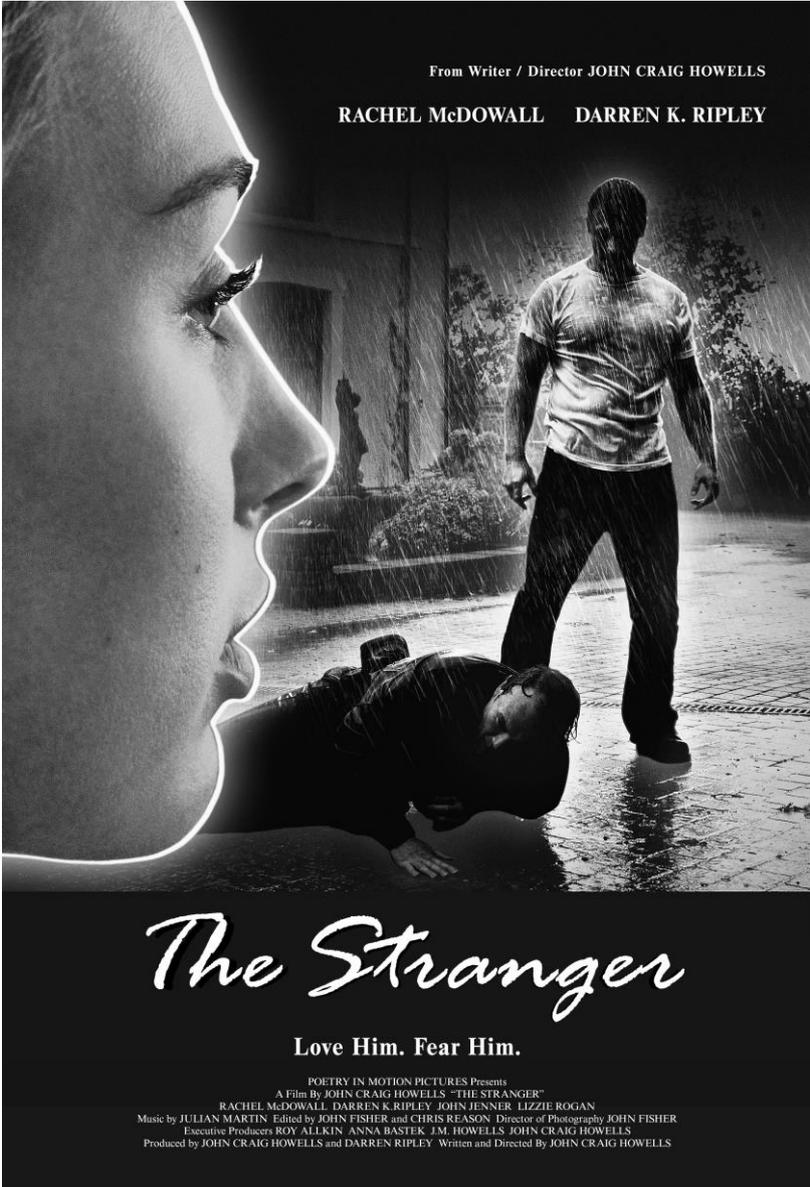


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The Stranger

Synopsis 1:

Jayne is a young and attractive widow still grieving for her husband – she’s vulnerable – using pills and drink to stave off her painful loneliness. When she finds a stranger unconscious on the road in the middle of nowhere, she struggles to get him home.

When he wakes he says he has no memory – he could be anyone. He may even be dangerous – and the police are looking for someone. He has mysterious glimmers of memories, and an edge of danger, which she finds herself inexorably drawn to. He makes her feel like a woman again. But Jayne needs closure – justice – for Paul Jones, the man who killed her husband, to pay for what he did. He’s gotten off lightly for her husband’s death, with Jayne helpless against his taunts.

When Paul Jones comes to her house, drunk and violent, the stranger takes things into his own hands, changing their relationship forever...

In Production: Rachel McDowall has a tattoo on her ankle which says a rude word (she got with Amanda Seyfried while shooting Mamma Mia!). Director John Craig Howells had to shoot so that this tattoo is never shown on screen. Rudimentary stick-men drawing storyboards, drawn by the director, helped with the shoot but often had the crew in stitches.

The Stranger

Synopsis 2:

Jayne is a young and attractive widow still grieving for her husband. When she finds a stranger unconscious on the road in the middle of nowhere, she struggles to get him home.

When he wakes he says he has no memory – he could be anyone. He has mysterious glimmers of memories, and an edge of danger, which she finds herself inexorably drawn to. But Jayne needs closure – justice – for Paul Jones, the man who killed her husband, to pay for what he did. He's gotten off lightly for her husband's death, with Jayne helpless against his taunts.

When Paul Jones comes to her house, drunk and violent, the stranger takes things into his own hands, changing their relationship forever...

In Production: Despite having SCDS (which made him extremely dizzy and unbalanced), John Craig Howells wrote, produced, production managed & directed the film.

The Stranger

Synopsis 3:

Jayne is a young and attractive widow still grieving for her husband when she finds a stranger unconscious on the road in the middle of nowhere. When he wakes he says he has no memory. He has mysterious glimmers of memories, and an edge of danger, which she finds herself inexorably drawn to. When her husband's killer comes to her house, drunk and violent, the stranger takes things into his own hands, changing their relationship forever...

In Production: The shooting schedule changed almost daily as the original 21 day shoot had to be condensed to just 14 days.

Rachel McDowall

ACTRESS as Jayne.

Rachel was born Rachel Anne McDowall on October 4, 1984, in Liverpool, England. She graduated from Laine Theatre Arts College in Epsom. She started out loving drama in Wade Deacon High School, in Widnes, Cheshire.

She made her film debut as Lisa in ***Mamma Mia! The Movie***, starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Julie Walters, Stellan Skarsgard and Amanda Seyfried. The film was premiered on June 30, 2008, in London, and was a massive box office success the world over.



Rachel also appeared in the UK's first 3D feature film ***Streetdance 3D*** which premiered in London May 10th 2010 and then hit the cinemas around the world. It was a great UK box office hit, pushing out Disney's *Prince of Persia-Sands of Time* and Ridley Scott's *Robin Hood* starring Russell Crowe.

Rachel has a supporting role in the James Bond film ***Quantum of Solace*** (2008), and she appeared in ***The Bill*** (2009). She starred in Mel Brooks' ***The Producers & Chicago*** on the West End stage productions. She currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Darren Ripley

PRODUCER / ACTOR as The Stranger.

Darren Ripley was born 11th August 1971 in Swansea, South Wales. He attended Olchfa Comprehensive School, and studied performing arts at Swansea College.

Darren's film career began with the low budget feature film ***Tragic Irony***, which he wrote, produced, directed and starred in. Following this he directed the HTV film ***Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem***, which was screened at the *Celtic Film Festival* and on ITV 1 Wales.



In 2008, again he wrote, produced & directed horror-comedy ***The Gatekeeper*** starring Craig Kelly (*Coronation Street*), which was released in the USA & Canada. Darren was associate producer for the short film ***The Boxer*** (2009) – nominated for Best Short Film at *Swansea Bay Film Festival*. And co-produced and starred in the short psychological horror ***Wilderness*** (2010).

His latest feature film, ***Two Days In The Smoke*** (a.k.a. *The Smoke*), is currently on release on DVD/Bluray. He is credited as writer/co-producer and stars in this new high profile feature film. Darren lives in Gower with his family.

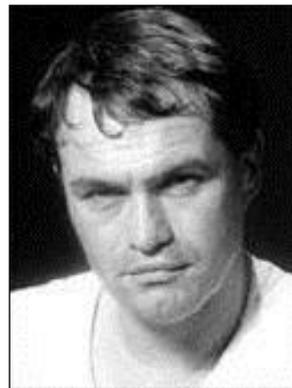
John Jenner

ACTOR as Paul Jones

John Jenner went to Llantarnam Comprehensive School in Cwmbran, South East Wales. Recently he graduated from the *Wales International Film School*.

John has featured in numerous television programmes including *Dr. Who* and *Torchwood*, as well as featuring in the short films *Scarlett With Shame*, *Little Voices* & *Coming Home*.

His feature film credits include *War Crimes*, *The Gatekeeper* and the forthcoming sci-fi film *Casimir Effect*.



Lizzie Rogan

ACTRESS as Cheryl.

Lizzie Rogan (real name Lizzie Rogers) went to Y Pant Comprehensive, Pontyclun, *University of Exeter* and *Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama* to study acting.

She mainly acts for the stage with *The Sherman Cymru*, but her TV credits include *Holby City* and *Torchwood*. She also features in the forthcoming film *Double Top* (currently in post-production).



Ritchard H Prichard

ACTOR as Tom.

Richard was born in Birmingham, but moved to London in his twenties. A former Royal Marine he attended *Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance* to study acting. His many credits as supporting artist include *Casualty*, *Caerdydd*, *To Kill A King* and David S. Goyer's HBO series *Da Vinci's Demons*.



Johnny Farrell

ACTOR as PC Welsh.

Johnny (real name Jonathan Sullivan) went to London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art to study acting.

Johnny's TV credits include *Dr Who* & *Caerdydd*. Film credits include *We Need to Talk About Kieran*, *Night of The Living Dead: Resurrection*, *Bad Moon Rising* & *Dead Of Night*.



Rebecca Knowles

ACTRESS as WPC Scott.

Rebecca is Scottish born. She attended James Gillespies High School in Edinburgh. She attended University of Glamorgan, Pontyprydd to study acting. She featured in the short films *Score* and *Tomorrow*.



Tracey Walton

ACTRESS as Mrs. Edwards.

Tracey is a keen part time actress with many stage credits at Neath Little Theatre including the lead in Frank Vickery's *A Kiss On The Bottom* and *Loose Ends*. She teaches acting for the youth theatre and is a distant relation to the director.



John Craig Howells

ACTOR (Cameo) as Steve.

Craig was in a **South Bank Show** special as a supporting artist with Anthony Hopkins. He studied at University of Bedfordshire and appeared in the short films *The Courier*, *Bloodstained Popcorn* & *Taken For Granted*. He also appeared in the feature film *The Gatekeeper* and was once an extra on *Caerdydd*.



John Craig Howells



WRITER / PRODUCER / DIRECTOR.

Craig has a story of his own. If that story has a recurrent theme in his career it's "near misses".

Craig comes from a background of 20 years in cinema. His family ran Plaza Cinemas, Port Talbot, where he started as a Projectionist and worked up to Duty Manager. Later he was Operating Manager at Palace Cinema, Pembrokeshire and Assistant Manager, Showcase Cinemas' 12 screen multiplex outside Cardiff. Returning to education he received a first class honours

degree in *Media Performance – Screenwriting & Directing*. He subsequently taught *Creative Writing & Scriptwriting* for several years, lastly for University of Wales, Swansea.

His first attempt at filmmaking was a tongue-in-cheek thriller called ***Bloodstained Popcorn*** (1993) filmed using Super 8 film (featuring Michael Sheen's cousin), but it was never finished as it was far too ambitious. While at university Craig discovered how to write screenplays and went on to graduate with a full length feature film script (***The Claws of Glasnost***); a thriller set during the fall of the Soviet Union. He also wrote, produced, directed & edited the film ***Taken For Granted***, which was ruined by a theft from the studio on the last day shooting, whereby he lost half his filmed footage (the film would have run to approximately 50 minutes, what remains runs only 24 minutes).

Craig has stage writing credits for his short stage plays & comedy sketches; ***Shrink***, ***The Unprofessionals*** and ***Honest Bobby*** (with Jonathan Chan-Pensley) Hitchin Market Theatre, Bedfordshire, & ***Jump***, Gwyn Hall, Neath.

Both HTV & BBC expressed interest in Craig's sitcom (***Nos Da Jesus Pugh! / Signing On...***), with BBC producer/director Gareth Gwenlan (*Only Fools & Horses/High Hopes*) putting through Craig's sitcom ***For Better Or For Worse*** to commissioning. The series was never made however.

Craig moved on, working with screenwriter Keith Williams (Russell Mulcahy's *Tale of The Mummy*), producer Antony Smith (*The Darkest Day*) and director Craig Griffith (*Through The Looking Glass*).

Craig further trained with *BBC*, *TAPS*, *Cyfle*, *Screen Academy Wales* & *Newport Film School* with leading industry figures – Bill Lyons (writer. *Emmerdale*), David Semel (dir. *American Horror Story*), Ashley Pharoah (writer/creator. *Life On Mars/Ashes To Ashes*), Barbara Slade (creator – *Dead Gorgeous*), James Watkins (dir. *The Woman In Black*) and Stephen Frears (dir. *The Queen / Dangerous Liaisons*), and John Giwa-Amu (*The Machine*).

In 2007 Craig won sole residency of his daughters. With three little girls in tow life changed as he became a single parent. Then in 2008 he suddenly found

himself with the chronically debilitating condition SCDS. After initial hospitalisation he found his condition ease slowly over the next 2 years. In 2009 he completed the short film **The Boxer**, starring Former Featherweight World Champion Steve Robinson. The film was nominated for **Best Short Film** in its category at the **Swansea Bay Film Festival**. In 2010 he completed the psychological horror short **Wilderness** featuring Darren Ripley. And that year also they started working together producing **The Stranger**.

The film shoot was extremely stressful, particularly as the schedule had to be condensed from a tight 3 week shoot to an insane 14 days. With the film wrapped Craig's health deteriorated horrendously. Craig became housebound for 2 years. After exhaustive tests but no treatment, he stopped taking his medication. Within 2 weeks there was sign of improvement! Very slowly, over 2013-14 he improved, managing to finally finish **The Stranger**.

John Fisher

CINEMATOGRAPHER / EDITOR

John studied at Swansea Metropolitan University. He was trainee editor on Justin Kerrigan's feature film **I Know You Know** starring Robert Carlyle. John specializes in stills photography, commercials and pop videos using digital technology.



Christian Reason

EDITOR / SFX

Chris studied at Swansea Metropolitan University and set up his own company specializing in high end domestic video and corporate marketing. Previous credits include *The History Of Briton Ferry*, *Fantazia Showtime*, *BAFTA coverage for BBC*, *Brecon Carreg*, *Day's Motor Group*. Chris uses state of the art digital editing equipment & Final Cut Pro.



Julian Martin

COMPOSER – Musical Score

Julian previously scored the films **Expiry Date** (2005) & **Hiraeth** (2008). He also has credits for TV series **Igam Ogam** for S4C and documentaries including **Sexwork & Me**. He teaches music and plays in a jazz band.



Songs

Red Rover by Paper Aeroplanes

www.paperaeroplanesmusic.com



Paper Aeroplanes are a Welsh Folk Band writing & performing their own songs and touring the UK and Germany on a regular basis. As yet unsigned by a major label, they have released three albums and several Ep's. The

Day We Ran Into The See (LP) was released in Europe & North America to huge critical acclaim.

Red Rover is taken from their latest album – Little Letters – and is available to buy @ Propermusic.com, Amazon & iTunes.

A Music Video Promo using footage from The Stranger is currently available on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YeNvkPLOGs> OR <http://tinyurl.com/m6zgrp8>

The Town Beyond The Trees & Evangelina by Storys



www.thestorys.co.uk/

The Storys are a 6 piece band from Swansea, often compared to The Eagles with their 70's West-Coast harmonies. They have supported Tom Jones, Van Morrison & Elton John. Both "The Town Beyond The Trees" and "Evangelina" are taken from the album The Town Beyond The Trees.

Comfort by This River



This river are a 4 piece melodic rock band from Swansea. The winners of the 2005 British Chicago rock academy, they have supported Idlewild, Hundred Reasons, Rachel

Stevens, Lulu, Fine Young Cannibals. An up and coming band with daring covers and 2 albums of originals, This River remain loyal to their fans, frequently performing on the local circuit performing in English and Welsh.

www.myspace.com/thisriver2006

Top 10 FAQ's of Director John Craig Howells

1. Who are your influences?

*I know it's a cliché, but Hitchcock is a big influence on me. I love his attention to detail, cutting and frame construction. I love **Psycho** most of all. People think it's a simple film but it's visually very complex. Francis Ford Coppola's **Godfather Trilogy, The Outsiders & Rumblefish** are wonderful. I enjoy the pacing and scale and operatic structure of these films. And Brian De Palma's **Blow Out, The Untouchables & Carlito's Way** are to me near perfect thriller dramas. My personal hero is David Selznick – producer of **Gone With The Wind** – he was “all or nothing” for his movies; he'd never accept compromise.*

2. What films influenced *The Stranger*?

*Films like Francois Ozon's **Swimming Pool** [2003] and David Lynch's **Mullholland Drive** [2001] were hugely influential for me, where you think the story is one thing but it turns out to be something very different. **Sommersby** [dir. Jon Amiel 1993] and **Witness** [dir. Peter Weir 1984] were great influences too, especially their subtle love stories which infuse the mystery.*

3. Where did you get the idea for the story?

*I've always been interested in ideas of identity and people not being what they seem to be. I liked the idea of a story in which the audience decides which version of reality is real. In **The Stranger** there are 3 possible explanations for who the stranger really is and I like the idea that everyone can come away with a different take. If people talk about the film later then I've done my job.*

4. How did you cast Rachel McDowall?

Well, we held auditions in Wales and in London. Rachel was in London. She'd just returned from America. From her 8x10 [photograph] I thought she looked too pretty for the role, but when she auditioned we all just clicked – she's so down to earth – and she was there for an hour. We knew then "she's the one".

5. What was it like working with Rachel McDowall?

Rachel was wonderful to work with. She always knew her lines and needed very little direction. She never complained either – even when things got strained on set. She also has that wicked Liverpudlian sense of humour that kept us all going.

6. What did you learn about directing on *The Stranger*?

I learned a lot, preparation being the biggest thing. Knowing the material, knowing what shots you want and knowing the constraints of your locations and equipment is huge in filmmaking. I always had storyboards based on my script-shot-breakdown. My copy of the script has notes all over the pages. It's battered to hell but was invaluable on the shoot and in the edit.

7. How did your medical condition affect you making *The Stranger*?

It didn't affect the writing. But the pressure of producing, directing & production managing took its toll during the shoot and I suffered falls, migraines and frayed tempers. During post-production I became housebound. My condition made me extremely dizzy and unbalanced, and frequently I would get the room spinning and high pitched screeching in my ear. I was

*supposed to have this big operation to cut the vestibular balance nerve in the brain cavity, but when they refused to do the operation (because I had a misdiagnosis) I hit an all-time low. I stopped taking my meds and within 2 weeks I felt ever so slightly better. I've been off them for 2 years now and I'm improving all the time. I'd never shoot a film the same way as *The Stranger* again, because I was doing 4 or 5 people's jobs. I really paid for that with my health. But I could write & direct again no problem.*

8. If you had to do it again, what would you do different?

I would just take a lot more time over it. We shot at such a rate with such a small crew it was extremely stressful. Making a film is a huge amount of work and if I did it over I'd make sure I had a lot more supporting staff for budgeting, scheduling and production management. I think you can write & produce, you can write & direct, but you can't produce & direct effectively.

9. Where do you see the future of British filmmaking?

I'm really pleased the way filmmaking has re-established itself in Britain in the last 20 years. We now make commercial films as well as period dramas. Digital filmmaking has really opened the floodgates to new talent and I think the next 10 years will see a whole generation of non-establishment Indie films really make their mark on the British film scene.

10. What is your next film?

I've got several in development. Of course, I'm hoping Joel Schumacher will get back to me on the Comedy-Action script he asked me to send him, but at

the moment I'm carefully plotting a crime thriller, which is like a game of criminal chess. That will be a tense piece of drama. I've been planning it for a long time and it's a bit of a throwback to Film Noir. I love some of those films. *To Have And Have Not* is just amazing. If I could write lines like that and deliver on the visuals too I'd be in my element. I think shot construction is an art which is being lost. It's so important to the language of film though. If I can raise the money I'd like to do that film.

Top 10 FAQ's of Actress Rachel McDowall

1. What is *The Stranger* about?

The stranger is about a grieving widow, Jayne, who engulfs her anguish and pain with self-loathing and solitude, while at the same time allowing herself to feel emotions that have been dormant in her for some time. With the unknown feeling that a stranger brings into her life and the terrifying knowledge that she discovers about herself, it becomes a turmoil between her mind and her heart.

2. What attracted you to the role of Jayne in *The Stranger*?

A deep sense of empathy towards her due to my life experiences at the time. A sadness I could connect with along with the curiosity of where the script could take you as there are so many underlying layers within it. The confusion I was feeling on a personal level, which in turn made Jayne feel, became a true representation of her character.

3. Jayne is quite a damaged person – how did you prepare for the role?

I felt myself being able to adapt to the surroundings I was in leading up to the shoot. I was in my own solitude and allowed to be alone, constantly with my own thoughts so I started to become numb to a life outside of my own comfort. Jayne closed herself off to society and was left with only her isolated mind so I definitely resonated with her on that level.

4. We're told you realized something about the film between the audition and the shoot – without giving too much away, what did you realize?

Like I mentioned before there are so many underlying tones in the story, that even with a script in hand I was still missing things. But as I grew with the character the more I understood her. My lips are sealed.

5. You worked on three very successful feature films prior to *The Stranger* – How did working on a low budget independent film differ from working on those multimillion pound movies?

Not that these things didn't occur on my other projects but there was a great deal of passion, determination and a total love of the script. Each cast & crew member were there because they wanted to see this film come to fruition. We all slogged our guts out to get this done. And without incentives that the big studios bring, you know it was from the heart.

6. What was it like working with disabled director John Craig Howells?

Craig was a dream to work with. His utter love for his craft was extremely inspirational to work alongside. Craig is a director who allowed me as an actor to manipulate and work freely around my role as Jayne, but all the while guiding me. His disability was a second thought to him along the shoot, and never became an excuse in making his work what he wanted it to be.

7. What was it like working with Darren Ripley?

Darren and I met during the audition process but I was unaware at the time he was due to play the male lead opposite myself. With him being a producer for

the film, and playing alongside him in our roles, it helped my process greatly at keeping him at a distance in regards to our characters.

8. *The Stranger* has been a long time in post-production – how has your life changed since doing the film?

I am back living in the US and am a newlywed, so life is good and has changed incredibly since we wrapped in 2011.

9. What are your hopes for the film?

My hopes for the project are that it will be picked up at a film festival and be given the release it deserves. You only hope as an actor that your work will impact someone somewhere, and that everyone's hard work was for a reason.

10. You have been on the West End stage in musical *Chicago* since doing *The Stranger* – What are you doing next?

Yes, Chicago. Those black fishnets and black bobbed wig called my name for the 3rd time in 5 years. It was an honour to be the last Velma Kelly to play on a West End stage after a successful 16 year run in London.

For the past year I have been working on a motion capture project that will be released at the end of this year. Until then, I have to stay mum!

Other than that, I'm enjoying married life.

Top 10 FAQ's of Actor Darren K. Ripley

1) What is *The Stranger* about?

It's about a guy with no past. A man who doesn't seem to come from anywhere, doesn't have any real memories. And when they do come you don't know if what he's saying is the truth or not. And sometimes neither does he!

2) As a producer, what attracted you to the script for *The Stranger*?

As a producer you are always thinking – is this interesting? How much will it cost? *The Stranger* is an interesting film – it's really not what you might think it is. And it was so doable! A small cast, a few locations, but still with a sense of pace.

3) As an actor, what attracted you to the role of *The Stranger*?

The role of *The Stranger* is such a challenge for an actor! Because you aren't sure what his motivations are until later in the film, and because you always shoot out of sequence you have to keep moving your head into that part of the story and who he is at that time. It was a lot of headwork, I can tell you!

4) After a 15 year absence from acting, what made you return to acting, and with such a demanding role?

I did an acting role on stage in Swansea's Grand Theatre, which was a boost, because I hadn't acted since around 1997. Then I did a little experimental film with Craig, called *Wilderness*. That was very weird, but it

got my creativity going again. So when Craig asked me to do the lead in The Stranger, I knew it was something I wanted to do. And it's a great role.

5) What was the most difficult part of the role?

Well, because of the type of film it is – man with no name and no memory – I had to keep thinking, “hang on, who does he think he is in this scene?” So, character motivation was difficult. Knowing what was driving him and how that affected his relationship with Jayne.

6) What was it like working with Rachel McDowall?

Rachel was so good and so down to earth in the London auditions it was a one horse race! She really devoured the script and the role too. So she knew every word, and Craig let us experiment with some of the scenes where we had worked things out between us. She was really professional.

7) What was it like working with writer/director John Craig Howells?

Craig knows what he wants. He knows why a scene is there and what everyone's motivations are. That's very reassuring as an actor. He also knows what shots he wants; where the camera goes and how he's going to shoot it. We had to take multiple takes sometimes, to get it right, but he'll do it until it's right. Did my head in sometimes! But he'd say, “It's my job to make you look good”, and he was right. When I've seen the scenes edited and played back to me he's done just that.

8) With your previous and continuing roles behind the camera, what was it like being on the other side of the camera?

Well, I was still producing too, so it wasn't all about my scenes. But being in front of the cameras is exciting. You have to be in it! In the role, in the scene! And when you are totally in it, the nerves just go. You're still nervous coming to the shoot every day, but once the cameras roll it's all about being "In It"! I've done a few films now and it's always weird when you can see things going wrong in the background, behind the scenes so-to-speak, but I'm getting used to it.

9) What advice would you give to young filmmakers and actors starting out?

Speak to everyone you can. Do lots of films. Short films. Student films. Do any kind of acting or filming that comes your way, even if it's for free. And get a showreel. It's so easy to get your work seen now, with digital and the internet. Just get out there as much as you can, and if nothing is happening make your own little short films. It's so much easier now, there's just no excuse.

10)What is your next film?

I did a film with Matt Di Angelo (Eastenders), Alan Ford (Snatch) and Stephen Marcus (Lock, Stock & 2 Smoking Barrels) called *The Smoke*, which came out on DVD on October [2014] – the day after *The Stranger* Premiere. And I'm currently finishing another film called *Welcome To Curiosity*, which is a dark humoured thriller.

Director's Statement

“It has been such a journey making this film. I learned the wrong way to do everything! And I would never make a film the same way again! – But I’m proud of *The Stranger*. It shows that you can make a classy looking film on very little money if you just think of the drama you can create within that scenario.

But let’s forget budget for the moment because *The Stranger* is an interesting film; a film in which the audience should be trying to figure out what is going on and who the Stranger really is. You can watch the film on several different levels, and you should be still talking about it with your friends after you have seen it. Everyone will have their own take on it. I love that! I love that people can get into a good debate about a film. Very few films do that these days.

If I had to compare *The Stranger* to any films I’d probably start with the Richard Gere/Jodi Foster film *Sommersby*, or the Harrison Ford film *Witness*, which both influenced me with their love stories with strangers. I would also have to mention David Lynch’s *Mulholland Drive* and a British/French film called *Swimming Pool* by Francois Ozon. If you have seen those films you’ll know where this is going. Julian (my composer), also discovered an Australian film called *Till Human Voices Wake Us*, starring Guy Pearce and Helena Bonham Carter, which is very similar in concept, but the tone of *The Stranger* is punchier and a lot more sinister. I’m sure people will enjoy it.”

By John Craig Howells.

Fun Facts about the Making of The Stranger

1. Rachel McDowall is 6 feet tall! It was great fun and some headaches in filming not to show how much taller she was than Darren Ripley – who is 5'9". There is one scene in which it is obvious, but we resisted putting him on a box!
2. The carpet upon which the love scene takes place was made from woven silk with an £8,000 price tag!
3. Rachel was living in Hollywood when we shot the film and flew in just to shoot our little film because she loved the script so much.
4. There are a few twists in the film and Rachel only fully discovered the truth behind the story when she arrived on set.
5. The film was shot on location Skewen (Neath), Swansea, Ystalyfera and Gower in South Wales. It was supposed to rain in several scenes but the Welsh weather was glorious instead.
6. The film was scheduled for a tight 3 week shoot, but due to a problem with a bank account the shoot didn't start until 5 days into that 3 weeks. The film was then concentrated into just 14 days!
7. During the shooting of the film writer-producer-director John Craig Howells became increasingly ill due to his multiple roles on the film aggravating his vertigo and fell down several times on set. But when a light was accidentally knocked over it was he who caught it.
8. On the Last Day of the shoot, filming on the Gower was held up when flash floods marooned the director's car in 2 foot of floodwater. He had to push it up-hill out of the water and then wait for it to dry out before it would start. There's now a youtube video from a local resident showing Craig's car blowing clouds of black smoke as it tried to start.
9. When filming a comic nude scene - to cover himself up actor Darren K Ripley actually taped up his genitals with gaffer tape! It looked like a little Yoda from Star Wars!
10. Craig's favourite parts of the filmmaking process were Editing & Musical Score. He worked closely with Chris Reason on the edit and with Composer Julian Martin on the original score.
11. With Darren being Darren K. Ripley and Craig being disabled, the two reckon their film company should really be called "Kripley & Crippley"!
12. Writer-producer-director John Craig Howells used to be a cinema projectionist. Craig's family ran independent cinemas 1985-99. His love of film took him from behind the projector to behind the camera.

The Stranger - Quotes
(from those who have seen the film)

"I can't recommend The Stranger highly enough to everyone who hasn't seen it. Thought provoking entertainment at its pinnacle."

Catrin Collier (Novelist/Screenwriter, By Any Name / Hearts of Gold)

'Engrossing, intriguing and very stylish. A debut film that stays with you long after it ends'.

Rob Gittins (Writer, Eastenders / Casualty)

"The Stranger is a tense, atmospheric thriller with compelling central performances and a twist that I didn't see coming!"

Tina Walker (Writer, Doctors)

"Stunning afternoon watching [The Stranger - Movie](#) written and directed by the uber talented [Craig Howells](#). Great to see that British cinema isn't just about drug addiction, wife beating, football and Gangsters. I hope this movie and its cast and crew get what they deserve after so much toil and dedication."

Lee Burgess (Writer-Producer-Director, Glow)

"This edgy and thrilling film kept me glued to the twisty plot. The chemistry between the two leads - Rachel McDowall and Darren K. Ripley was electric throughout. I only eased my grip on the chair arms when the credits rolled. Another classic in the making."

Colin R Parsons (Novelist, House of Darke / Wizards Kingdom Saga).

"The Stranger is a gripping, compelling thriller which will keep you guessing until the end"

SJ Evans (Producer-Director, Dead of the Nite / Extinction)

"In the vein of psychological thrillers like Repulsion and Les Diaboliques, The Stranger keeps you guessing until the very end"

David Melkevik (Writer, Kerb Crawlers / Fetch)

SUMMARY

- Title: THE STRANGER
- Tagline: Love Him. Fear Him.

- Type of Product: Feature Film.
- Genre: Thriller / Drama
- Running Time: 90 mins (approx.)

- Primary Audience: 24-35+ Female.
- Secondary Audience: 24-35+ Male.

- Primary Market: Limited Theatrical (UK)
- Secondary Market: DVD (worldwide)
- Tertiary Market: Cable/Satellite & Terrestrial TV (worldwide)

- Talent: Rachel McDowall (Mamma Mia, Streetdance)
Darren K. Ripley (The Smoke)
Lizzie Rogan (Dr Who, Torchwood)
John Jenner (The Gatekeeper)
John Craig Howells (wrtr/dir.) (The Boxer)

- Setting: Rural Village, Present Day.

- Subject Matter:

A young widow finds a man lying unconscious on the road one night. When he finally awakens he has no memory, he could be anyone. She finds herself inexorably drawn toward this mysterious stranger, until he reveals how dangerous he really is. Now she must decide if her love can overcome her fear and reveal just who is The Stranger.

- Content: Mild Sexual, Violence & Bad Language.

- Style: Moody, sultry, tense. Hitchcockian.

- Estimated Budget: Under £ 1 million.

- Similar Films: Sommersby (dir. Jon Amiel, 1993)
Witness (dir. Peter Weir, 1985)
Swimming Pool (dir. Francois Ozon, 2003)
Mulholland Drive (dir. David Lynch, 2001)
Till Human Voices Wake Us (dir. Michael Petroni '02)

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