Sussex countryside, little did Neill realize what was entailed when Leigh asked if he would also produce it...'Oh and by the way...let's make it a full length feature film!'...a few (more) grey hairs later, the film is finished.

Due for release in 2025, we find our main protagonist a year on from the previous film story, in the same deadly village whose residents, alive and dead, will stop at nothing to protect what they feel should belong to them. More of a psychological supernatural thriller than a full-blown horror, the story twists and turns with many plot lines that keep you guessing to the end. There is none of the graphic violence one so often sees, using the power of suggestion and suspense which hopefully gives an overall spine-tingling experience.

The plan was to keep this story as fast moving as possible, but at the same time allowing Leigh to use the magic of cinematography to bring the whole thing to life and build on the suspense and chill factor. When it was suggested that some bad weather was wanted for some of the atmospheric outdoor scenes....the team were not disappointed with what they got.....Perhaps shooting 'Noah's Ark 2' would have been more appropriate.....Good old British weather! The film aims to appeal to those who want a good storyline, believable characters (the sort who might live next door...there's a thought!) with a visual and audio feast of camerawork and music.

Apart from the celebrity appearance of the wonderful Caroline Munro, and also the fabulous professional actress Sarah Maur Ward, all the cast are experienced amateurs, or young actors who will one day hope to make their way in stage and film, like the fabulous Holly Roberts, who has a couple of films under her belt before this one. Using local production talent and filming in fabulous local locations such as Arlington and Peacehaven in Sussex and Bewl Water in Kent, has really helped to wave the flag for the small independent film making industry, which is what both Neill and Leigh hope to achieve.

Leigh Tarrant: Director

An enjoyable film to shoot but with the usual challenges. Working with his old colleague, Tony Sims, who was head cameraman on this project, the sweeping shores of the Sussex coast, along with various woodland areas, a local churchyard and carefully chosen interiors provided wonderful settings for our story.

The scenes were shot using a complete film crew of cameramen and women, sound technician, makeup artist, continuity, along with other various crew members all helping as required. Both director and producer wanted to use local aspiring film makers from the very young through to the more experienced.

Leigh's comment: *'A cinematic style in keeping with influences from some of the cinema greats can't be ignored, film makers such as Hitchcock, Allan Poe and Coen Brothers spring to mind. The aim is to leave the viewer feeling in distress for our protagonist and in need of constant comfort and safety, to which he never seems to get. I wanted to create a bleak, disturbing atmosphere, a 'film noir' look, a ghost story with tension, pace and style. Something I hope the viewer will feel they've been on a journey with into the creepy world of a local East Sussex community in the fictitious town of Snowgood, never knowing who is who, and whom exactly to trust. Lots of twists and turns'.*

Music:

Local composer Jeff Crampton was given the task of completing the film's music score. A newly written piece for the film's main theme, something orchestral and melodic in keeping with a typical ghostly film style. Some added eerie string arrangements, disturbing chants and numerous other short passages of music were also written that could be textured into the final cut. Jeff's work has once again proved outstanding and compliments all the visuals in the style which is so vitally important for any fine feature.

The team were also incredibly lucky to have the wonderful Gordon Giltrap contribute to the music score with select guitar pieces written especially for the film.

Sound:

The sound edit was provided by award winning sound engineer Vinny Alfano and his team at 'Clever People' in New York who have really added to the quality of the film. Vinny has worked on well-known Netflix productions, including *'Emily in Paris'*, *'A Complete Unknown'* and *'Russian Doll'*.