

TITLE: Knocker

GENRE: Drama

LOG LINE:

An abattoir worker reaches breaking point as the cost of killing for a living starts to affect her home life.

SYNOPSIS:

DANNI works as a knocker in an abattoir: the one tasked with firing the bolt gun that kills the animal. It's a lonely job, with early starts and long hours. The relentless pace leaves her aching and sore as she numbs the pain with pills. At home, life grows difficult with her carefree younger brother, HENRY, who lives a completely different existence. As Danni's workload increases, Henry's behaviour grates, and cracks begin to show. When a petty argument escalates into a violent outburst, she realises how desensitised she has become. But tomorrow the killing awaits, and the production line waits for no one.

FILMMAKER STATEMENT:

Knocker is a social drama that shines a light on the invisible workers this country relies on. In some abattoirs, a knocker can process around 2,500 animals per day, roughly one every twelve seconds. All day, every day. This is the story of one of those people, trapped in a violent system, where those who feed the nation pay the price.

We are all connected to the industrialised food chain somehow and yet we are so far removed from it. Oblivious to the working conditions, unrelenting quotas and psychological breakdowns that can occur to those inside it. This is not a story about the ethics of eating meat or killing animals. It's about the human cost of an £11 billion UK industry that is hidden in plain sight. One we all benefit from, but can't face.

BIOS

JAMIE DELANEY, DIRECTOR:

Jamie is a Cannes Lion-winning Irish writer and director, represented by Ridley Scott Films and Curtis Brown literary and talent. His short films have been BAFTA long-listed, viewed millions of times, and screened at international film festivals including SXSW, Dublin International Film Festival, Encounters, Brooklyn Horror Film and Fantasia Festival. As a director, he has been recognised with the Kinsale New Director Award, Clio Best Director Award, Vimeo Staff Picks, Silver Cannes Lion, and the Gold Creative, Pool Award. His most recent scripts, Biscuits and G.I.R.L have been selected for development by Torino Film Lab and the Interfilm Berlin script lab. With his first feature film in development with Screen Ireland, written and starring Chris Walley (Young Offenders) and produced by Jamie Dornan's production company, Black Thorne.

FREDDY WHITE, WRITER:

Born in Leeds, Freddy completed an MA at the London Film School and started out editing and writing treatments for director/photographer Rankin. His first short *Ablution*, starring Augustus Prew was BAFTA long listed, since then he's made films for the likes of Louis Vuitton, Prada, and Panasonic, featuring Toby Kebbell, Robert Sheehan, and Vanessa Kirby, which were broadcast on Channel 4.

NANCY RYAN, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Nancy Ryan is a producer specialising in short film, music video and commercial content. Since 2005 Nancy has held several positions at the Ridley Scott Creative Group, including ten years as Ridley Scott's personal assistant, working on feature films such as *American Gangster*, *Prometheus*, *Body of Lies*, *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, *The Martian*, and the seminal crowd-sourced YouTube documentary *Life In A Day*. After moving into production, Nancy worked on music video and branded projects across the Groups' esteemed RSA and Black Dog Films productions. In 2019, Nancy established the short film division within RSA Films, developing and producing award-winning films from established and young directors.

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