

THE FALLOW FIELD

Press Kit

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Figment Productions presents

THE FALLOW FIELD

Written by

Leigh Dovey

Starring

Steve Garry
Michael Dacre
Natalie Overs
Johnny Vivash
Sarah Pemberton
Anna Ruben
Edwin Wright
Angus Kennedy

Produced by

Colin Arnold

Director of Photography

Nicholas Kindon

Editor

Colin Arnold

Directed by

Leigh Dovey

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Synopsis

Amnesiac Matt Sadler awakes alone in the middle of a wilderness with no recollection of the past seven days.

Again.

He finds his way home to discover a life rapidly falling apart: his wife is convinced he's hiding an affair, the police are suspicious of his repeated disappearances and now he is plagued by terrifying nightmares when he closes his eyes.

As disturbing slithers of memory gradually return to Matt he retraces his steps to uncover his missing actions during the blackouts.

Matt's search leads him out of the city and in to the wild hills and harvesting fields of the countryside, to a remote farm owned by loner Calham. The cold farmer is suspicious of Matt but instantly sparks a dark sense of déjà vu in his visitor.

But Calham turns on Matt, imprisoning and interrogating him, before forcing him on a terrible journey of abduction and slaughter to show the amnesiac the twisted games they used to play together.

As Matt's fogged memory slowly begins to clear and he learns the two men share a violent history, the horrors of their past come skipping out of the darkness to greet them....

Cast

(In order of appearance)

Matt Sadler.....STEVE GARRY

Sandra.....ANNA RUBEN

D.S O'ConnorANGUS KENNEDY

AnneSARAH PEMBERTON

CalhamMICAHEL DACRE

RebeccaNATALIE OVERS

HenryEDWIN WRIGHT

RobJOHNNY VIVASH

The Filmmakers

Writer/Director.....LEIGH DOVEY
Producer.....COLIN ARNOLD
Director of Photography.....NICHOLAS KINDON
Production Design.....JONATHAN O’CONNOR
Special Effects.....SUZZANE NEITA
Visual Effects.....OLIVER SIMMONDS
Editor.....COLIN ARNOLD
Sound.....OWEN HINDLEY
Music.....ADAM FORD
Stills Photographer.....LEWIS BROUGHTON

Production Story

Whilst at the Cannes Film Festival in 2006 aspiring filmmakers Leigh Dovey and Colin Arnold were drowning their sorrows on the balcony of their apartment after another heavy night of networking. Leigh that day had a meeting with his producer and discovered that his first optioned feature screenplay was no longer going in to preproduction. As the two friends chatted and drank a seed was sown to come up with a winning project that they could both work on together. But alas at the end of the festival the two men went their separate ways: Leigh threw himself back in to his feature writing whilst Colin went on to direct the feature length documentary *GuilFest: Grassroots*.

“It was eighteen months later when Leigh approached me with the script,” says Colin. “We met up at the BFI for a few drinks and then he passed me the manuscript and told me this was the one. He said he wouldn’t pitch me there and then, but that I should just go away and read it.” And Colin did. The next day the producer was travelling over to Ireland to visit family as he read the wild tale of rural horror and madness on route. As he digested the story and gazed out of the train’s window at the passing fields and farms Colin knew he had to make the film. “He rang me up and said we have to do this,” says Leigh. “When do you want to film?”

Preproduction started almost straight away as the two filmmakers set about assembling the creative team that would be required to pull off such an ambitious project. However it was after casting that things really took off. “We had over 800 people audition and the passion was awe inspiring,” recalls Colin. “People just loved the script.” The filmmakers found casting to be both exhilarating and simple, especially when it came to the lead. “As soon as I saw Steve (Gary) I knew he would play Matt Sadler,” says Leigh. “Not only did he have an unrivalled passion for the role and the project, he also acted everybody else out of the auditions.”

With a talented cast and crew in place, the hunt was on for the perfect setting for *The Fallow Field*. “We decided on Shere in Surrey,” explains Leigh. “It’s a breathtakingly scenic area but the farm and surrounding woods were truly menacing.” “It’s also a part of the world used to hosting large productions,” adds Colin. “Movies such as *Four Weddings and Funeral* and *The Holiday* starring Jude Law and Cameron Diaz were filmed there so we knew there was the local infrastructure to deal with all the demands of a feature shoot.”

In late August 2008 principal photography began on *The Fallow Field* and one of the most original but twisted British horror films to be seen in years was finally born...

Q & A with Writer, Director Leigh Dovey

Q. Where did the idea for *The Fallow Field* come from?

A. I'm a big fan of horrors and thrillers but not of dumbed down horror. I wanted to make something dark and serious that fans of the genre could really get their teeth in to and enjoy. I'd been toying around with cyclical themes of man using nature; of harvesting, and began to create some very nightmarish imagery. Aiming to capture some of the bleak tones and threat of brutal horrors and thrillers made in the 70's, I needed to make something genuinely dark but also quintessentially English. Once I decided on those themes they quickly combined together and gestated into an offbeat story soon after.

Q. Who are your biggest influences?

A. I love early John Carpenter and David Cronenberg, and notions of unstoppable dark forces and twisted body horror do indeed crop up in *The Fallow Field*. I'm also a fan of westerns: in particular Sergio Leone and Sam Peckinpah. I feel the movie has a retro style and feel associated with work of both men.

Q. How does *The Fallow Field* compare to other horror films currently being released?

A. *The Fallow Field* is a throwback to older films. It relies heavily on strong characters and story and a twisting plot. In fact it works as much as a mystery as it does a horror and a thriller. To that end I've tried to cultivate a slowly building sense of dread throughout the movie as well as sudden shocks and visceral scenes. A great cast headed by Steve Garry and Michael Dacre bring to life real, believable characters that we really care about, so when the tension cranks up and the bloodletting starts we are totally immersed in the story in a way few other modern horrors can sustain. To be frank, it's just a lot more serious and darker than the usual slasher or zombie fare that's out there. Plus of course it's genuinely terrifying.

Q. What's your background?

A. After serving in the Air Force and travelling the world I settled in to news and documentary production. Like *The Fallow Field's* producer, Colin Arnold, I worked in news and documentaries as a cameraman and editor; something that taught both of us the importance of grounding fiction within reality to make stories stronger and more involving to the audience. I then went on to write scripts, including the festival favourite *Crush*. Colin and I met in Cannes in 2003 and became firm friends and resolved to work together one day.

Cast Biographies



Steve Garry – “Matt Sadler”

Steve became involved within the British independent Film Industry in May 2007 before completing a science degree in sports rehabilitation at Bolton University (Bolton, Manchester, U.K) in January 2008. Steve’s formal drama training was undertaken at The Arden School of Theatre, Sale Moor, Manchester (1995-6) and North Cheshire Theatre School, Stockport, Greater Manchester (1996-98). Recent lead role performances include low budget independent feature films; (2007) *Scuppered* (Leeds Northern Film School, U.K.) directed and written by Benjamin Liversidge (2007) *Rough Around the Edges* (Rough Around the Edges Productions Ltd, Wakefield, Yorkshire, UK) directed and

written by Jim Dickinson. Both films are to enter the international film festival circuit early 2009 and are currently in the final post production phases. In addition Steve was cast as a principal actor in the high profile short film *Enough Rope* (First Take Productions, starring Vicky McClure (*This is England*/Shane Meadows). This short film is part of the UK Film Councils 'Digital Short Scheme' for 2008 and will be screened at Cannes in 2009. A role in Phillip Pullman’s *The Butterfly Tattoo* (Produced by Dynamic Entertainment DEH Ltd) directed by Phil Hawkins and written by Stephen Potts is also part of his list of recent credits.

Michael Dacre - “Calham”

Michael trained at Exeter University and through a range of social and educational experiences.

He began performing as a teenager and made inroads over a number of years, acquiring Equity status and taking part in student and regional theatre (Oxford University and Oxford Playhouse). Experience working in shorts and commercials was followed by a significant feature film role in *The Butterfly Tattoo* (2007). Michael discovered that through melding his performing with a confident understanding of humanity, he could explore the earthy, powerful and sometimes disturbed and horrific. He was very happy to take on the challenging role of the brutal and cunning Calham, aware that he was dealing with an intelligent and tensely written drama. He found the filming of *The Fallow Field* an intense and absorbing group experience.





Natalie Overs – “Rebecca”

Natalie Overs had a love of performing from a young age, early training was with the Unicorn Theatre Youth Company and she excelled both in her ballet and drama training with the Royal Academies. After gaining a BA Hons Degree in English and Drama, Natalie attained a diploma in Screen acting and then studied in Los Angeles under teachers such as Howard Fine. Natalie continues her training with the Actors Studio whilst pursuing her film and television career.

Johnny Vivash - “Rob”

Johnny Vivash trained at ALRA. Prior to drama school Johnny graduated from Crawford School of Art in Cork after gaining a degree in Fine Art Painting he moved to London. He continued a studio based art practice influenced by theatre and film theory. During this time he curated a number of shows in site specific locations around the east end, eventually crossing over into a collaborative based work process with such artists as Runa Islam and Nat Mellor since that departure he has remained working within the acting profession. As well as appearing in numerous short films and theatre productions, he is also artistic director of newly formed Grassy Knoll, a theatre company dedicated to producing and performing Irish plays and lesser know text’s from the UK and Europe.



Sarah Pemberton – “Anne”

Sarah grew up performing in many musicals at the Alfred Beck Theatre and followed that with a degree in Dance from Roehampton University; and still attends regular dance classes in London. Since then, she has appeared in several short films, notably Victim 2: Supervixens which won an award at Portobello. More recently Sarah toured in the lead role in A Public Kind of Privacy which ended with a three week run at The White Bear and could be heard on Resonance Fm in the comedy horror Entrance of the Gladiators. Sarah will be appearing in Taming of the Shrew in March, where she plays Lucentio and is in the short film Lost, playing an FBI Agent Sally.

Anna Ruben - "Sandra"

After training in Los Angeles under Larry Moss and Uta Hagen, Anna worked in various TV shows including *The X-files*, *Felicity* and *Seventh Heaven*. Being a Londoner, with an American passport, allowed her to take advantage of opportunities on both sides of the Atlantic.

After returning to Europe, Anna worked on M6 TV (in France) and on the feature films *Transporter II* and *Last Hour*. Anna recently completed filming the feature, *The Ghost in the Machine*, and is currently performing at the Greenwich playhouse.



Edwin Wright – "Henry"

Edwin graduated from Aberystwyth University where he studied Theatre. Whilst in Wales he developed his passion for acting by involving himself in as much as he could, including many Shakespearean roles notably Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* as well as the odd British Pantomime.

All this spurred Edwin on to undertake a full professional training at the GSA Conservatoire, where he refined and sharpened his natural skills for performing. Since graduating in 2008 he has had roles in *The Sword in the Stone* for the Cambridge Touring Theatre Company, and recently played the Genie in *Aladdin*. Edwin is looking forward to kicking off 2009

with his upcoming tour of *Romeo and Juliet* where he will be playing Romeo.

Angus Kennedy – "D.S O'Connor"

Angus trained at the Guildford School of Acting and has worked in most fields of the Acting trade. He started in the theatre touring and Rep at Farnham (*The Father*, *Towards Zero*, *Trial of Lady Chatterly*), Basingstoke (*The Cat and The Canary*), Huddersfield (*The Canterbury Tales*), and Leatherhead (*Confusions*). Edinburgh Festival in *The Iliad* and *The Family*. He has toured in Europe in productions of *Animal Farm*, *School for Scandal* and *The Mousetrap*. He reached the West End in *Number One* with Leo Mckern at the Queens Theatre and other London productions at *The Gate*, *Hen and Chickens*, *Pentameters* and The New End Theatre. Interspersed with a long Career on TV with roles in *Casualty*, *The Bill*, *Grange Hill*, *Brookside*, *Bergerac*, *North and South*, *Birds of a Feather*, *Eastenders*, *Family Affairs*, *The Gemini Factor*, *Trail of Guilt*, *Box of Delights*, *To Play the King* and more recently 3 seasons of the Teen comedy *Genie in the House* as Max Baxter. Films include: *The Cuban Breeze*, *Hero Hungry* and *The Fallow Field*. He has this year filmed the role of Bob Sheen in *Nuzzle and Scratch* for the BBC.



Filmmakers Biographies

Leigh Dovey – Writer, Director

After gaining his degree in Electronic Media, Leigh worked in television for various broadcasters such as ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5 as a camera man and editor before focusing on writing scripts for his first love - film. Several shorts later and having enjoying success on the festival circuit with “Crush” (Cannes, Clermont Ferrand) he decided it was time to concentrate on features.

Leigh’s passion for horror led him to team up with producer Colin Arnold and realise a film that would be both terrifying and quintessentially English. The result was The Fallow Field.

Echoing shades of Memento and Wolf Creek but set against the backdrop of English harvest time, The Fallow Field, cemented Leigh’s first step in to genre cinema. Leigh has written several other features as well as two novels and is currently working on his next project.

Colin Arnold – Producer, Editor

After gaining a Bsc degree in Film Production Technology, Colin further developed his camera, editing and producing skills at Reuters News Agency, London. He worked on current affairs, entertainment, and the sport desks interviewing and filming the likes of Bernie Ecclestone, Peter Jackson, and Steven Spielberg.

In 2005 Colin joined multi-award winning design agency Flaming Pear in Guildford as cameraman and editor. He is now the company’s film and video producer working with such clients as Microsoft, Vodafone, and Hitachi.

In 2006 Colin directed, edited, and co-produced with Flaming Pear feature length music documentary GuilFest: Grass Roots. Released on DVD - 160 hours of footage was edited down to a 90 minute film, giving the viewer an in-depth look into an independent popular British music festival.

Whilst attending the Cannes film festival as an accredited producer Colin met writer Leigh Dovey and kept in contact - discussing various projects over the next couple of years. In October 2007 Pre production began on the horror feature “The Fallow Field”. Colin joined the production as Producer/Editor along with writer/ director Leigh Dovey.

Selected Stills



Natalie Overs (Rebecca) and the infamous torture scene with Calham

Tensions rise between Michael Dacre (Calham) and Steve Garry (Matt Sadler)



Steve Garry (Matt Sadler) meets Edwin Wright (Henry) for the first time.

More available at www.thefallowfield.com

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