

REEL SUSPECTS

42, rue René Boulanger | 75010 | Paris
R.C.S. de Paris : B 481 518 405 (2005B05959)
SIRET : 481 518 405 00024
T.V.A. : FR 90 481 518 405
PHONE: + 33 1 42 40 12 84
FAX: + 33 9 57 73 07 66
MOBILE: + 33 6 14 45 62 78
SKYPE: matteolovadina
EMAIL: m@reelsuspects.com
WEB: www.reelsuspects.com

HORSEHEAD

A film by Romain Basset

92 min, FRANCE, 2014, Colour, 2:35, HD & DCP

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Since her youth Jessica has nightmares. This leads her to study psychophysiology of dreams. When her grandmother dies, Jessica must return to the family house. Upon her arrival, she discovers that the body of her grandmother will be placed in the adjoining room during the wake. Stuck in bed with a high fever and nightmares, Jessica decides to use her lethargic state to experience lucid dreams and thus try to take control of those nightmares. She will begin to evolve in a nightmarish and dreaming world in order to investigate and to discover the evil that haunts her and the family house.



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LONG SYNOPSIS

Since childhood, young Jessica has been haunted by recurring nightmares whose meaning escapes her. In the most terrifying ones, she is chased by a mysterious horse-headed monster.

In the hope to understand what's happening to her, Jessica has started studying a little-known science: Psychophysiology of dreams. She has learned that the first step towards regaining her peace of mind is to track down the origin of her nightmares.

Following the death of a grandmother she hardly knew, Jessica reluctantly returns to the family home for the funeral. Upon her arrival, Jessica's mother, with which she has been estranged for years, has a nasty surprise: the dead body of the grandmother lies in the adjoining room!

Just as Jessica feared, the first night is rough. She experiences the strangest nightmare in which she meets her dead grandmother aged 25. The young ancestor sets Jessica on a quest to uncover the secret that has been gnawing at them all.



As she starts her forbidden exploration, Jessica falls ill. Stuck in bed with a high fever, the young woman decides to make good use of her lethargic state by trying out the next step of what she has learned in her studies: lucid dreaming. It is a dangerous exercise, one for which she is not ready at this stage in her apprenticeship. One from which some never recovers.

Furthermore, Horsehead is after her, making every sleeping session more dangerous than the previous one and as Jessica sinks deeper into the other world, the boundary between dreams and reality becomes blurry.

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Jessica wanders in a nightmarish world inhabited by twisted versions of her relatives, some alive and some long dead. She gradually improves her skills and aims to reach the highest level of lucid dreaming: taking control of her nightmares.



But now that she is getting closer to the source of the secret in her dreams, her condition worsens dramatically in real life. Time is running out. Her investigation must come to a close. She must solve the mystery that has been haunting her and her family for several generations. She will have to confront the evil Horsehead.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1983, Romain Basset has directed three short films and two experimental videos, all of which were well received in festivals. Basset loves nothing more than to create an atmosphere and to take the audience on a trip to new places. His visually stimulating cinema quickly attracted the attention of Starfix Productions. Convinced he is a very promising new talent on the international cinema scene, Starfix produced Basset's feature film debut: Horsehead.

CAST

Catriona Maccoll
Lilly-Fleur Pointeaux
Murray Head
Gala Besson
Fu'ad Ait Aattou
Vernon Dobtcheff
Joe Sheridan
Philippe Nahon

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CAST BIOGRAPHY

CATRIONA MACCOLL

MacColl is recognised for her work on European television and film. She has gained somewhat of a cult status in her career as an Italian horror actress.

MacColl began her career in the late 1970s. In 1979, she received her first leading role in *Lady Oscar*, a historical drama directed by Jacques Demy based on the manga *Rose of Versailles* by Riyoko Ikeda. Following her part in the drama "Le fils puni", MacColl appeared in the first of director Lucio Fulci's 'The Gates of Hell Trilogy', *City of the Living Dead*, playing the role of Mary Woodhouse, with Christopher George. MacColl did not originally plan to work in films with such a violent nature, as she had thought that they would not attract an audience, but following the growing fanbase of the trilogy over the years and that the films have received worldwide recognition, she is proud of the success of the trilogy. In 2004, MacColl was approached by French director Pascal Laugier, to play a leading role in *House of Voices*. She has appeared in several films throughout her film career, having appeared in *Hawk the Slayer*, *Afraid of the Dark*, *A Good Year*, directed by Ridley Scott and starring Russell Crowe and most recently, she appeared in the 2011 anthology film *The Theatre Bizarre*.



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MURRAY HEAD

Murray Seafield Saint-George Head is an English actor and singer, most recognized for his international hit songs "Superstar" (from the 1970 rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar) and "One Night in Bangkok" (the 1985 hit from the musical Chess, which topped the charts in various countries), and for his 1975 album *Say It Ain't So*. He has been involved in several projects since the 1960s and continues to record music, perform concerts and make appearances on television either as himself or as a character actor.



CREW

Director: Romain Basset
Scriptwriter: Romain Basset & Karim Chériguène
Cinematographer: Vincent Vieillard-Baron
Production Designer: Bruno Vitti
Sound: Vincent Hazar (Dokan)
Music (composer): Benjamin Shielden
Editor: Fred Pons