



OFFICIAL SELECTION
UN CERTAIN REGARD
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

SNOW IN PARADISE

A FILM BY ANDREW HULME



SYNOPSIS



Dave is a petty criminal who thrives on drugs and violence in London's East End. When his actions kill his best friend Tariq he's propelled into unknown feelings of shame and remorse. He discovers Islam and begins to find peace until his old life of crime comes back to test his new belief.

Snow In Paradise is a hard hitting feature based on the true story of Martin Askew, who grew up in a crime riddled east end in a culture of violence.

It is the debut feature of editor-turned-director, Andrew Hulme, known for *Control*, *The Imposter*, *Red Riding 1974*, *Lucky Number Slevin* and *Gangster No. 1*.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



When I met writer Martin Askew I found someone with a story so incredible I was compelled to try and tell it in cinematic form. Here was someone born into East End crime, whose uncle was 'The Guvnor' Lennie MacLean, yet had converted to Islam. Here was someone with a dark past who had managed to control his anger and aggression through religion, someone who had understood he needed to correct himself if he were to escape and survive.

Snow In Paradise is only loosely based on Martin's experiences. Real names have been changed, real events dramatised because ultimately this is a drama and not a documentary.

It's a journey through violence and guilt towards religion and possible redemption.

It was my intention to make a film that works on many levels: a film that straddles both the arthouse and mainstream markets, one that works with narrative but also has poetry in it. I didn't want to make a British gangster film, I wanted a more ambiguous film, one that didn't spell everything out to the audience but left them to think about what they'd just seen.

The film begins much like any gritty inner city story: here are two roguish but likeable characters trapped in a changing world that they are not part of. As the story unfolds and Dave's stupidity

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



and arrogance gets his best friend killed then the story takes on a more dream-like but nightmare-ish tone. As Dave's situation within the crime world becomes more fraught and dangerous so he comes to question the meaning of his life and discover the world around him is full of people he can't trust. In turning towards Islam he finds a warmth and acceptance that is not available to him elsewhere.

When Martin and I started writing the film began as pure character, but we realised in order to tell this extraordinary story we had to grab the audience's attention. Consequently *Snow In Paradise* became a character piece hidden within the structure of a thriller. The story though quickly

revealed itself to contain universal themes that took it beyond just entertainment. Fundamentally, this is the story of the man who reneges on the Faustian pact, and of the misunderstood youth who escapes his background to re-invent himself. What I think makes it unique is the refuge to which both Martin and our main character escape.

When I was growing up, stories of conversions were commonplace. But they were Christian stories. What this journey represents is a change within the heart of Europe. Islam is the outsider religion, castigated and reviled by many but simultaneously appealing to the marginalised and voiceless in our society. Whilst Dave



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



(and Martin's journey) may be totally unique it illuminates Europe's dilemma regarding Islam.

The journey of making *Snow In Paradise* has been very difficult, mostly due to a lack of interest from the British funding bodies. We were lucky that through Cinemart we found sympathetic partners in France and Germany who believed in the story and in me as a director. We have had to make this film with limited money and resources, we were forced into the sidelines and so we had to be resourceful. Consequently it's a film that is not like everyone else's.

I didn't want to cast this film with the same old familiar faces, I wanted to see something I hadn't

seen before. As a result of this instinct we found Frederick Schmidt on a Hoxton street corner in a bad mood smoking a cigarette. He was our perfect Dave, not a privileged young kid from West London but someone who had experienced life and had a well of emotions to dig into.

As a film editor I have learnt how to make films work and how to tell stories. I have had the opportunity to watch directors and learn from them and to sculpt performances from great actors. I'm grateful for that experience and hope that I've managed to use it in the telling of *Snow in Paradise*, a true story of our times.



ANDREW HULME



Andrew is one of the UK's top film editors having worked on films such as *Control*, *Lucky Number Slevin*, *Gangster No1*, *The Imposter* and *Appropriate Adult* as well as receiving a personal BAFTA nomination for editing for *Red Riding 1974*. He also writes and produces music, sound designs and has directed 2nd Unit.

Snow in Paradise is his debut feature film.

WRITER/DIRECTOR

SNOW IN PARADISE

Ipsos Facto 2014
Feature. Co-written with Martin Askew.

FILM EDITOR

1990 – present (selected credits)

THE IMPOSTER

(dir: Bart Layton)
Raw TV/Passion Pics (2011)
Documentary feature, premiered at Sundance 2011.
Awards: 10 wins/15 nominations

APPROPRIATE ADULT

(dir: Julian Jarrold)
2 part ITV drama, 2011
Starring Emily Watson & Dominic West.
Awards: 12 wins/9 nominations

THE AMERICAN

(dir: Anton Corbijn)
Focus Features, 2010.
Starring George Clooney.
No.1 US box Office, September 2010.

RED RIDING 1974

(dir: Julian Jarrold)
Revolution/Channel 4, 2009
Starring Andrew Garfield.
BAFTA nomination for Best Editing.

CONTROL

(dir: Anton Corbijn)
NorthSee Films, 2007
Starring Sam Riley/Samantha Morton.
Awards: 25 wins/20 nominations

PLAY YOUR OWN THING

(dir: Julian Benedikt)
Benedikt Pictures, 2006
Documentary about jazz in Europe.

LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

(dir: Paul McGuigan)
Ascendant Pictures, 2005
Starring Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman,
Ben Kingsley.

HANGAR 10

(dir: Daniel Simpson)
Newscope Films, 2014.

SOULBOY

(dir: Shimmy Marcus)
Ipsos Facto, 2010.

THE GIRL

(dir: Julian Jarrold)
BBC/HBO Feature drama (2012).

WICKER PARK

(dir: Paul McGuigan)
Lakeshore, 2004.

WHITE TEETH

(dir: Julian Jarrold)
4 part TV series, Channel 4, 2002.

GANGSTER NO1

(dir: Paul McGuigan)
Feature, Film 4, 2000.

THE ACID HOUSE

(dir: Paul McGuigan)
Feature, Umbrella/Channel 4, 1998.

BLUE NOTE – A STORY OF MODERN JAZZ

(dir: Julian Benedikt)
EuroArts, 1997 Debut feature film.





CHRISTINE ALDERSON / IPSO FACTO PRODUCTIONS



Ipsa Facto Films started in 1994 and Ipsa Facto Productions was started in 2012 by Christine Alderson, previous films include *Nasty Neighbours* directed by Debbie Isitt (*Confetti/Nativity*), *School For Seduction* (2004), starring Kelly Brook; *Bye Bye Blackbird*, directed by Robinson Savary, *Dot Com* by Luis Galvao Teles and *Irina Palm* directed by Sam Garbarski starring Marianne Faithfull. She executive produced *Valhalla Rising* (Mads Mikkelsen) from director Nicolas Winding Refn (*Drive*) and Northern Soul feature *Soulboy* (Martin Compston, Felicity Jones).

Most recently *Comes A Bright Day* by Simon About, starring Craig Roberts, Imogen Poots and Timothy Spall and *Event 15* starring Jennifer Morrison. She just completed *Snow In Paradise* the feature film debut of Andrew Hulme, which is in Official Selection Cannes 2014 and also *Second Origin* the posthumous film of Bigas Luna, Christine Alderson is a graduate of EAVE, EAVE+ ACE and INSIDE PICTURES. She is a voting member of the European Film Academy and BAFTA.

CAST & CREW



SNOW IN PARADISE

A film by
ANDREW HULME

B MEDIA GLOBAL
presents an
IPSO FACTO PRODUCTIONS
in association with
MILLBROOK PICTURES
SNOW IN PARADISE UK
GLOUCESTER PLACE FILMS
and
BACK UP MEDIA

CAST

Dave:
FREDERICK SCHMIDT
Tariq:
AYMEN HAMDOUCHI
Uncle Jimmy:
MARTIN ASKEW
Theresa:
CLAIRE-LOUISE CORDWELL
Amjad:
ASHLEY CHIN
and Mickey Young:
DAVID SPINX

CREW

Directed by:
ANDREW HULME
Written by:
MARTIN ASKEW
& ANDREW HULME
Produced by:
CHRISTINE ALDERSON
Director of Photography:
MARK WOLF
Production Designers:
ALEXANDRA WALKER
SOPHIA CHOWDHURY
Editor:
BARRY MOEN
Composer:
KEVIN POLLARD
Costume Designer:
IAN FULCHUR
Make Up & Hair Designer:
TAHIRA HEROLD

CREW

Casting:
AISHA WALTERS
SHAHEEN BAIG
Sound:
GIANCARLO DELLAPINA
ANDREW STIRK
PAUL DAVIES
Line Producer:
VANESSA TOVELL

Executive Producers:
JANE BRISTOW
ROSHANAK BEHESHT NEDJAD
PAUL DE LA PENA
YASMINE ASKEW
THOMAS STERCHI
LARS WIEBE
BEAT ARNOLD
NIGEL THOMAS
CHARLOTTE WALLS





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TECHNICAL DETAILS

Running Time: 108 min
Aspect Ratio: 2.39:1
Sound Format: 5.1 Dolby Digital
Original Version: English



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