

# STRANGE WATERS

Tonight, there's no way off...



9 OF CUPS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A FILM BY ROWENA AMOS "STRANGE WATERS"

STARRING YINKA AWONI LYDIA CASHMAN MARK JOSEPH BRYONY TEBBUTT TIM ROWE

EDITED BY RICHARD TOPPING DOP BY KEVIN EARLY MUSIC BY JC GRIMSHAW & DAVID COFFIN SOUND BY JOHN RYDER

WARDROBE BY ANGELINA GRIMSHAW MUA BY STACEY FITZGERALD WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY ROWENA AMOS DIRECTED BY ANDY MCLEOD

[www.strangewaters.co.uk](http://www.strangewaters.co.uk)

2022 / RUNNING TIME 16:45 / ENGLISH / SUPERNATURAL THRILLER / HORROR

9 OF CUPS PRODUCTIONS [WWW.STRANGEWATERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.STRANGEWATERS.CO.UK)

FILMED ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT AND ON LOCATION AT SPITBANK FORT [SPITBANK FORT | SOLENT FORTS](#)

VENTNOR BOTANIC GARDENS [VENTNOR BOTANIC GARDEN](#)

AND VENTNOR ARTS CLUB [VENTNOR ARTS CLUB](#)

STARRING

YINKA AWONI – AS JAX

LYDIA CASHMAN – AS CASTA

MARK JOSEPH – AS ELLIS

TIM ROWE – AS VINCE

BRYONY TEBBUTT – AS ANGEL

DIRECTED BY

ANDY MCLEOD

WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY

ROWENA AMOS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

KEVIN EARLY

1<sup>st</sup> ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & EDITOR

RICHARD TOPPING

MUSIC: JC GRIMSHAW

'ROLL THE OLD CHARIOT' SUNG BY: DAVID COFFIN

SOUND RECORDIST: JOHN RYDER

WARDROBE & CONTINUITY: ANGELINA GRIMSHAW

HAIR & MAKE UP: STACEY FITZGERALD

RUNNER: KATIE BRAZER

FIXER: DAVE RUSSELL

STILLS: GIANPAOLO GIANCOVICH

VISUAL EFFECTS: THANK YOU MAM

COLOUR GRADE & SOUND DESIGN: AZIMUTH POST PRODUCTION



#### STRAP LINE

TONIGHT, THERE'S NO WAY OFF...

#### LOG LINE

FOUR STRANGERS, A FORT OUT AT SEA, A PARTY WITH AN ABSENT HOST, FOUR SOLDIERS WHO JUMPED TO THEIR DEATH, WILL THE FORT CLAIM ITS NEXT VICTIMS OR CAN THEY SURVIVE THE NIGHT?

#### SHORT SYNOPSIS

FOUR STRANGERS. A REMOTE FORT OUT AT SEA. A PRIVATE PARTY WITH AN ABSENT HOST. THE TALE OF FOUR SOLDIERS WHO JUMPED TO THEIR DEATH. WAS IT THE ISOLATION...OR SOME THING ELSE? AS A STORM CLOSES IN, THEY DISCOVER THAT TONIGHT THERE'S NO WAY OFF. WILL THE FORT CLAIM IT'S NEXT VICTIM OR CAN THEY SURVIVE UNTIL MORNING?



## LONG SYNOPSIS

CASTA AND VINCE ARE HIRED TO GIG AT A PRIVATE PARTY OUT ON A REMOTE FORT OUT AT SEA. THEY ARE JOINED BY AN ILLUSIONIST CALLED JAX AND ELLIS, A TIMID VIDEOGRAPHER, ONLY TO REALISE WHEN THEY ARRIVE THAT ALL IS NOT AS EXPECTED. GREETED BY THE MYSTERIOUS ANGEL, MR GALEN'S PA, SHE TELLS THEM OF THE BUILDINGS DARK HISTORY, HOW BELOW STAIRS IS UNSAFE AND HOW FOUR SOLDIERS WENT MAD AND JUMPED OVER THE SIDE. AS A STORM CLOSES IN, THEY SOON REALISE THERE'S NO WAY ON OR OFF THE FORT TONIGHT. LED BY BOREDOM AND CURIOSITY, VINCE AND JAX EXPLORE THE DOWNSTAIRS ONLY TO GET LOST IN THE MAZE OF TUNNELS BELOW. AS EACH OF THE GROUP BEGIN TO HAVE DISTURBING VISIONS, THEY START TO QUESTION WHAT IS REAL AND WHAT IS AN ILLUSION. IS IT JUST CO-INCIDENCE THAT NONE OF THEM CAN SWIM, OR WAS IT PLANNED? WHO IS ANGEL AND IS ANYONE OR ANYTHING ELSE WITH THEM ON THE FORT? AS THEY GET LOST DEEPER IN THE TUNNELS THEY STUMBLE ON THE WELL FOR THE FORT AND UNCOVER THE DISTURBING SECRET IT HOLDS.



### ANDY McLEOD – DIRECTOR

“Strange Waters” is Andy’s film directorial debut, although he isn’t new to the industry, working as an actor and theatre maker in London for the past fifteen years. As a deviser with new diorama theatre he has helped to create contemporary productions that have premiered at Edinburgh Fringe, toured the UK and transferred off Broadway.

His recent TV acting credits include Stephen Merchant’s ‘The Outlaws’, Britbox Original ‘The Beast Must Die’ and BBC ‘Eastenders’.



### ROWENA AMOS – WRITER & PRODUCER

This marks Rowena’s debut as both writer and producer. A graduate of Portsmouth University she worked at Virgin Media before running businesses of her own.

Over the last two years she has worked with Director’s Cut Theatre, had four short plays on at Southwark Theatre and a full play ‘Channelled’ performed live online during lockdown. She lives on the Isle of Wight and helps to organise the Ventnor Fringe festival and written stand up.



### KEVIN EARLY – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Kevin graduated from Film Studies at Portsmouth University and has worked in the film industry now for over twenty years.

Primarily a lighting cameraman, he also directs, edits and produces.

He has worked on numerous projects for broadcasters such as the BBC, CNBC and commercial clients such as the FT, KMPG and Boots.



### RICHARD TOPPING – EDITOR

Richard has over twenty years industry experience working as an editor and director for broadcasters such as the BBN, CNN and National Geo.

After graduating from Portsmouth university, he began as a runner on films such as ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ and ‘28 Days Later’.

Recently he has edited programmes with Michael Roux and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and nature documentaries with Sir David Attenborough and Steve Backshall.



MARK JOSEPH

FOLLERS, THE DUKE OF MARYLEBONE



LYDIA CASHMAN

MASK OF THORN, RED, VULTURES



YINKA AWONI

I MAY DESTROY YOU, THE STRANGER



TIM ROWE



BRYONY TEBBUTT

2 MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT, KNOWN VOICES, WATER ANIMALS

## MUSIC

THE FILM FEATURES AN ORIGINAL SCORE BY RENOWNED LOCAL MUSICIAN AND SONGWRITER JC GRIMSHAW. TO GIVE THE FILM AN AUTHENTIC FEEL, THE SCORE WAS RECORDED USING ORIGINAL INSTRUMENTS, WHICH WERE PLAYED WHILE WATCHING THE FINISHED SHOTS. JC GRIMSHAW SAYS “I TRIED TO KEEP ALL THE SOUNDS REAL AND ORGANIC TO ENHANCE THE NAUTICAL THEME OF THE STORY.”

THE SONG “A DROP OF NELSON’S BLOOD” ALSO KNOWN AS “ROLL THE OLD CHARRIOT” IS PERFORMED BY U.S. BARITONE SINGER DAVID COFFIN. THE SONG ITSELF IS A HISTORIC NAVAL BALLAD FROM THE REGION OF PORTSMOUTH SO FITS IN WITH THE LOCALITY OF THE FORT. IT TELLS OF THE TALE OF HOW NELSON’S BODY WAS PRESERVED IN A BARREL OF RUM BUT WHEN THE BOAT REACHED SHORE THE RUM HAD BEEN DRUNK DRY.

PRODUCER, ROWENA AMOS SAYS “AS SOON AS I STUMBLED ON THE VIDEO OF DAVID SINGING AT A FESTIVAL, I KNEW THIS WAS IT. I PHONED OUR DIRECTOR WHO THANKFULLY ALSO LOVED IT. WE THEN REALISED THAT DAVID WAS IN FACT IN PORTSMOUTH, NEW ENGLAND! LUCKILY DAVID WAS UP FOR THE PROJECT AND HE GAVE US PERMISSION TO USE HIS RECORDING. USING THIS ORIGINAL SEA SHANTY HAS GIVEN THE FILM AN EXTRA DIMENSION, SO WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL.”



### JC GRIMSHAW – MUSICIAN

J.C. Grimshaw is an Isle of Wight based song writer and multi-instrumentalist, playing guitars, mandolins, harmonica, ukulele and Hawaiian lap guitar with a deep rooted passion.

Working with many established artists from Midge Ure to Bob Brozman in the acoustic blues world. He has played worldwide from huge stadiums to small folk clubs and art centres.



### DAVID COFFIN – MUSICIAN

David is an American folk musician, performer and educator, specialising in music from the sea shanty tradition.

Based in Gloucester, Massachusetts, he is known for his rich baritone voice and ability to play various recorders, whistles or anything “that requires a lot of hot air.”

Performing throughout New England since 1980 in concert halls, museums, festivals and bonfires – you name it!







TO DOWNLOAD BEHIND THE SCENES IMAGES, GO TO [GALLERY AT WWW.STRANGEWATERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.STRANGEWATERS.CO.UK)



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: TO THE DIRECTOR, ANDY McLEOD

### IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY EXCITING TO FILM OUT ON THE FORT. WHAT LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES DID THAT PRESENT?

The fort is an amazing location, you know we are the only narrative film to shoot there! There was a fair bit of me and the DOP going deep into the bowels of it to get the best, creepiest shots possible. It's pretty damp and dark down there but well worth it for the footage! We shot a lot with a drone around the fort, making sure we kept the drone in range whilst getting all the intricate angles we needed really kept us on our toes. There was even a moment where we had to catch the drone off the end of a boat which was a bit hairy for a while! (See this video at [PROJECT NEWS](#)

[WWW.STRANGEWATERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.STRANGEWATERS.CO.UK))

### THIS FILM IS YOUR DIRECTORIAL DEBUT, WHY THE MOVE FROM A SUCCESSFUL ACTING CAREER?

Whenever I've been on set as an actor, I've always had half an eye on what the camera is doing and how shots are being framed, even down to the structure of a recording day and how a director communicates with crew and actors alike. As a fan of film, I've always appreciated cinematography and style. When the opportunity to work on Strange Waters came along, I felt ready to throw myself at it fully and am keen and have plans in place for more projects in the near future.



### HOW DID YOU SELECT THE CAST?

We have been blessed with an awesome cast. I had worked with each of the actors on some online and theatre projects, so when the script was finalised, it felt natural that they should be the ones to play those parts. Due to lockdown restrictions, we were tight on time and access to locations, so using actors we knew and trusted really helped. For future projects, and with the luxury of time, I would be keen to cast in the more conventional way.

### WHO IS YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCE?

I love sci-fi. I love the slow, brooding style that Ridley Scott brings to those early films, so he'd be one for sure. I love Shane Meadows & Mike Leigh's storytelling and approach to character. Dome Karukoski and Stephen Merchant have a great approach. I was fortunate enough to work with Vicky McClure as an actor. Her work ethic, knowledge and approachability was incredible. I learnt a huge amount from her.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FILM?

Blade Runner (1982). I thought 2049 was a great sequel to a unique classic.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: TO THE WRITER & PRODUCER, ROWENA AMOS

### WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA FOR THE SCRIPT?

It was an amalgamation of a few ideas. I have a fascination with the supernatural and also folklore of the sea, probably as I live on an island. During lockdown I had been reading historical accounts of how the Black Death led to the persecution of Jews in Europe, how they wrongly believed they had poisoned the well water.

I was looking for a totally original setting, when we passed the fort on the ferry one day I thought - that's it. No-one's made a film on one of those! Obviously everyone thought I was a bit crazy as it's in the middle of the sea. On researching the fort, I discovered it was built on a well, so that tied in perfectly.

I think the isolation of the the fort is also the perfect metaphor for lockdown.

### WAS IT A GAMBLE PRODUCING A FILM DURING LOCKDOWN?

Yes, very much so. Luckily though it paid off. We had a window for filming where a few restrictions had been lifted so we decided to go for it. We kept the shoot tight and limited the amount of crew on set. There were lots of extra precautions to follow and of course we all had to keep testing. We were literally praying that no-one became ill as that would have closed down the shoot.

### THIS FILM SEEMS A BIT OF A TEASER TO POSSIBLY A LONGER FEATURE?

Absolutely yes! I wanted the audience to ask what happens next? I have the script for the full feature, and of course our ambition is to try and get this produced.



## CONTACT INFO

9 OF CUPS PRODUCTIONS LTD

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