

A BRANDO LEE FILM

# THE DEMON

INSPIRED BY TRUE BANNED RITUAL









## LOGLINE

An emotionally damaged spiritual medium leads a paranormal investigative TV crew to a haunted home in Malaysia, only to discover, that the dangerous entity that dwells in the house, may have a connection to her own mysterious past.









Barnstorm Entertainment & Bliss Pictures present

## THE DEMON

 Running time
 93 min

 Genre
 Horror

 Rating
 Not Yet Rated(expecting a MPAA rating of "R")

 Year
 2022

 Language
 English

 Country of Origin
 Malaysia

 Format
 RED Raw 4K & 5K

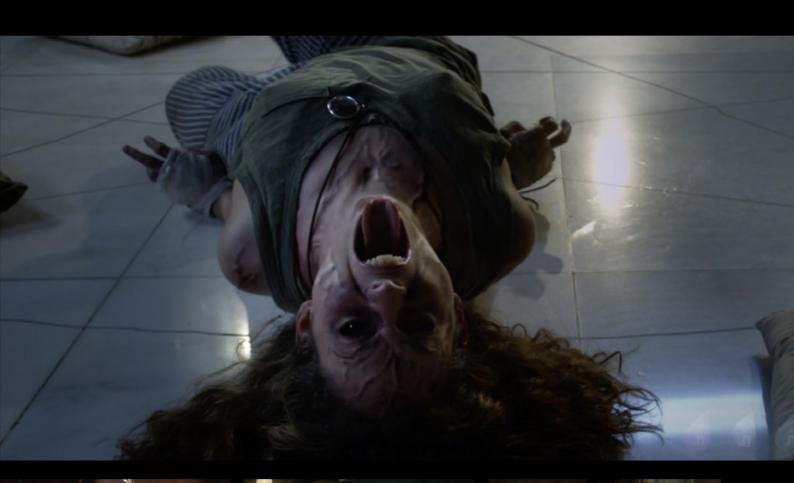
 Process
 Digital Intermediate 4K Master

 Aspect Ratio
 2.35:1

 Sound
 Dolby Digital Surround 5.1

## **SYNOPSIS**

An American team of paranormal investigators with their own TV show head for the idyllic highlands of Fraser's Hill, Malaysia, to gather evidence at a house built in the 70s. Ian and Martha, who own the home, claim to have experienced strange disturbances. As the crew delve deeper into the mystery, they encounter possessions and apparitions more terrifying than they'd ever witnessed. Darker secrets are uncovered in the history of the house with connections to an ancient forbidden Thai ritual, stillborn babies, restless female spirits and a violent supernatural force that threatens to destroy all who come into contact with it. And Jules, who had a supernatural encounter as a child, seems to be the one who can deal with it...



## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**



#### WHY I MADE THIS FILM

Growing up in typical Asian style I enjoyed a strong extended multi-generational family steeped in tradition, folklore, and in my younger years a mystical blend of reality and stories passed down thru my Malaysian ancestors

In my own family, I saw first hand how my mother witnessed hauntings thru out the years in our own house by unseen entities always marked by a strange an eerie "marble noise" in an effort to rid ourselves of these bad experiences my mother consulted with clergy of important organized religions and out of desperation also taking the advice of witch doctors. Eventually, we were told by the "experts" that an unfriendly neighbor had planted a curse spell on my family using a black magic practice of sacrificing an unborn child, the "fix" involved an equally bizarre ritual avoided by many in modern times and banned by most mainstream religious groups and ultimately discovered as still being practiced by monks from Thailand. drawing from childhood experiences still fresh in my mind, ultimately resulted in my "based on true events" supernatural thriller, Don't Look At The Demon.

#### VISION

Similar to my previous films, I was able to re-create the realism of these childhood memories by introducing a new all pervasive character which is a masterfully manipulated combination of darkness and live sound recording actually captured on set. Achieving overall darker ambience and gloomier look of color was my first consideration to apply on all sets, props and costumes except during some religious rituals which I stood firm on depicting the actual look and feel of the practice. A more realistic approach on camera movements and framing was applied within the high contrast of lightings in most indoor scenes, for outdoor scenes, same approach was applied but with more natural and realistic lighting. Also adding on to that, the camera was placed on high angle at least one shot on every relevant scene to provide the feeling of something from the "unseen" is always watching or observing them, or even following them...-



## PRODUCER'S STATEMENT



Growing up in Malaysia, one of the most unique members of South East Asia, a Muslim country with blends of other religions being practiced freely, such as Christianity, Taoism and Thai Buddhism. and I was exposed and nurtured with all in my early childhood. Thus, the experiences of the way of life on these practices have deeply rooted and influenced my following years into adulthood. I always believed in Ying & Yang in everything I have ever pursued, be it on my perception of all things or building a relationship with someone, or even as I developed my career. Hence, I believe that the world should have the Good and the Bad, and home to both Angels and the Evil beings, in essence it is all about maintaining the balance of the Universe.

Intrigued by the belief and experiences I have been through like hearing "sounds" of the Unseen, and capturing the Unseen/Spirits' images on photographs and videos (I was told to delete them all by some spiritual advisors), I started to look into exploring the existence of "them" around us.

While doing my research on these Dark Forces, I was blessed with enough time which allowed me the opportunity to meet and eventually be tutored and guided by a real Thai Monk who had performed hundreds of rituals in exorcism via a buddy of mine, who is an actual Spiritual Advisor to Don't Look At The Demon movie.

We visited this particular Thai Monk numerous times and sought his guidance on many aspects between Good and Evil. He provided us with a wonderful patchwork of a guided tour drawing on his extensive perspective on all his interesting collection of "weapons" that were needed and utilized during his many exorcisms he had conducted to vanquish Evil Possessions.

Understanding the importance of film's unspoken language choice was essential for me. In order for the film to be enjoyable as well as being well received by mass audiences worldwide, English ultimately became my selection of the main spoken language. It became clear from this point forward that the effectiveness of this film would be enhanced if we shot from a typical westerner's point-of-view. Thus weaving Asian traditional folklore with an American perspective of paranormal investigation crew stumbling into a region full of exotic folklore and myths became a solid foundation for this story

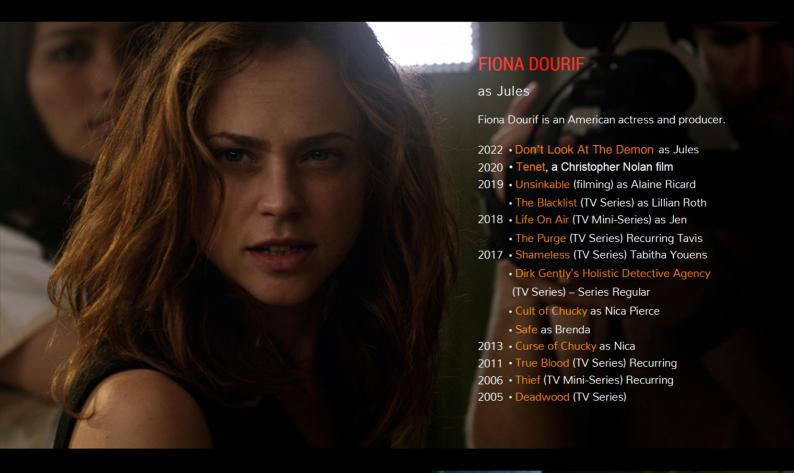
I am very thrilled and excited in being able to bring my personal vision to the big screen, with my unique first hand experience showcasing a realistic twist to a typical possession story. Don't Look At The Demon is sure to send a terrifying chill up the spine of every viewer, which will be the beginning of an edge-of-your seat thrill ride with each new installment exploring the underworld of more Dark Forces in South East Asia.







## **CAST**



#### HARRIS DICKINSON

as Ben

Harris Dickinson is an English actor raised in Leytonstone, East London

2022 • Don't Look At The Demon as Ben

- Where The Crawdads Sing as Chase AndrewsTriangle of Sadness (Palme d'Or award in Cannes) as Carl
- 2021 The King's Man (2021) as Conrad
  2019 Maleficent: Mistress of Evil as Prince Philip
   The Darkest Minds as Liam Stewart
- 2018 Trust FX TV Series directed by Danny Boyle as John Paul Getty III

Also known for his portrayal of Frankie in the 2017 film Beach Rats, for which he was nominated for Independent Spirit Award for Best Male Lead, London Film Critics Circle Award for Young British / Irish Performer of the Year, and for the Gotham Independent Film Award for Breakthrough Actor



## **CAST**



MALIN CRÉPIN

as Martha

Malin is a Swedish actress best known for her role as journalist in the Swedish film series A Case for Annika Bengtzon in 2012 from the books by the Swedish novelist Liza Marklund. Crépin has also starred in numerous films and television series. She also won the Rising Star Award for Best Newcomer of the Year at the Stockholm International Film Festival in 2008 and Nominated for the Guldbagge Award for Best Actress in the film In Your Veins.



**JORDAN BELFI** 

as Matty

Jordan Belfi is known best for his work on HBO's Entourage, in which he plays agent Adam Davies, the nemesis of Ari Gold. He also had a recurring guest star role in the CBS series Moonlight. Other guest starring roles include Hawaii Five-0, Grey's Anatomy and All American



**RANDY WAYNE** 

as Wolf

Randy Wayne is American actor raised in Moore, Oklahoma. Wayne has appeared in TV series NCIS, Sons & Daughter, True Blood, The Lying Game. He is better known for his portrayal of Luke Duke in the movie The Dukes of Hazzard: The Beginning (2007), Honey 2 (2011) and Hellraiser: Judgement (2018)



**WILLIAM MILLER** 

as lan

lan Miller is an actor and singer, well known for working in several Spanish television series. Appeared in films like Megan Leavey (2017), The Man Who Killed Don Quixote (2018) and The 100 TV series in 2018 as Paxton 'Graveyard' McCreary.



PHAN NHU THAO

as Annie

Phan Nhu Thao was born in Ca Mau, Vietnam. She started modeling part time and eventually landing roles in numerous Vietnamese films and TV series like: "Vàng Trắng," "Người Đẹp Online," "Đò dọc," "Gái ế kén chồng," "Ranh giới trắng đen," "Sự trả thù ngọt ngào," and "Những cô nàng độc thân làm mẹ.



**KONGLAR KANCHANAHOTI** 

as Thai Monk

Konglar Kanchanahoti was born in Thailand. He is a veteran actor in Thailand Film,TV and theatre industry, known for his film roles in Night Kill and Bicycles & Radios.

## **CREW**



#### PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

#### Brando Lee

Brando Lee grew up on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, had a steady diet of Hollywood flicks like Jaws, Exorcist and Star Wars. Lee had his start in the US, attended Columbia College Hollywood majoring Film & TV in Los Angeles, and paying his dues on numerous positions held for various productions in LA. He created the partnership Brando Studios/B & L Kreatif that produced a steady stream of TV projects and theatrically-released films while in Malaysia. Lee also co-founded Barnstorm Entertainment that produced Don't Look At The Demon. "A good film comes from a rock-solid script. A great film is born of a script that is sublime. Producing the former is a job well done. But bringing the latter to life is a calling achieved." – Brando Lee

#### FILMS

#### Taufu (2007)

An ex-convict returns home to help run his family's tofu business. He meets and falls in love with a prostitute, eventually leading him to violence but also to a glimmer of redemption.

#### Love Matters (2009)

Directed by renowned Singaporean hitmaker Jack Neo, this is a romantic comedy that follows three individuals as they discover love and its many challenges. Produced by Brando.

#### Aku Tak Bodoh (2010)

aka I Am Not Stupid This family comedy-drama is a Malaysian remake of Jack Neo's hit movie I Not Stupid, about the tribulations of modern parenthood and children growing up in today's world.

#### Chow Kit (2012)

An anthology of stories about Kuala Lumpur's notorious Chow Kit district, and the street kids, prostitutes and gangsters who populate it.

#### Have You Ever Loved Me? (2012)

A love story set in Cambodia, centred on three individuals and their complicated relationships. The film was shot entirely in Cambodia and was well received upon its release there.

#### Gangster Wars (2013)

A hard-hitting action film about an unassuming ambulance driver who unwittingly joins a gang and rises through the ranks to become one of the most feared gangsters in town.

#### Hero Wah (2015)

A heart-warming comedy about a schoolteacher trying to stop a school from being shut down. He has to gather together students from various places and fight the forces determined to stop him.

#### Don't Look At The Demon (2022)

An American team of paranormal investigators for a TV show heads to Asia and finds that black magic and mysticism are real. As dark secrets are uncovered, the life of each member is threatened by an unspeakable evil born of an ancient ritual.

## **CREW**



#### PRODUCER/EDITOR

Danny Saphire

Danny Saphire joins Barnstorm Entertainment with decades of Feature Film Production experience and more than 30 Films under his belt as a Film Editor, Including two installments on the wildly successful American Pie: Presents series and the Bring It On series.

He Edited four Features for Steve Rash, Acclaimed Director of the Academy Award Winning The Buddy Holly Story and Cant't Buy Me Love.

Danny Recently edited the Pilot episode for the Amazon Original Just Add Magic which was subsequently picked up as a series, shooting this summer.

Danny specializes in Film Doctoring: Fixing unwatchable and unreleasable movies by re-imagining them editorially. For most of those Features he also Wrote and Directed Additional Photography. He is also a North America Promax Gold Winner for his TV Promo Editorial work, having cut over a thousand Promo Spots and Film Trailers



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Stanley Ling

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
Matthew Kavaunaugh
Timothy Linh Bui
Sridhar Sreekakula
David S. Sobieraj
Jon Chiew

STORY BY Brando Lee Alfie Palermo

SCREENPLAY Alfie Palermo

CO-PRODUCER
Tom Nicholson

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Michael Robert Muschamp

PRODUCTION & COSTUME DESIGNER Ghia Fam

CASTING DIRECTOR Shannon Makhanian

ART DIRECTOR

Nguyen Minh Doung

ORIGINAL MUSIC Vincent Gillioz

SOUND DESIGN Jonathan Wales

SPFX MAKEUP ARTIST Lilian Tran

### **CREDITS**

CAST

JULES Fiona Dourif

MATTY

Jordan Belfi

WOLF

Randy Wayne

BEN

Harris Dickinson

MARTHA Malin Crepin

IAN

William Miller

**ANNIE** 

Phan Nhu Thao

THAI MONK

Konglar Kanchanahoti

ASIAN MAN/DEMON Lenny Ooi Teck Wooi

JULES'S MOM Shannon Makhanian

YOUNG JULES Ashlyn Boots

SARAH Jessie Franks

BARTENDER Hafidzuddin Bin Fazil

TATTOO GIRL Lee Seow Pei

BARKEEPER

Muhamad Affandy Chek Amat

CAR DRIVER Brando Lee

**DOCTOR** 

Zulkifli Bin Mohd Salleh

**CRFW** 

DIRECTOR Brando Lee

Branao Est

PRODUCERS Brando Lee Danny Saphire

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER** 

Stanley Ling

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Matthew Kavaunaugh Timothy Linh Bui Sridhar Sreekakula David S. Sobieraj

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CO-PRODUCER Tom Nicholson

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Tiara Karie Lee William Tham

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Michael Robert Muschamp

ORIGINAL MUSIC Vincent Gillioz

EDITOR Danny Saphire

PRODUCTION & COSTUME

DESIGNER Ghia Fam

CASTING DIRECTOR Shannon Makhanian

SOUND DESIGN Jonathan Wales

PRODUCTION MANAGER Azizan Binti Abdul Aziz

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Alicia Ling

SOUND RECORDIST Lawrence Chick

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR
Charese Mongiello

SPFX MAKEUP ARTIST

Lilian Tran

CAMERA OPERATOR

Sebastian Simmonds

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

1st Tom Nicholson 2nd Pete Abdullah

STUNT COORDINATOR

Kenny Wong Choon Meng

STUNT DOUBLE Agnes Wang

STUNT TEAM MEMBERS

Chen Puie Heng
Goh Sing Ping
Woon Teck Chee
Pui Fook Chien
Ng Kok Koon
Wee Wai Kiat
Choo Yoong Kg
Yong Shoa Bin
Teo Tze Chee

ART DIRECTOR

Nguyen Minh Doung

SET DESIGNER Tran Viet Duy

PROPS MASTER Tran Minh Hau

**GAFFER** 

Nor Farif Bin Atan

KEY GRIP

Rozelem Bin Othman

EXECUTIVE VFX PRODUCER

Jignesh Mehta

VFX PRODUCER Nidhi Seth

VISUAL FX White Lion FX

COLORIST Andrew Balis

ORCHESTRATION

Bratislava Symphony Orchestra

CONDUCTOR

David Hernando Rico

MAIN ADR SUPERVISOR

Ryan Briley