

A place between worlds...

a place to hide?

or a place to die?

Children of the Lake

Press Pack

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Children of the Lake

a story of ghosts

A film by Ian Lewis

*A place between worlds. A place to hide ...
or a place to die?*

A pair of petty criminals on the run hide out in an isolated house. But the house is not empty, and soon it seems they might not escape alive.

Joanne and Nick – a smart young couple heading for thirty and making a paranormal way in the world. She talks to the dead, while he collects the valuables in the other rooms. They do it once too often; and they're on the run.

They head into the mountains. As night falls, their car breaks down, and they continue on foot. Not far away they discover a deserted house at the side of a hidden lake. There they take shelter for the night. But the house is not empty. Living there are an eccentric woman, Queenie, and a younger companion, Naiad.

Our smart young couple think they're in control. They soon find out that they're not. Joanne thought she'd been faking her psychic powers. Now she finds they're real, and someone – or *something* - has plans for using them.

Something supernatural is going on, and it becomes clear that Queenie and Naiad are fighting over the newcomers in a power struggle of their own.

It's the longest 48 hours of their lives – and they're all wrong about how it ends, who is living, and who is not.

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Background

If this film has a strong sense of place, it's because it grew from a place. Once Upon a Time on a bright spring day, we received a phone call at the Farnham Film Company. "We've got a wonderful house on a lake in the mountains and we'd like to offer it as a film location."

Well, we had a look, and it was a wonderful location, with a legend attached to it and everything. So we thought, why not? It's as good a way of starting a project as any.

Of course, life being what it is, by the time we were ready to get going on pre-production, the house had been sold and we had to start all over again. But every project starts somewhere, even if it doesn't go on as you expect...

In the end, *Children of the Lake* was made at locations in London and the South-East of England.

Director's Notes

I've always been fascinated by ghost stories and folk-legends. And the old, old stories that speak of a land that isn't in our world, nor is it heaven nor hell. Stories like *Tam Lin*, where the fairy folk ride a dreadful ride every Hallowe'en and steal mortal, human babies to bring them up in that otherworld. Some of that atmosphere of the movement between worlds is in this story. But nothing is without its cost, and that, too, is here. Everyone makes their choices, and pays what they must.

The filming style is naturalistic. Many viewers have said they know people like Joanne and Nick – we're seeing familiar people descending ever deeper into a world they don't understand – and in Nick's case don't even believe in. What seems to start as a straightforward crime caper becomes steadily stranger and more deadly.

The violence is not explicit, but death is no less real. The feeling is more like *The Others* than *Night of the Living Dead* - and there are touches of humour along the way.



Technical details

The movie was filmed on HDCAM 1080p/25 with a Sony HDW750. It was off-lined on DVCAM, conformed and graded in-house and rendered out to HDCAM-SR via DPX Digital Intermediate.

It is deliverable in all the usual standard or high definition interlaced or progressive formats including 24p.

Currently the audio is stereo, but we will shortly be producing a 5.1 track.

Stills

A selection of production stills (behind the scenes) and HD frame-grabs is available electronically,.

Web sites

There's more on our company on www.farnfilm.com and the material in this pack. More pictures, trailers, and the *Making of* featurette will shortly be on the film's web site, www.childrenofthelakemovie.com

The whole film will soon be available for online rental and purchase at Amazon.com and Vuze.com

Principal Cast and crew credits and biographies

Abigail McKern - Queenie

Abigail's television appearances include *Bonkers*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Life Begins*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Psychos*, *Pie in the Sky*, *Bramwell*, *Medics*, *Angels*, *Fame is the Spur*, *The Charmer*, *Wish me Luck*, *Swallow*, *Talking to Strange Men*, and three series of *Rumpole of the Bailey*.

In her 25-year career, Abigail has performed on stage with the likes of Judi Dench, Dustin Hoffman, Brian Dennehy, Brendan Fraser, and Diana Rigg. She has played leading roles at the Royal Shakespeare Company and appeared many times on the West End stage and at the National Theatre, The Royal Court, The Almeida, and at theatres all over the UK, Canada, and Australia. She has won several awards for her acting.



Eleanor Howell - Joanne

Eleanor Howell trained at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Her TV work includes various roles for the BBC, including *Casualty* and Welsh Drama series *First Degree*. Film work includes the feature *Stopping Distance*, also for the BBC.

Eleanor has also worked extensively in theatre. Her work includes: *Death of A Salesman – Lyric, West End*; *Three Sisters – Playhouse, West End*; *Buried Child – Royal National Theatre*; *Twelfth Night – Ludlow Festival*; *The Golden Goose – Library Theatre* and *Maintenance Man – Eye Theatre*. She also works regularly in radio drama and as a voiceover artist. BBC Radio Plays include: *Maurice: The Lair of The White Worm*; *Feed The World* and *Life Story*. Eleanor is delighted to be taking part in *Children of the Lake*, as this is her first leading role in a Feature Film.



Ben Cartwright - Nick

Ben trained at Middlesex University on their Drama & Theatre Studies degree course. Since graduating he has enjoyed relative success with regular appearances on the small screen, ranging from a number of high profile television commercials to featured roles on flagship stalwarts such as *Eastenders*, *Casualty*, *Doctors*, *The Bill*, and *Judge John Deed*.



Charlotte Ammerlaan - Naiad

Charlotte started her journey as an actress at the tender age of 12, appearing in school and local productions, before determinedly setting out for London at the age of 18, where she continued to hone her existing skills and develop new ones, including a passion for violence, in the form of stage combat. Charlotte tried her hand at many types of performance before heading for professional training at the Drama Studio London, where she came in contact with such film and theatre gurus as Mary McMurray, Patrick Tucker and David Tucker. After graduating she has appeared in several fringe productions where reviewers dubbed her the 'Flower of English womanhood', and 'Sexy and subtle'. Since focusing her energies on film, she has starred in a handful of shorts and corporate films, several of which are doing the festival circuits. Charlotte is very happy to be making her feature film debut in *Children of the Lake*.



Ian Lewis - writer-director

Ian Lewis entered the industry as an assistant director working on television drama with Austrian Television in Vienna. He then worked in a number of staff positions in Visnews (now Reuters Television) and Thames Television, gaining a wide knowledge of all types of programme-making. As producer-director and writer he has made over 350 programmes, including broadcast drama, and documentary filmed all over the world. *Children of the Lake* is his first feature film.

His work has been broadcast on all the UK's major terrestrial and several digital channels. Productions include a major period drama series *The Chef's Apprentice*, where he produced and directed; and the worldwide success *Mona the Vampire*, a 65 x half-hour animation series, which he developed for television, also writing several scripts for the series. Awards for his work have been collected at the Chicago Film Festival, the New York Film Festival, and the IVCA in London.

He has also directed Shakespeare for the stage and written a number of books.

Bob Jones - Director of Photography

Bob started in the film industry in 1974 as a messenger boy in a 16mm production and facility company, mainly working for the COI and BBC. Shortly afterwards he joined The Rank Organization as a trainee aerial-image cameraman working on Special Effects on features and commercials. Amongst other epics he worked on Ridley Scott's first feature *The Duellists*, *Superman 1 & 2* and the never to be forgotten Ready-Brek glow. He then left Rank to become a location camera assistant, becoming a cameraman in 1982. Since then he has worked across most kinds of production on most acquisition formats – film and all kinds of video.

Alan Nicholas Graham - Composer

Nick Graham claims to have been the lead vocalist/bass player with 70s UK recording groups Atomic Rooster and Skin Alley, and to have played in legendary soul singer Edwin Starr's backing band. He co-wrote *The Flame*, a #1 hit single for US rock band Cheap Trick, which ousted Michael Jackson from the Billboard Hot 100 Number One spot in 1988 and won a BMI award for 1 million airplays. To date Nick has notched up a couple more hits and numerous album cuts with various well-known UK & US artists.

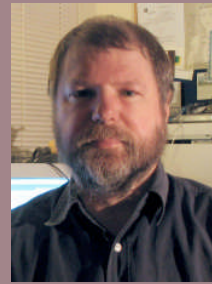
Commissions to compose and produce theme tunes and incidental music for TV & radio have followed, notably "Stacey Stone", a 16-part children's drama for BBC 1 (written by BAFTA winner Roy Apps) and the theme tune to the award-winning World Service/BBC7 soap *Westway*. Taking the mantra "comedy is the new rock'n'roll" to heart, Nick began in 1998 a collaboration with the Reduced Shakespeare Company which saw the result, *The Complete Millennium Musical (abridged)*, touring the UK, US, and Australia continuously throughout 1999-2000. This included a highly successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe and another at the Kennedy Centre for PA in Washington DC, and the show is still performed regularly in theatres and colleges around the US.

Nick also regularly composes music for independent production companies and has worked with Ian before in composing an orchestral score for Farnham Film's Trillo & Suede movie *Oxford Park*.

Melloney Roffe - Executive Producer

Melloney worked in the Far East, Middle East and Europe, before entering the film and video industry. She was in charge of post-production in Los Angeles on the \$5 million two-hour 20th Century Fox video *The Who - The Final Concert*. In Paris she worked with Terence Donovan on a production for the French fashion magazine *Marie-Claire*. She was Location Manager for Tony Palmer in the making of his feature films *Handel* and later *Testimony*, on Shostakovitch, and was Production Manager on the drama series *The Chef's Apprentice*, directed by Ian Lewis. For a number of years she worked with Channel Four Television as Budget Controller for Factual Programmes, controlling an overall budget of £40m.

She has previously produced two feature films, *Plato's Breaking Point*, and the award-winning *Refuge*; and was co-executive producer on a third, *Tooth*, before performing the role of Executive Producer on *Children of the Lake*.





The Farnham Film Company

Film & Television

The Farnham Film Company was formed in 1985 to produce international film and television programming. Six-part series *The Chef's Apprentice* and *The Best of British* have been shown on ITV, and the 26-part *Gumdrop*, co-produced with RTV, on Channel 4.



We have also produced several series for satellite and cable channels, and, with Cinar in Montreal, brought a major animation series to the screen, *Mona the Vampire*. Other programmes have won awards at the Chicago and New York Film Festivals. More recently we have changed our focus, and have so far been involved in producing four feature films.



The Farnham Film Company Ltd is the partnership of:

Ian Lewis - Producer-director of more than 350 programmes.

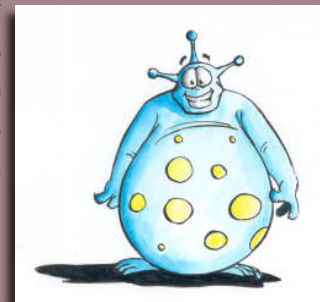
Melloney Roffe - Producer of dozens of factual and drama programmes, and of feature films.

Our sister company in Vienna,

Laufbildgesellschaft, is a busy and highly regarded producer of docs and drama-docs.



We have strong international links, with close links to similar companies in Austria, Germany, India, and North America; and we are currently developing films with co-production partners in several countries. We are always interested in finding new partners - and are happy to arrange locations and crews for producers wishing to film in the UK and Europe.



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The Lady of the Logo did a screen test for Syd Chaplin in Hollywood in around 1919. Nobody knows who she was and she probably never made a movie.