A narrow, dimly lit alleyway with brick walls and a red color cast. The alleyway is flanked by brick buildings with windows and pipes. The ground is paved with a double yellow line. The overall atmosphere is dark and mysterious.

NOCTURNAL

He lost his mind. Now it's
found him.

Maladjusted Films

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Maladjusted Films is seeking £1.5 MILLION to complete the production of the film *Nocturnal*.
- There exists a potential for a tremendous ROI within a two year period, due to foreign sales, domestic theatrical revenues, and DVD sales/VOD.
- LOI from famous actress *Pollyanna McIntosh* to play the lead role Polly
- Supporting role commitment from *Bill Fellows* (*Lady Macbeth, Downton Abbey, Broadchurch*).
- Project will be shot in the UK, which allows for EIS tax incentive and HMRC tax credit.
- *Nocturnal* brings together the team that brought the multi award winning short *The Herd*, Writer and principal leading actors *Dylan Barnes* and *Pollyanna McIntosh*.
- Watch *The Herd* Here.
<https://vimeo.com/150941714>

PROJECT SPEC

Title: Nocturnal

Genre: Psychological Horror

Writer: Ed Pope

Producers: Ed Pope, Dylan Barnes

Principal Cast: Pollyanna McIntosh
Dylan Barnes
Bill Fellows

Principal Photography: Anticipated 2018

Budget Estimate: £1.5M

Sales Agent: Star Content, David Pounds

Legal: Simkins: Jonathan Blair, Lisa Logan

Bank: Coutts & Co

Accountants: White and Company: Dan Gibson

Collection Account: Freeway CAM B.V.

INTRODUCTION

Nocturnal is a character-driven psychological horror.

The film will be a vicarious experience through a unique man at odds with the world, yet surviving in his own way, until fear and psychological decline begin to consume him.

Combining the elements of sleep deprivation from *A Nightmare on Elm Street* with the aesthetic of *Nightcrawler*, *Taxi Driver* and *Fight Club*, the film will be as visually immersive as it is compelling.

Nocturnal will have a wide audience appeal. The co-lead character, Simon, has a singular and interesting characteristic; yet the everyday antagonisms of work, relationships and dealing with people he can't stand make him easy to relate to and empathise with.

Furthermore, Simon becomes pathologically deprived of sleep. Sleep is universal – regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or culture, we all know what it is to be chronically tired. Thus, any audience is well-equipped to experience the horrors that Simon is subjected to.

Shooting will take place in Bristol to capture the sense of the nocturnal cityscape; with historic industrial buildings, cobbled streets and lights reflecting on the dark waters of the harbour side.

A talented and experienced cast is attached, ensuring that the engaging story and artful directorial vision is perfectly realised.

BACKGROUND

Nocturnal examines the banal routine of modern life through the eyes of a character compelled to reject it, but equally forced to engage with it – yet he yearns to live out his true nature. To some extent, he is all of us.

Conceived towards the end of a three-year period when the writer's baby daughter would not sleep through the night, the effects of sleep deprivation were experienced, not imagined. With hours spent awake at night, yet still having to function in the normal, waking world, one starts to feel like an imposter.

With the worst symptoms of chronic tiredness being psychological, it was not surprising that this horror writer contemplated Jung's "shadow aspect" or the more sinister inhabitants of Freud's "unconscious mind" manifest in reality.

The film juxtaposes the hive of activity in a modern city with the same spaces in the still of night. As well as providing a compelling visual quality and an insight into the drives of the protagonist, it is analogous to techniques that aim to create calm in troubled minds, such as psychoanalysis and meditation.

Ultimately the film is about what happens when we confront our demons. Can they ever be overcome, or do we have to integrate them and learn to live alongside them? How does this affect those around us?

No matter who we are, we all need to live and love. And sleep.

SYNOPSIS

Simon can't sleep.

Simon is not an insomniac.

Simon is nocturnal.

Repelled by the hectic claustrophobia of modern life, Simon finds solace in the emptiness of the cityscape after dark. Only then, his compulsion for darkness and solitude sated, can he hope for a precious moment of sleep.

Forced to endure the banality of a modern office by day, Simon is permanently exhausted. His boss is on his back. All of his colleagues resent him, except one. Polly.

Simon has long fancied Polly. To his surprise, Polly reciprocates. She too has disdain for the norm, and Simon is far from normal.

Then a Dark Figure begins to stalk him.

Subtle at first, the Dark Figure invades Simon's nocturnal freedom. When this entity becomes threatening, Simon is prevented from going out at night, and therefore, from sleeping.

Total sleep deprivation shatters Simon's already tenuous sanity. Alcohol and drugs fail to elicit sleep. His job and relationship are threatened as he loses his grasp on reality.

As Simon's psychological state plummets, the Figure intensifies. When Simon is arrested for an attempted murder he didn't commit, yet the police have CCTV footage of him attacking the victim, Simon realises that the Figure has the power to infiltrate his life to unimaginable levels.

Thus, unable to tell the psychological from the supernatural, Simon is forced out into the night to face his demons.

Unsure if his nemesis is lurking in the shadows or inside his head, Simon is compelled to face his fear. But what happens when it faces him right back?

The projected budget of £1.5M is due to the fact that the film has few locations, a limited amount of roles, and small visual effects. The majority of the budget will be spent on talent, because this is a psychological horror and requires spot – on acting performances.

Much like thrillers, horrors are not primarily star driven, although we have attracted Pollyanna McIntosh who is a famous horror idol, makes this project worthy of a high return. Nocturnal has been written specifically to support a low budget, which could create tremendous upside for fans of Pollyanna McIntosh.

POLLYANNA MCINTOSH AS POLLY



Pollyanna shot to fame and notoriety as the lead role in Lucky McKee's 2011 tour de force *The Woman*. In addition to the well-publicised controversy at the Sundance Film Festival, both the film and Pollyanna's performance won multiple awards around the world. She is currently starring in AMC'S *The Walking Dead* as "Jadis"

Pollyanna's first professional acting role was in 1998 in Irvine Welsh's *The Acid House*; a writer whose work she would again portray opposite James McAvoy and Jamie Bell in *Filth* (2013). BAFTA-nominated as "Outstanding British Debut" and winner of "Best Independent" at the Santa Barbara Film Festival, Pollyanna's performance in the British thriller *Exam* (2009) was noted as "smart, sassy and sexy in equal parts....the emotional centre of the film" by Empire Magazine.

In 2010 Pollyanna would be directed by the legendary John Landis in *Burke and Hare* alongside Isla Fisher, Simon Pegg and Tim Curry. 2013 saw Pollyanna taking the female lead in both the BBC political comedy *Bob Servant Independent*, starring Brian Cox, and also in the feature film *Love Eternal*.

Pollyanna once again took the lead role in 2014's gripping feature *White Settlers*. In 2015 she starred in the acclaimed horror anthology *Tales of Halloween* and starred in the Sundance TV series *Hap and Leonard* to rave reviews.

DYLAN BARNES AS SIMON



Dylan is a British actor who has played lead roles in multiple award-winning films. Known for his versatility, Dylan is equally adept at playing malevolent villains or inspiring protagonists.

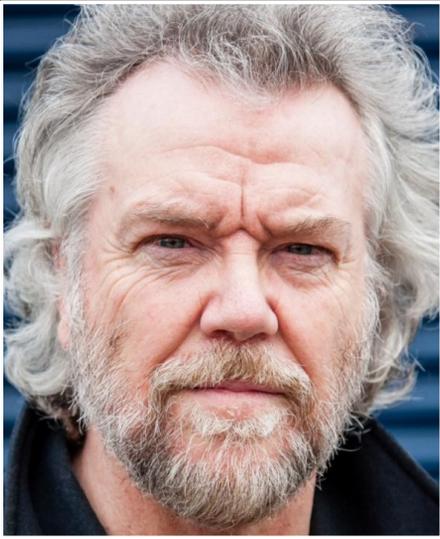
Dylan's passion and talent for acting developed from an early age. First securing roles in TV adaptation of Catherine Cookson's *The Black Velvet Gown* (1991), he would quickly progress to acting alongside Daniel Craig and Christopher Eccleston in TV drama *Our Friends In The North* (1996).

In 2006 Dylan took the starring role in *True To Form* under award-winning director Mark J Blackman. Shortly after, he played Officer Reynolds in the innovative BBC drama *The Cut*.

2014 saw Dylan star in the science fiction feature film *Scintilla*, which was available globally on Netflix; and play a significant role in the provocative short *The Herd*, which played at prestigious film festivals such as Cannes and Sitges, and won many awards around the world.

Recently Dylan has played lead roles in projects including *I Do Harm*, *Madman In A Lifeboat*, *Lilith*, *Objects To See Further*, *Broken* and has just completed a film for the BFI.

BILL FELLOWS AS DI ROBSHAW



Bill is a highly experienced actor of both stage and screen with over one hundred credits to his name. These include feature films, alongside the industry's best, and also prime-time TV.

On the small-screen Bill was cast in the hugely popular drama *Broadchurch*, the multi award-winning *Downton Abbey*, as well as starring in Alan Bleasdale's *Monocle Mutineer* with Paul McGann.

His film credits include *The Tournament* with Robert Carlyle, *In Our Name* with Joanne Froggatt, *United*, the story of the Munich air disaster, with Jack O'Connell and David Tennant, *Harrigan* with Stephen Tompkinson, *Extremis* with David O'Hara and *Lady Macbeth* with Fiona Pugh. Bill has recently finished filming *Romans* with Orlando Bloom, he has also completed *Final Score* with Pierce Bronsnan and David Bautisa.

ED POPE SCREENPLAY



Ed is the writer of the controversial horror short *The Herd*. The film played at prestigious festivals, including Cannes and Sitges (in competition), and has won multiple awards around the world.

Prior to concentrating solely on his love of scriptwriting, Ed has written numerous articles and reviews for magazines and websites; and contributed short stories to published anthologies. In 2014 he won the "Best in Blood" award for horror writing from the Horror Addicts website and podcast.

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