



Presents

THE BRITISH INDEPENDENT PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR FILM
LONDON VOODOO

WITH MUSIC BY STEVEN SEVERIN FROM SIOUXSIE & THE BANSHEES



RUNNING TIME: 98 mins

CERTIFICATE: TBA

ZEN FILMS
199 Plough Way,
London,
SE16 7FN
United Kingdom

Telephone : +44 (0)20 7237 3021
Fax : +44 (0)20 7394 8578
Mobile : +44 (0)7802 805 294
Email : info@zenfilms.com

Cast Biographies

Doug Cockle (Lincoln)

"When I read the script a lot of it rang true for me - I really had to have a good look at myself".

Doug is great as Lincoln Mathers and adds this lead role to his long list of film appearances in films such as *Reign of Fire*, *The Spy Game* and *The Tailor of Panama* and *Band of Brothers*.

Sara Stewart (Sarah)

"It's a cracking role, there are not many of roles around for women that are this challenging".

Sara's first feature role was as Princess Alexandra in multi-award winning film *Mrs Brown* (two Oscar nominations, two BAFTA awards, one Golden Globe) and her next role will be as Martha Wayne – Batman's mother – in *Batman Begins* scheduled to hit screens in 2005.

Sven-Bertil Taube (Lars)

"The script blends the spiritual life with the function of the business, family and wife, and then something very strange hits them. I find that fascinating....it plays with these magical landscapes in a very bright and interesting way."

Sven-Bertil is a household name in Scandinavia with a career spanning fifty or so years. He has appeared many films in his homeland, Sweden, and of course international hits such as *The Eagle has Landed* and *Puppet on a Chain*.

Sven-Bertil was **winner of the Guldbagge award for best actor in 1995** for the film *Handerna*, and won a nomination for best actor two years later at the same awards for the film *Jerusalem* in which he co-starred with his London Voodoo colleague Michael Nyqvist.

Michael Nyqvist (Magnus)

"I was curious about what would happen, I had to keep turning the pages and try not to look at the end".

Michael won the **best actor award in the Gijon Film Festival in 2000** for his portrayal of Rolf in Lukas Moodyson's *Together* and received **Sweden's Guldbagge award in 2002 for best actor in the film [Grabben i graven bredvid](#)**.

He was also recently voted Sweden's sexiest man!

Vonda Barnes (Kelly)

"As soon as I read the script I couldn't put it down".

Previously with successful, chart-topping girl group *Madasun* Vonda sang at the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Since then she has worked as a TV presenter and a model. London Voodoo is Vonda's first acting role.

Trisha Mortimer (Fiona)

"She never really adjusted to the loss of her husband, she blocked out the world".

Trisha is popular with Horror fans the world over for her appearances in *Frightmare* and *Schizo* although she also has a long list of film, TV and stage appearances.

Reviews



“Without question, London Voodoo is the best horror film playing at RiverRun”

“Writer/director Robert Pratten makes an auspicious feature debut with this smart chiller, which wisely eschews gore and camp humor for a more low-key droll approach. As a result he injects vigor into a well-worn genre”

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

“LONDON VOODOO brings back the glory of that classic horror film feel”

“Story-driven, LONDON VOODOO doesn’t need to rely on gore or special effects”

“top notch performances to the point of boiling reality”

CINEMA NOCTURNA

“the British horror revival continues apace with this well-produced, stylish, unnerving supernatural thriller”

“..a gripping horror flick using the subtleties of growing menace rather than special effects”

“..the growing tension never flags...well worth checking out”

FANGORIA (MJ SIMPSON)

“it grabs you from the beginning taking you on a ride and doesn’t let up until the very end”

“a movie that will make you think twice before moving into a new home”

HORROR-WEB.COM

“one of the finest pieces of narrative horror in film in recent years”

“a subtle, adult horror film in a style reminiscent of Nick Roeg’s Don’t Look Now”

WILLIAM SCHEINMAN (HORROR WRITER)

“Robert Pratten offers a psychologically suspenseful metaphor for modern times”

“Pratten has such a sure-handed control of mood and tone. His cast offer nuance performances that don’t veer into outrageousness even as the movie grows more bizarre and unnerving around them”

FILM FESTIVAL TODAY (JEREMIAH KIPP)

“London Voodoo is genuinely disturbing. I loved it! It’s sure to become a cult classic”

JADE FOX, HORROR CHANNEL UK

"London Voodoo" is a very well made film and the best film I've seen so far from Heretic Films”

“It’s got an uncomfortable feel like "The Exorcist" and the freakiness of "Serpent of the Rainbow”

THE HORROR REVIEW

“The slowly-building tension grabs hold of the viewer right from the start”

”What’s better is the story, seemingly straight-forward, that anticipates expectations and turns sharply down another path”

FILM THREAT

“This is one uncompromisingly directed, brooding mystery-thriller, which generates plenty of claustrophobic and eerie chills on its way to a gripping and satisfying denouement”

”London Voodoo is a remarkable calling card for a very promising new filmmaker”

THE ZONE

Screening History

<i>Mar 2004</i>	Fearless Tales Genre Fest (www.fearlesstailes.com) WINNER: BEST DIRECTOR and BEST ACTING	San Francisco, USA
<i>Mar 2004</i>	NY Indie Film Festival WINNER: BEST HORROR FILM	Los Angeles, USA
<i>Apr 2004</i>	RiverRun International Film Festival	Winston-Salem, USA
<i>Apr 2004</i>	World Horror Con 2004	Phoenix, USA
<i>May 2004</i>	Commonwealth Film Festival	Manchester, UK
<i>Jun 2004</i>	New FilmMakers Programme	Los Angeles, USA
<i>Jun 2004</i>	Boston International Film Festival WINNER: BEST JURY AWARD for NARRATIVE FEATURE	Boston, USA
<i>Aug 2004</i>	Rhode Island International Film Festival	RI, USA
<i>Aug 2004</i>	15 th Festival of Fantastic Films WINNER: BEST FEATURE	Manchester, UK
<i>Oct 2004</i>	Two Boots Pioneer Theatre	New York, USA
<i>Oct 2004</i>	New York City Horror Film Festival WINNER: BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY	New York, USA
<i>Oct 2004</i>	Saints and Sinners Film Festival	Florida, USA
<i>Oct 2004</i>	Australian Centre for the Moving Image	Melbourne, Australia
<i>Oct 2004</i>	The Rojo Sangre Film Festival	Buenos Aires, Argentina
<i>Oct 2004</i>	Exofest	Edmonton, Canada
<i>Nov 2004</i>	SciencePlusFiction 04	Trieste, Italy
<i>Nov 2004</i>	Horror Fiesta	Warsaw, Poland

Crew Biographies

Robert Pratten (Director/Writer)

LONDON VOODOO is Robert Pratten's debut feature film.

Robert started in film making 5 years ago when he started at the London Film School in Covent Garden, London, England.

He has directed several short films and worked in various other film crew roles though primarily as director of photography.

Helen Pratten (Executive Producer)

Helen Pratten is a Partner at a "big four" chartered accountancy firm working in the private equity group.

In preparation for London Voodoo, Helen worked on Robert's short films in various crew roles from clapper loader to runner.

She has a first class honours degree in economics, a professional chartered accountancy qualification and an MBA from Manchester Business School.

Steven Severin (Composer)

Steven Severin is bass player and songwriter with legendary group **Siouxsie & The Banshees**. The Banshees were formed in 1977 and helped shape and define punk. They are also often accredited with giving birth to Goth music.

Steven is a critically-acclaimed solo artist with four albums to his name (Visions of Ecstasy, Maldoror, The Woman in the Dunes and Unisexdreamsalon).

He and his wife Arban Ornelas have formed a new group, Darling Hate, which provide additional music for London Voodoo including the song for the opening titles.

Patrick Jackson (Cinematographer)

Patrick Jackson was born in Sweden in 1979. He later graduated from Sweden's Documentary Film School and attended the Stockholm Film School before coming to England in June 2000 to complete his studies at the London Film School. It was here that Patrick met Robert.

Patrick has directed more than 10 fiction and documentary short films and has worked as Director of Photography on over 20 shorts. London Voodoo is his first feature.

He is currently writing a feature-length screenplay and shooting a documentary that intermittently takes him to Japan.

Short Synopsis

When ambitious New York analyst Lincoln Mathers (Doug Cockle) relocates his family to England, his wife (Sara Stewart) unearths London's disturbing past and becomes hostage to an ancient spirit.

When Mathers finally notices that his wife is not who she was, he's forced to accept that his family's only salvation lies in a leap a faith.

Synopsis

LINCOLN MATHERS (**Doug Cockle**) is an ambitious New York analyst trying to balance work and family life. He and his attractive wife SARAH (**Sara Stewart**) and daughter BETH (18 month baby, Grace Sprott) relocate to England and move into an old Victorian house in Greenwich, London.

Things appear to be going well until Sarah uncovers a buried tomb in the house cellar. She convinces Lincoln to keep it a secret but it soon seems as though everyone might know something about their find: people like the kind Bohemian woman FIONA (**Trisha Mortimer**) or KELLY (**Vonda Barnes**) the troubled au pair with designs on Lincoln.

At work, Lincoln is given an important project to prove himself and it forces him to neglect the changes occurring at home: food is going rotten sooner and flowers are dying, Sarah is taking less care of her appearance and becoming more sexually overt. She's also drawing and sculpting symbols that she doesn't understand.

Local voodoo followers RAY (**David Webber**) and RUTH (**Jacqueline Boatswain**) believe that the spirit of an African warrior from West Africa now inhabits Sarah's body. They make plans for an exorcism but when they approach Lincoln to get him involved, he refuses to listen.

It's not until Ray's accidental death and Sarah's worsening state of mind that Lincoln accepts Fiona's offer to help. She tells him that he must place his trust in voodoo. Still Lincoln isn't ready to believe and we learn that Fiona has her own agenda – she's preparing her own ritual to be reunited with her dead husband and she needs Sarah's involvement.

While Lincoln is out, Kelly, believing that Sarah's erratic behaviour is due to mental illness, sedates her with sleeping tablets – leaving the way clear to make an advance on Lincoln. But things don't go her way when he has to work all through the night to complete a presentation for the Swedish client represented by LARS (**Sven-Bertil Taube**) and MAGNUS (**Michael Nyqvist**). Lincoln oversleeps at the table and in the morning rushes to work tired and unwashed. But when he lies about having been up all night with Beth, he makes an unexpected bond with his client and he realises that his priorities have been wrong all along.

Feeling low but with this new realisation, Lincoln comes home to tell Sarah that he's going to change and he'll put her and Beth first. But it's all too late. Sarah has already packed to leave and reacts violently to Lincoln's plea for her to stay. Sarah says she'll stay for one night only on the basis that Fiona comes over. But when Fiona arrives all hell breaks loose. It's the final straw that pushes Lincoln to turn to the voodooists for help and take a leap of faith.

Initiated into the voodoo cult, Lincoln races back home to find the house desecrated with crude iconography and deadly traps sprung to prevent him capturing Sarah.

In a breathtaking climax, Lincoln holds a violent and frenzied Sarah captive and struggles to make an emotional connection with a wife held hostage to a warrior spirit.

He's a young man that wants the best for his family. But when a spirit possesses his wife, we are reminded that true love must be fought for and won. This supernatural thriller is told through strong characters, violent confrontations and erotic revelations.

London Voodoo tells us that true love is only possible with sacrifice.

Director's Statement

"This is an intelligent psychological horror with moments we can all relate to and others, with the grace of God, we never will."

This is not a film about Voodoo

Forget whatever you think you know about voodoo films because this one is a million miles from anything you've seen before. It's not a slasher flick or a teen horror. It's not a film that uses CGI effects or prosthetic monsters and there are no zombies - flesh-eating or otherwise. It's a gripping psychological horror made possible by outstanding acting and lots of heart-thumping suspense.

This is a high concept, mass-audience genre film that satisfies the soul: the characters are three-dimensional and believable. We share their journey as they plunge from daydream into nightmare and we care about whether they live or die. We're right there on the edge of our seats, piecing together the clues and making decisions for them.

The pace of the film increases almost exponentially –starting at a comfortably fast pace and finishing with an adrenaline-pumping full-throttle supersonic rush. But don't worry if you're faint-hearted, because along the way there are spellbinding, beautiful moments to catch your breath. When the film's 100mins are over you'll want to see it all again.

Universal themes

This is a film about a marriage breakdown caused by a husband's ambition and exacerbated by extraordinary (supernatural) events. There are moments we can all relate to and some we pray we never will: the balancing of work and family life, the anxieties of moving to a new community, the days when things just don't go right and the days when the best we can do is take a leap of faith.

London Voodoo is a great supernatural thriller in the tradition of *Don't Look Now*, *The Tenant* and *Rosemary's Baby* – it's contemporary, suspenseful, eerie and erotic. Its premise is that "true love" is only possible with sacrifice and while the plot scares us, the sub-plots warm us with explorations of the nature of love and relationships; of ambition and pride.

Attention to detail

This is possibly the first feature film to treat voodoo with respect and show it as a misunderstood religion that can offer solutions for people in their every day lives (as well as the exceptional circumstances at the film's climax!). The film plays with the audience's expectations of voodoo as a force for evil until it's time to reveal that voodoo can actually be a force for good. Desk research into voodoo, Santeria, the history of West Africa and the Amazonian-type warriors of Dahomey was conducted using the Internet and books and enhanced with first-hand trips to Brazil, Cuba, Miami and New Orleans.

Further Reading

Voodoo, Santeria and Amazons of Dahomey

- Voodoo – Search for the Spirit (Harry N. Abrams) ISBN 1584728574
- Voodoo Charms and Talismans (Robert Pelton) published by Original Publications; ISBN 0942272501
- Saneria The Religion (Migene Gonzalez-Wippler) published by Llewellyn Publications; ISBN 1567183298
- Warrior Women – The Amazons of Dahomey and the Nature of War (Robert B. Edgerton) published by Westview Press; ASIN 0813337119
- Amazons of Black Sparta (Stanley B. Alpern) published by C Hurst & Co Ltd; ISBN 1850653623

Voodoo Internet Resources

- Possibly the best www.members.aol.com/racine125/index1.html
- More voodoo from Haiti www.webster.edu/~corbetre/haiti/voodoo/voodoo.htm
- Voodoo in the UK groups.yahoo.com/group/vodou_uk/

Zen and Zen Buddhism

- An Introduction To Zen www.ks.essortment.com/intoductionzen-riej.htm
- Understanding Zen Koans www.mtmt.essortment.com/zenkoanspiritu_rlmp.htm
- About Buddhism www.geocities.com/Tokyo/5215/dharma.html

Books to read if planning to give up work

- Reality Hacking - unusual ideas and provocations for reinventing your work (Nicola Phillips) published by Capstone; ISBN 1-900961-10-5
- Synchronicity -the inner path of leadership (Joseph Jaworski) published by McGraw Hill; ISBN 1-57675-031-0
- Advanced Selling Strategies (Brian Tracy) published by Simon and Schuster; ISBN

Voodoo Interview with Director

21st Century Voodoo

Set a film in Haiti or New Orleans, and there's bound to be at least one reference to Voodoo. Make it a horror film, and you'll likely see at least one scene of half-naked people possessed, sacrificing chickens and turning into zombies. But Voodoo in London? That's a whole new bag. Demonized in film since the 1930s, Voodoo is getting a fair shake in the new supernatural thriller *London Voodoo* written and directed by Robert Pratten and produced by Zen Films.

Why Voodoo? "What attracted me to Voodoo is that there's no concept of heaven and hell. It's likely that *London Voodoo* is the first feature to give Voodoo proper respect," says Pratten who thoroughly researched the subject even travelling to Miami, New Orleans, Cuba and Brazil to learn about the religion first hand. "We're inverting people's perception of what's right and wrong...good and evil."

So, what's good and what's evil? There's at least two possessions, a Voodoo initiation, an exorcism. "Work is the real evil in the film" says Pratten. "We're working ourselves senseless. We're so caught up in deadlines and proposals and office politics that, by the time we get home, we're too exhausted to notice what's going on with our families. Our whole lives fly by."

But, what about the Voodoo stuff? No sacrifices? No demons? No blood? "The film is set in contemporary London, so we're putting our own interpretation on Voodoo & Santeria.

Even though the film gets pretty scary and supernatural, I wanted the voodoo to remain completely believable. I wanted people to think that this is the sort of thing the girl next door might be into. After the Muti killings we've had in London over the past few years, a voodoo film in London was overdue but I didn't want to follow all the clichés and denigrate a religion that's followed by 60 million or so people worldwide! I think we've got a beautiful, eerie, gripping thriller" So what happens to the hero in *London Voodoo*? "Voodoo helps our central character gain some perspective. He's a modern guy, he doesn't follow any religion - except possibly the cult of pride and greed - and then one day his situation deteriorates to the point where the Vodoussaint are the only people to whom he can turn for help."

Any last words? "Although the title says it, the film is not really *about* Voodoo, per say. It's about people making sacrifices for love".

Credits

Robert Pratten Director & Writer
Patrick Jackson Cinematographer
Ryan Chandler Sound Recordist
Matthew Jessee Editor
Fiona O'Connor Costume Designer
Michelle Watson Hair & Make-up Designer
Steven Severin Composer
Kasper Cornish Choreographer

Cast

Doug Cockle Lincoln Mathers
Sara Stewart Sarah Mathers
Grace Sprott Beth Mathers
Vonda Barnes Kelly
Trisha Mortimer Fiona
Sven-Bertil Taube Lars
Michael Nyqvist Magnus
Jacqueline Boatwain Ruth
David Webber Ray
Roy Borrett Jeff
Dickon Tolson Lee
Basil King Boom
Steve O'Halloran Roger (Lincoln's boss)
Carmen Abela Sue (Lincoln's secretary)
Kevin Stone Realtor (estate agent)
Tony Edridge American businessman
Tony Freeman McAlister
Claire Belhassine 2nd Secretary
Noel Keoghan Lincoln's colleague

Camera & Lighting Dept.

Patrick Jackson Cinematographer
Karl Hui Focus Puller
Anna Carrington Clapper Loader
Najaf Bilgrami Key Gaffer
Graham Clayton-Chance Grip & Gaffer
Ben Wisdom Camera Dept. Runner

Sound Dept.

Ryan Chandler Sound Recordist
John Burns Boom Operator

Art Department

Rebecca Pilkington Production Designer
Joanna Pratt Art Director
Aya Fujii Art Director
Daniela Faggio Art Director
Sarah Whittle Assistant Art Director
Yun-Jung Ko Assistant Art Director
Christophe Spurling Assistant Art Director
Erika Okvist Prosthetic corpses

Production

Helen Pratten Executive Producer
Robert Pratten Producer
Ben Siegle Line Producer
Ben Scriven 1st Assistant Director
Ed Siegle 2nd Assistant Director
Gavin Sorohan Production Supervisor
James Hobson Post Production Supervisor
Vanessa Bolton Production Planner
James Hobson Runner

Jimmy Odell Runner
Ed Rodrigues Runner
Laure Bregevin Script Supervisor
Jeremy Larkin Stills Photographer
Daneeta Loretta Saft Documentary Maker

Assistants

Sarah Tapscott Costume Assistant
Colette Keoghan Production Assistant
Jeremy Clarke Location Assistant
Neil James Art dept. assistance

Additional Support for Location Scenes

Helen Slaymaker Costume Assistant
Danielle Bendick Make-up Assistant
Stacey Kutzak Make-up Assistant
Anthony Tarr Gaffer
Johnny Horsfall Runner
Chris Gamm Runner

Stunts & Special Effects

Peter Brayham Stunt co-ordinator
Dani Biernat Fiona's stunt double
Tony Lucken Stunt driver
Bob Smoke Special effects

Set Construction

Kasey Coory Construction
Richard Sommerlad Construction
David Gray Painter

Voodoo Followers

Pamela Hall Canelle Hoppé
Bambi Nikki Brown
Patricia Jones Denise Mack
Joyce McKenzie Anne-Marie Olufuwa
Amy Rockson Patricia Scott-Cumming
Jackie Stirling Ulrike White
Denise Worme

Voodoo Drummers

Delroy Brown Valentine Hanson
Justin Joseph

New York Hotel Players

David Kinchlea Man in lift
Matthew Jessee Drunk colleague
Daneeta Loretta Saft Porter

Prospect Lane Players

Alan Pratten Man in street
Harry Pratten Boy 1 in Street
Charlie Pratten Boy 2 in Street
Anthony Cooper Paperboy
Steve Taylor Removals Man 1
Barry Slattery Removals Man 2
Jon Roberts Taxi Driver 1
John Hudson Taxi Driver 2

Indian Restaurant Players

Noel Keoghan Man 1
Jon Curl Man 2

Additional Blackheath Players

Adam Hagberg	Policeman
Miranda Cook	Police woman
Ron Scriven	CID officer
Ed Siegle	CID officer
Mark Brown	Ambulance Man 1
A Tooke	Ambulance Man 2

Office Players

Tom Allen	R Baxter
Mark Bolton	Vanessa Bolton
Andrew Brown	Jon Curl
Catriona Dowse	J Firth
Cecilia Good	M Greenway
Matt Harris	Laura Henderson
Clive Hillier	J Hudson
Chris Jepps	Noel Keoghan
Colette Keoghan	Nicola Kerr
Tim Kerry	Robert Manning
Steve Melhuish	Danny Olliver
Mats Olsson	Annoula Peppas
Doug Ponsford	James Stamp
T Valder	Conor Whelan
John Womersley	M Womersley

Photographic Players

Jonathan & Linda Siegle	Mr & Mrs Mathers Sr.
Arthur Ankrah	Fiona's dead husband
Alan & Sarah Pratten	Kelly's parents
Joy Brown	backpacking friend
Helen Pratten	backpacking friend

Support Services & Advisers

Stuart Lewin	Poster & logo design
Elaine Gamm	Payroll Co-ordinator
Charles Russell Solicitors	Legal Services
Heath Lambert Group	Insurance
The Clearing House	Film clearances
AAA Catering	Location catering
Emergency Enterprises	Ambulance at Blackheath
Taxi services	Metropolitan International
	CTS Cabs

Equipment

Camera & Grip	Ice Film
Lighting	Direct Lighting
Sound	The Cruet Company
Rigging	LGH Ltd
Neg Processing	Bucks Labs
Telecine	The Television Set

Living Room Art

Lucy Marks	Shaun McDowell
------------	----------------

Thanks to

Lucy Siegle	Dave Doherty
Jayne Deeley	David & Jo Kinchlea
Abby Cook	Gary Bettesworth
Kal Siddique	Lisa McKibben
Harry Rushton	Hugh Newsam
Steven Segal	Richard Verney
Paul Mackenzie	Ross Heaven
	Canary Wharf Group plc.
	Blair
	David Yeo at The Television Set
	Martin Carr at Destiny Films

Mr Kahn at The Sitar Indian Restaurant

The film units of the London boroughs of Southwark, Greenwich, Tower Hamlets and Westminster

A Special thanks to the following companies who kindly provided products and services

Bo Concept
Bridal Rogue Gallery
Britannia Tusons
BUBA
Crystal Clear Leisure
Grant Butler Coomber
Guzzini
Ideal Standard Bathrooms
Iron Bed Company
John Lewis
Linea Home
Metal Cot by DIS
Neisha Crosland
News International
Orange
Orla Kiely
Rogers & Cowan
Subaru Motors

Filmed on Fuji Colour film
Film sound mixed at CFS, London
Music mixed at Wolf Studios, London
Music soundtrack available from RE:records

Ownership of this film is protected by Copyright and applicable laws. Any unauthorised distribution, duplication, or exhibition of this film will result in criminal prosecution as well as civil liability.

The events and characters depicted in this motion picture are fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead is purely coincidental.

Filmed at 3 Mills Studios and various locations in London.

See www.londonvoodoo.com for the latest news and downloads.

© Zen Films 2004
live life: enjoy the journey

