**THE CRITIC**

A person and person standing together

Description automatically generated

Starring Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong, Ben Barnes, Alfred Enoch, Romola Garai & Lesley Manville

**DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT**

THE CRITIC is an astonishingly contemporary piece of work, speaking directly to our time and condition. Set in the 30’s, a period of similar febrile upheaval and intensity to our present, with old certainties falling away, and the rise of the right and its instinct-based politics triumphing over rationalism and science, it is the story of an outsider trapped in the vice of events bigger than himself. It holds a mirror up to our time now.

As a British outsider myself, Indian father, German mother, child of Empire, I connected with Jimmy Erskine’s struggle for survival, for his voice, his identity in the face of monolithic ‘English’ (read white Heterosexual) culture and norms.  His story is incredibly dark, surprising and moving.

Yet it is a much bigger and more elemental story than just politics. It asks questions of the nature of art and creativity, of ambition and desire. It has at its heart a thrillingly dark Faustian pact, a beautifully interconnected web of relationships that explode as a result of that pact and ends as a meditation on the entire experience of being human, with all our flaws, our terrible choices and their consequences on display. Above all, it's sublimely written and supremely entertaining.

My aim as Director is to bring Patrick’s script to life in the most immediate and visceral way possible. I want to deliver on the period promise without the period standing in the way, distancing one’s experience. It’s a period look and feel that has to be alive, dirty, real, not glossy and polished and polite.

The camera will turn the world of this London - from mysterious, dark and dangerous Soho to the elevated privilege of the Country House - into a searching journey. We will probe and move and explore the faces set against these most British of Landscapes.

We will find the Dark Light that shines out of this world to shoot in, unexpected and dazzling. Above all we have a wonderful cast - and their performances are the most important element - their faces the ultimate Landscapes.

**LOGLINE**

An infamous theatre critic’s determination to keep both his job and hedonistic lifestyle leads to a tangled web of blackmail, deceit and murder.

**ABBREVIATED SYNOPSIS**

London, 1934. When the most feared and vicious theatre critic in town Jimmy Erskine (McKellen), finds himself suddenly in the cross hairs of the Daily Chronicle’s new owner David Brooke (Strong), he strikes a Faustian pact with struggling actress Nina Land (Arterton) who is desperate to win his favour.

**SHORT SYNOPSIS**

London, 1934. Jimmy Erskine is an infamous theatre critic, savagely taking down any actor unfortunate enough to disappoint him. He is especially harsh with Nina Land (Gemma Arterton), a leading lady in-the-making who has long idolised Erskine. He lives as flamboyantly as he writes; parties into the night, encounters in the park, and cohabiting with his much younger ‘secretary’ Tom (Alfie Enoch). However, when his newspaper’s proprietor dies and his son (Mark Strong) takes over, Jimmy is told to tone it down, to avoid flouting the paper’s new family values. With his job security is threatened, he hatches a devious plan, setting off a chain of events with terrible consequences.

**LONG SYNOPSIS**

London, 1934. David Brooke has recently inherited his father’s title and a national institution: The Daily Chronicle. Unlike his father, Brooke is a reformer and immediately makes changes to compete with rival paper, The Daily Mail. The new Chronicle will be patriotic, embrace family values and end its support for Mosley’s British fascists.

Jimmy Erskine is the most famous (and feared) theatre critic of the age.  He’s worked at the paper for more than half a lifetime.  Jimmy has the power to make or break careers, he’s an influencer and taste-maker par excellence. His portrait is being painted by the leading painter in the field; Stephen Wyley. Jimmy’s position and status is seemingly secure…

However, Jimmy doesn’t fit in with Brooke’s new vision; he’s no family man and his colourful behaviour and outspoken manner soon land him in trouble.  In particular, Brooke is infuriated by Jimmy’s cruel review of leading lady, Nina Land.  Brooke issues a final warning which Jimmy ignores.  Picked up by the police for drunken, unruly behaviour, Jimmy – to his horror - is fired with one month’s notice.

Nina Land has given her life to her steady but not starry career. Without Jimmy Erskine’s approval it’s very hard to make it. One afternoon, in desperation, Nina confronts Jimmy with her fury and frustration. She venerated him in her early youth, and she feels as if she’s failed him. He assures her there is art in her; she just needs to draw it out. To their mutual surprise they begin to form a bond.

Whilst reviewing Nina in *Twelfth Night,* Jimmy notices that Brooke is unusually moved by the actress's performance, in fact tears stream down his face.  A conversation with Brooke in the interval confirms Jimmy’s suspicions: Brooke is in love.

At last Jimmy has an opportunity to get his job back.  He writes Nina the glowing review she has so long wanted and arranges to meet her for dinner. But Jimmy's praise comes at a price: he will guarantee her the glittering career she craves if, in return, she will do him a little ‘favour’.  She must seduce David Brooke.

The Critic is a thrilling story of ambition, blackmail and desire with a dazzling anti-hero at its dark heart.  A Faustian pact which winds tighter and tighter.

**CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

**IAN MCKELLEN**

Ian McKellen is an actor and activist, who has received over 60 major international awards for his performances on screen, stage and television. He has been a leading man with the Royal Shakespeare Company and starred in numerous plays including two London seasons of WAITING FOR GODOT. Oscar-nominated for his performance in GODS AND MONSTERS, he is best known to younger audiences for his roles in the X MEN franchise and THE LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy which includes another Oscar nomination for THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING. He has been an eloquent advocate for gay rights since he came out in 1988 and co-founded Stonewall, a charity which lobbies for legal and social equality for gay people. Ian was knighted for his contribution to the performing arts and was appointed Companion of Honour ‘for services to Drama and Equality’ by the Queen in 2007.

**GEMMA ARTERTON**

BAFTA and Olivier-nominated actress Gemma Arterton is well known for her stage and screen presence. She is set to reprise her leading role in the second series of Sky’s FUNNY WOMAN, which began production this year. Additionally, Gemma has been cast to play Jackie Kennedy opposite Guy Pearce’s Lord David Harlech in Marc Munden’s 37 HEAVENS. Other projects on the horizon include the psychological drama AFTER YOU’D GONE and the comic thriller SWEET DREAMS, alongside Aimee Lou-Wood, Niamh Algar, Nick Frost, and Paapa Essiedu. Gemma also recently alongside Niamh Algar in the Disney+ series CULPRITS.

The last few years in film and TV has seen Gemma star in ROGUE AGENT as Polly, alongside James Norton and Shazad Latif and in Matthew Vaughn’s highly anticipated THE KING’S MAN. 2020 saw Gemma in BLACK NARCISSUS for the BBC (UK) and FX (US), as well as in Jessica Swale’s directorial debut film SUMMERLAND as ‘Alice’, a reclusive writer who has her life upended when an evacuee from the London Blitz is left in her care.

On stage, Gemma was seen as part of the RE:EMERGE season at the Harold Pinter Theatre. She starred alongside Fehinti Balogun and Lydia Wilson in Amy Berryman’s debut play WALDEN, and also played at the Donmar Warehouse in Josie Rourke’s SAINT JOAN. Before that she took on the title role in Nell Gwynn at London’s Apollo Theatre, a role which gained her a ‘Best Actress’ Olivier Award nomination. She received her first Olivier Award nomination for her performance in the hit West End musical version of the 2010 film MADE IN DAGENHAM at the Adelphi Theatre. Additional theatre credits include THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED, THE MASTER BUILDER, THE DUCHESS OF MALFI, and LOVE LABOUR’S LOST.

Gemma’s other notable film and television credits include: VITA AND VIRGINIA, the Netflix summer comedy MURDER MYSTERY, alongside an all-star cast including Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston, MY ZOE, THE ESCAPE, WATERSHIP DOWN, THEIR FINEST, 100 STREETS, ORPHELINE, THE HISTORY OF LOVE, THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS, HANSEL AND GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS, RUNNER RUNNER, THE VOICES, TAMARA DREWE, CLASH OF THE TITANS, PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME, THE BOAT THAT ROCKED, QUANTUM OF SOLACE, ROCKNROLLA, THREE AND OUT, ST. TRINIAN’S, TESS OF THE D’UBERVILLES, LOST IN AUSTEN, and CAPTURING MARY. She was also seen starring in French language films GEMMA BOVERY and ORPHELINE. Gemma has her own production company Rebel Park Productions alongside Jessica Malik and Jessica Parker.

**MARK STRONG**

One of today’s most compelling and charismatic actors, Mark Strong studied English and Drama at London University then attended the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. He is a BAFTA Award nominee for his performance as Harry Starks in THE LONG FIRM and winner of the Broadcast Press Guild Award for Best Actor.

He has been most recently seen in THE END WE START FROM with Jodie Comer and Benedict Cumberbatch, NOCEBO with Eva Green, MURDER MYSTERY 2 with Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston for Netflix, and will next appear on screen in various projects including SHADOW FORCE opposite Omar Sy and Kerry Washington, THE CRITIC opposite Ian McKellen, and DUNE: PROPHECY for HBO Max. He is currently filming the second series of NINE PERFECT STRANGERS with Nicole Kidman.

An award-winning theatre actor, his most recent theatre appearance in the Young Vic’s critically acclaimed A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE garnered him both the Olivier award and the London Theatre Critics Circle award for Best Actor as well as a Tony Award nomination.  This followed his Olivier award nomination for Sam Mendes’ Donmar Warehouse staging of TWELFTH NIGHT and David Hare’s THE RED BARN at the National Theatre, Danny Boyle’s HESS IS DEAD for the Royal Shakespeare Company, David Thacker’s DEATH OF A SALESMAN and Patrick Marber’s CLOSER also both at the National Theatre, Hettie MacDonald’s THICKNESS OF SKIN at the Royal Court and Peter Gill’s SPEED-THE-PLOW at the Ambassadors. He will next be seen as Oedipus in the adaptation directed by Rob Icke at the Wyndham's theatre.

Moviegoers worldwide have seen him in blockbusters over the years including Guy Ritchie’s SHERLOCK HOLMES, ROCKNROLLA, and REVOLVER, Ridley Scott’s ROBIN HOOD and BODY OF LIES, for which he received a London Film Critics Circle Award nomination and Matthew Vaughn’s KINGSMAN series, KICK-ASS and STARDUST. Mark also recently starred in two seasons of the Sky TV crime drama TEMPLE which he also co-produced. Other recent films include: Todd Field’s TAR, Sam Mendes’ 1917, MISS SLOANE with Jessica Chastain, Toa Fraser’s 6 DAYS and CRUELLA alongside Emma Stone.

Extensive other credits include: Thomas Alfredson’s TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY with Gary Oldman, Peter Weir’s THE WAY BACK, John Michael McDonagh’s THE GUARD, THE IMITATION GAME with Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley, Eran Creevy’s WELCOME TO THE PUNCH, Jean-Jacques Annaud’s BLACK GOLD, Andrew Stanton’s JOHN CARTER, Martin Campbell’s GREEN LANTERN, THE YOUNG VICTORIA, opposite Emily Blunt, Danny Boyle’s SUNSHINE, Stephen Gaghan’s SYRIANA with George Clooney, Roman Polanski’s OLIVER TWIST, Brad Anderson’s THE SILENT HOUR and Thomas Vinterberg’s IT’S ALL ABOUT LOVE.

**BEN BARNES**

Ben Barnes can be seen in BAFTA-winning director Anand Tucker’s THE CRITIC, opposite Mark Strong, Ian McKellen, and Gemma Arterton. Ben can also be seen starring as ‘General Kirigan’ in Eric Heisserer’s incredibly popular, 21 Laps Entertainment produced, series for Netflix SHADOW AND BONE, based on the bestselling novels by Leigh Bardugo.

He starred opposite Crispin Glover in a mind-bending episode of Guillermo Del Toro’s Emmy nominated anthology series, CABINET OF CURIOSITIES and played a lead role opposite Salma Hayek, Michael Cera, and Himesh Patel in the newest season of the widely popular series, BLACK MIRROR. Ben’s other recent credits include the lead role of ‘Marnie Dicken’s’ in the BBC limited series GOLD DIGGER, directed by Vanessa Caswill, Netflix’s Marvel series THE PUNISHER, and his portrayal as Jigsaw the main antagonist in THE PUNISHER.

Ben also appeared in the first two seasons of HBO’s Emmy-winning series WESTWORLD where he stars alongside Ed Harris, Anthony Hopkins, James Marsden, and Evan Rachel Wood. Ben played Sam Adams in the 3-part miniseries, SONS OF LIBERTY, for the History Channel. He received rave reviews for the role of Ryan in the independent feature JACKIE AND RYAN in which he starred opposite Katherine Heigl. He was the protagonist of the Warner Bros feature SEVENTH SON in which he shared the screen with Jeff Bridges and Julianne Moore, as well as the lead the independent, Boston mob feature GOD ONLY KNOWS with Harvey Keitel.

Ben is well known for his portrayal of the Prince/King Caspian in the CHRONICLES OF NARNIA franchise. He also played the title role in DORIAN GRAY and was lauded for his performance in the quirky comedy, KILLING BONO. He was a young Jeremy Irons in THE WORDS, which also featured Bradley Cooper and Zoe Saldana and shined in THE BIG WEDDING, featuring an all-star cast which included Robert De Niro, Diane Keaton, Amanda Seyfried, and Robin Williams.

**ALFRED ENOCH**

Alfred is a British actor who can be seen starring as ‘Pete’ in the Starz’ series, THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR alongside Sam Heughan and Eleanor Tomlinson.  On the feature side, Alfred was most recently seen in Chris Foggin’s THIS IS CHRISTMAS opposite Kaya Scodelario. He recurs in two seasons of Apple’s FOUNDATION and was recently seen as the leading role in Season 2 of BBC’s TRUST ME. Alfie recently starred as ‘Orlando’ in Josie Rourke's production of AS YOU LIKE IT. He will be starring as the titular role in the Royal Shakespeare Company production of PERICLES this August. Other stage credits include Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre’s production of ROMEO AND JULIET in which he starred as ‘Romeo’. He starred in TREE written by Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah, at the Young Vic and in the West End’s production of Michael Grandage’s RED opposite Alfred Molina to rave reviews.

He was a series regular for three seasons of Shonda Rhimes’ ABC series, HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER. Other credits include:, SHERLOCK, TROY:FALL OF A CITY and BROADCHURCH, and he portrayed Dean Thomas in the HARRY POTTER feature film franchise. His work on stage includes 'King Lear' (Manchester Royal Exchange), 'Coriolanus' (Donmar Warehouse), 'Timon of Athens' (National Theatre), 'Antigone' (National Theatre), 'Happy New' (Old Red Lion).

**ROMOLA GARAI**

Romola Garai can currently be seen playing Esme Wren in SCOOP for Netflix. She can also be seen as Doreen Warriner in the feature film, ONE LIFE.   
   
Further film credits include; THE CRITIC (dir. by Anand Tucker); EARWIG (dir. Lucile Hadžihalilović); MISS MARX (dir. Susanna Nicchiarelli); THE MINIATURIST (dir. Guillem Morales); and SUFFRAGETTE (dir. Sarah Gavron) among many others. Recent television credits include VIGIL Season 2 (BBC) and THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE BASED ON A PACK OF LIES (Netflix).

She is well known for her role as Briony in the Oscar-nominated film ATONEMENT for which she was nominated Best Actress at the Evening Standard British Film Awards. Along with her portrayal of Cassandra in I CAPTURE THE CASTLE which earned her a BIFA Most Promising Newcomer nomination and her role as Siobhan in INSIDE I'M DANCING which gained her the British Supporting Actress of the Year award. Romola was later nominated for Best Actress at the BAFTA TV awards for her portrayal of Sugar in THE CRIMSON PETAL and gained two Golden Globe nominations for her roles in EMMA and THE HOUR.

**LESLEY MANVILLE**

Award winning British Actor, Lesley Manville has had an expansive career to date, across both screen and stage. Lesley most recently appeared on our screens in the sixth and final series of Netflix’s critically acclaimed series, THE CROWN – reprising her role of Princess Margaret. Lesley also starred in Sam Taylor Johnson’s Amy Winehouse biopic, BACK TO BLACK, for Studiocanal. Further upcoming projects include Luca Guadagnino’s QUEER, opposite Daniel Craig, Alfonso Cuarón’s DISCLAIMER for Apple and COLD STORAGE, alongside Liam Neeson.

Lesley recently appeared as the villainous Dahlia Archer in CITADEL for Prime Video, alongside Richard Madden and Priyanka Chopra. Notable television credits include MUM (RTS Best Female Comedy Performance and two BAFTA nominations for Best Female Performance in a Comedy) and the BBC’s SHERWOOD, for which Lesley received a Best Supporting Actress nomination at this year’s BAFTA Awards. Lesley will reprise her role in the highly-anticipated second season.

Notable roles in film include Paul Thomas Anderson's PHANTOM THREAD (Academy Award nomination for Best Performance by An Actress in a Supporting Role, BAFTA nomination for Best Supporting Actress, Critics Circle Award for Best Supporting Actress), the titular role as Mrs Harris in MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS for Focus Features (which earnt Lesley a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress) LET HIM GO, ORDINARY LOVE, MISBEHAVIOUR.

On stage, Lesley’s theatre credits include LONG DAY’S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT (Olivier Award nomination for Best Actress), GHOSTS (Olivier Award for Best Actress and Critics Circle Best Actress Award), GRIEF (Olivier Award nomination for Best Actress), THREE SISTERS (Clarence Derwent Award) and THE VISIT. Further credits include, SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION and ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER at the Old Vic Theatre and SOME GIRLS and THE CHERRY ORCHARD in the West End.

**FILMMAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES**

**ANAND TUCKER – Director**

Anand Tucker is an award-winning director, producer and writer, whose films include: HILARY AND JACKIE, which won him the BIFA Best Director Award and was called 'one of the best British films of the decade' by The Sunday Times. He produced GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING, which starred Scarlett Johansson and Colin Firth and was nominated for a BIFA for Best Achievement in Production, a BAFTA for Best British Film and a host of Academy Awards.

His film AND WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR FATHER?  was released in 2007 and starred Jim Broadbent and Colin Firth. It was nominated for seven BIFAs including Best British Film and Best Director.

In 2009 Anand returned to television directing the critically acclaimed adaptation of David Peace's novel, RED RIDING: NINETEEN EIGHTY THREE for Channel 4. As well as directing the 2013 ABC pilot GOTHICA.

In 2014, Anand directed INDIAN SUMMERS, produced by New Pictures for Channel 4 and PBS. The opening episode drew 2.9 million viewers, making it the most successful Channel 4 drama launch in 20 years.

He is currently directing the movie THE CRITIC, starring Sir Ian McKellen and Gemma Arterton, based on the novel, CURTAIN CALLby Anthony Quinn and adapted for the screen by Patrick Marber

**PATRICK MARBER – Writer**

Patrick Marber is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter and director. His work has won Evening Standard, Olivier, Time Out, New York and London Critics’ Circle and Writers’ Guild Awards and received BAFTA, British Comedy and Royal Television Society Awards. His screenplays have been nominated for Golden Globe, BAFTA and Academy Awards. He received the British Independent Film Award for NOTES ON A SCANDAL. His second play, CLOSER*,* has been produced in more than 200 cities across the world.

Other plays include: DEALER’S CHOICE, HOWARD KATZ, THE RED LION, THREE DAYS IN THE COUNTRY, THE MUSICIANS, THE SCHOOL FILM, AFTER MISS JULIE, and DON JUAN IN SOHO. Stage adaptations include versions of HEDDA GABLER, EXIT THE KING and THE BEAUX’ STRATAGEM(NT); and TRELAWNY OF THE ‘WELLS’ (Donmar).

As a director his productions include NACHTLAND (Young Vic), HABEAS CORPUS (Menier Chocolate Factory), DEALER’S CHOICE (NT/Vaudeville), AFTER MISS JULIE (BBC), CLOSER (NT/Lyric/Music Box NY), 1953 (Almeida), BLUE REMEMBERED HILLS (NT), *THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD* (Royal Court), THE CARETAKER (Comedy), HOWARD KATZ (NT), THREE DAYS IN THE COUNTRY (NT), TRAVESTIES (Menier/Apollo/Broadway), DON JUAN IN SOHO (Wyndhams), VENUS IN FUR (Theatre Royal Haymarket), EXIT THE KING (NT).

In 2020 he directed Tom Stoppard’s LEOPOLDSTADT at the Wyndhams Theatre, which won the Olivier Award for Best New Play that year.  LEOPOLDSTADT opened on Broadway in October 2022 and in June 2023 Patrick won the Tony Award for best Director of a Play and the Outer Critics Circle Award for outstanding Director of a Play.

Patrick’s TV and radio credits include BUNK BED (BBC Radio 4), AFTER MISS JULIE, THE DAY TODAY, THE PAUL CALF VIDEO DIARY, KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU...WITH ALAN PARTRIDGE and THREE FIGHTS, TWO WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL. His short radio play HOOP LANE was transmitted on BBC Radio 3 in November 2004.

His other film credits include OLD STREET, CLOSER and LOVE YOU MORE.

**BILL KENWRIGHT – Producer**

Bill Kenwright CBE was a prolific Tony and Olivier award-winning theatre and film producer. His West End theatre productions include, CABARET, EVITA, John Tiffany’s acclaimed LET THE RIGHT ONE IN, THE WIZARD OF OZ, THE CRUCIBLE, A FEW GOOD MEN starring Rob Lowe, ALL’S WELL THAT END’S WELL and HAY FEVER starring Judi Dench, A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE starring Jessica Lange, NIGHT OF THE IGUANA starring Woody Harrelson, and CAT ON THE HOT TIN ROOF starring Brendan Fraser. Previous Broadway productions include, DANCING AT LUGHNASA (Tony Award); MEDEA (Tony Award), Ibsen’s A DOLL’S HOUSE (4 Tony Awards); Théâtre de Complicite’s THE CHAIRS (6 Tony nominations); CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF starring Ashley Judd, THE GLASS MENAGERIE starring Jessica Lange and Sarah Paulson, PRIMO, FESTEN (5 Olivier nominations), EQUUS, PASSING STRANGE and GUYS AND DOLLS. One of his most well-known productions is BLOOD BROTHERS (Olivier Award), which ran for 24 years in the West End, and also played for three years at Broadway’s Music Box Theatre.

Film includes: Stephen Frears’ CHÉRI written by Christopher Hampton and starring Michelle Pfeifer, Rufus Norris’s BROKEN, winner of the Best British Independent Film Award 2012, period thriller THE CRITIC starring Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, and Mark Strong, THE SHEPHERD starring John Travolta, and a stage capture of BKL’s West End hit musical HEATHERS based on the 1989 cult hit film, MY SISTER’S BONES, BURDEN, OFF THE RAILS, ANOTHER MOTHER’S SON, THE HOPE ROOMS, THE DAY AFTER THE FAIR, STEPPING OUT, and DON’T GO BREAKING MY HEART. DIE MOMMIE DIE! and BURDEN were both Sundance Festival Award winners in 2003 and 2018 respectively. MY PURE LAND was Britain’s submission for the Foreign Language Oscar.

In 2002 he received the Variety Club Bernard Delfont Award for his contribution to the entertainment industry, and in 2008 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Theatrical Management Association. In 2017, to celebrate his illustrious career in show business, he was honoured in the UK by BBC Radio 2 with a special episode of FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT which was broadcast from the London Palladium.

Alongside his work as a producer, Bill was Chairman of English Premier League Football Club, Everton - and a lifelong fan. Bill passed away in 2023.

**JOLYON SYMONDS – Producer**

Jolyon Symonds is an award-winning producer of both film and television including the Bafta winning film COMPLICIT for Channel 4 starring David Oyelowo, THE DRIVER for BBC1 and KEVIN AND PERRY GO LARGE, one of the most successful British comedy films of all time. He is managing director of production company Fearless Minds.

Jolyon most recently produced THE CRITIC directed by Anand Tucker, Patrick Marber’s feature film adaptation of Anthony Quinn’s novel CURTAIN CALL, starring Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong and Lesley Manville, backed by Universal and BK Studios. Fearless Minds starts production later this year on its BBC series MINT, created by Charlotte Regan, a co-production with House Productions. Prior to that, Jolyon executive produced the anthology series SOULMATES for Amazon and AMC written by Will Bridges and Brett Goldstein starring Sarah Snook, Kingsley Ben-Adir, Shamier Anderson and Laia Costa.

Before setting up Fearless Minds, he ran On The Corner with producer James Gay-Rees, director Asif Kapadia and actor David Morrissey which produced the Oscar and Bafta winning film AMY and music documentary 1971.

Other feature film credits include THE ESCAPIST starring Jonny Lee Miller for UGC, Sony and Sky Pictures, THE BACKWOODS starring Gary Oldman and Virginie Ledoyen for Filmax and THE LAST YELLOW starring Mark Addy and Samantha Morton. His TV credits include the THORNE series for Sky and BREATHLESS for ITV

**DAVID GILBERY – Producer**

David Gilbery is the CEO of Bill Kenwright Limited. He has been producing and financing independent films for nearly two decades, playing a key role in notable projects such as THE LOST DAUGHTER (starring Olivia Coleman and Dakota Johnson), ARKANSAS (starring Vince Vaughn and John Malkovich) as well as genre hits 47 METERS DOWN and BONE TOMAHAWK. David has also Executive Produced a number of documentary projects, including UNTOUCHABLE (Sundance 2019), MCQUEEN (Bafta Nominee) and TINA.

**DAVID HIGGS – Director of Photography**

Director of Photography David Higgs’s feature credits include Anand Tucker’s THE CRITIC produced by Bill Kenwright, with Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong, Lesley Manville and Ben Barnes; THE AMAZING MR BLUNDEN directed by Mark Gatiss; Jonathan Teplitzky’s CHURCHILL starring Brian Cox; Nigel Cole’s ALL IN GOOD TIME; Olly Parker and Barnaby Thompson’s ST TRINIAN’S II; LESBIAN VAMPIRE KILLERS directed by Phil Claydon and ROCKNROLLA directed by Guy Ritchie. David acted as 2nd unit on Ritchie’s SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS and also worked with Anand Tucker on LEAP YEAR as 2nd unit director.

TV credits include THE BASTARD SON & THE DEVIL HIMSELF directed by Colm McCarthy, Debs Paterson and Rachna Suri; SHADOW AND BONE and HALF BAD for Netflix; series 3 of DAS BOOT directed by Dennis Gansel and Hans Steinbichler; HIS DARK MATERIALS (Bad Wolf/BBC) for which he was nominated for a British Academy Cymru Award; WILL directed by Shekhar Kapur and Jonathan Teplitzky for TNT; ALIENS and INDIAN SUMMERS for Channel 4; Origin, series one of OUTLANDER and MAD DOGS II for Left Bank; Endor Production’s GTC-winning RESTLESS, THAT DAY WE SANG directed by Victoria Wood, DEEP STATE and THE ESCAPE ARTIST; Carnival’s MURDER ON THE HOMEFRONT; DOUBLE LESSON directed by Geoffery Sax; THE PROMISE and BRITZ directed by Peter Kosminsky; LOST IN AUSTEN directed by Dan Zeff and Revolution Films’ TV drama RED RIDING Trilogy: 1983 directed by Anand Tucker, for which he won the BAFTA craft award for cinematography.

Other highlights have included DERAILED, the BAFTA-winner THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR, BENEATH THE SKIN, Thaddeus O’Sullivan’s ISLAND AT WAR, the BAFTA-nominated CAMBRIDGE SPIES, THE RUSSIAN BRIDE which was also BAFTA and RTS-nominated, Joe Wright’s BAFTA-nominated NATURE BOY, THE CANTERVILLE GHOST, THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES and HBO and Channel 4’s ROMEO & JULIET.

**BEVERLEY MILLS - Editor**

Beverley Mills is an award-winning film editor with experience cutting feature films, high-end drama and documentaries. Her film credits include The Aftermath (with Keira Knightly and Alexander Skarsgard) Death at a Funeral (with Matthew MacFadyen) and Honour (with Paddy Considine), and her feature documentaries include India in a Day and TT3D-Closer to the Edge.

Beverley has also edited celebrated TV series such as Delhi Crime (Netflix), The Power (Amazon), Taboo (BBC), and Elizabeth I (HBO). Beverley’s work has been recognised with numerous awards and nominations, including an Emmy for her work on Elizabeth I and an International Emmy for Delhi Crime.

Driven by her commitment to compelling narrative and strong visual storytelling, Beverley’s credits are rich and diverse. Prior to editing The Critic, Beverley previously collaborated with Anand Tucker on Indian Summers. Beverley recently worked on Poacher (dir: Richie Metha), and other  credits include such series as Shameless, Skins, and A Christmas Carol. She is currently editing a major new series.

**JOHN GILBERT – Additional Editor**

Film editor John Gilbert, ACE is most known for his work on Peter Jackson’s THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING, for which he earned nominations from the Academy, BAFTA, and ACE awards. Gilbert later achieved wins from the Academy and BAFTA Awards for his work on Mel Gibson's 2016 war drama HACKSAW RIDGE. A native of New Zealand, Gilbert has edited over 20 feature films including Alison Maclean’s CRUSH, which was nominated for the Palme d’Ore at Cannes Film Festival, Simon Kinberg’s THE 355, Baltasar Kormákur’s ADRIFT, and Tearepa Kahi’s MURU, which was an official selection at Toronto International Film Festival.

Most recently, Gilbert wrapped DAMSEL for director Juan Carlos Fresnadillo and Netflix and THE CRITIC for director Anand Tucker.

**CRAIG ARMSTRONG – Composer**

Craig Armstrong is a Scottish born composer.  Through his orchestral writing and wide-ranging artistic collaborations in classical and film music, Craig Armstrong’s distinct compositional voice has received worldwide acclaim.

Concert works from Armstrong include commissions from the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Hebrides Ensemble, Cappella Nova and the Scottish Ensemble to name a few. Armstrong’s second Scottish Opera commission, THE LADY FROM THE SEA, premiered at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2012 winning the Herald Angel Award.  Commissioned for Union Chapel’s Organ Reframed festival, Armstrong composed the beautiful PAINTED IN WHITE for Organ and Strings performed by the London Contemporary Orchestra.

Armstrong has composed scores for both Hollywood and independent films from Peter Mullan’s directorial debut THE CLOSE TRILOGY to the BAFTA, Ivor Novello and Golden Globe winning award scores for Baz Lurhmann’s ROMEO AND JULIET and MOULIN ROUGE!.  Many more films have benefited from Armstrong’s music including LOVE ACTUALLY, WORLD TRADE CENTRE, FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD, THE GREAT GATSBY, SNOWDEN and the Grammy award winning score for RAY.  Armstrong has since composed scores for Norman Stone’s drama about CS Lewis, THE MOST RELUCTANT CONVERT as well as scores for DIRT MUSIC and THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY. In 2023 Craig scored THE GREAT ESCAPER by director Olly Parker.

Armstrong recorded a UK number 1 classical album for imprint Modern Recordings (BMG Germany) with THE EDGE OF THE SEA.  An album which is a culmination of his interests in Gaelic psalm singing from the west coast of Scotland.  Developed over several years and in close collaboration with the Hebridean composer Calum Martin. The album is a unique recording of this traditionally acapella Gaelic psalm singing featuring the innovative Scottish Ensemble.  The second release with Modern Recordings is Nocturnes Music For 2 Pianos and was released in September 2021.

Working primarily from his studio in Glasgow, Armstrong continues to work internationally in composition.

**LUCIENNE SUREN – Production Designer**

Lucienne Suren is a London based Production designer of both film and television including the final series of KILLING EVE for which she won the British Film Designers Guild award for Best Production Design for Independent TV Drama.

Lucienne is currently filming a 1930s Agatha Christie adaptation TOWARDS ZERO for Mammoth Screen and the BBC, starring Angelica Huston and directed by Sam Yates.

Productions Lucienne production designed due for release this year are a 1980s period drama JOAN starring Sophie Turner and Frank Dillane. Prior to that, and a 1930s set feature film THE CRITIC starring Ian McKellen and Gemma Arterton.

Before moving into production design Lucienne worked as an Art Director on films such as TERMINATOR: DARK FATE, THE AFTERMATH and THE INBETWEENERS MOVIE and TV shows such as THE NIGHT MANAGER and TABOO.

**ROBERT STERNE – Casting**

Robert Sterne read English at New College, Oxford and is a graduate of The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.  He has been working in casting since 2003 and spent 14 years working with Nina Gold from whom he learnt the job before co-casting several projects with her. Television casting director credits include THE CROWN (Seasons 1 – 6), THE RESPONDER, THE SERPENT, CHERNOBYL, GAME OF THRONES (Seasons 1-7), LES MISÉRABLES, WOLF HALL, THE STATE, LONDON SPY and FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER (Seasons 1 – 6). As casting associate at Nina Gold Casting film credits include ALLIED, IN THE HEART OF THE SEA, THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING, THE IMITATION GAME, LES MISÉRABLES, THE KING’S SPEECH, RUSH, MR TURNER, THE WORLD’S END, THE IRON LADY, ATTACK THE BLOCK, BRIGHT STAR, NOWHERE BOY, EASTERN PROMISES and HOT FUZZ. He also casts regularly in London theatre, predominantly for The Bridge Theatre but also for The Almeida Theatre, Hampstead Theatre and in the West End. Robert has won 5 Primetime Emmy awards for his casting work.

**CLAIRE FINLAY-THOMPSON – Costume Designer**

Claire Finlay-Thompson is a prolific costume designer celebrated for her innovative and meticulous approach to her craft. With over two decades of experience, Claire has worked on a variety of prominent film and television projects. Her standout work on the series LOCKWOOD AND CO, DOCUMENTARY NOW! SUMMERLAND , MISS YOU ALL READY and OFFICIAL SECRETS showcases her ability to blend contemporary with period and fantastical elements. Claire’s expertise in combining historical influences with modern sensibilities has made her a sought-after talent in the industry.

The throughline in Claire’s work is a deep commitment to storytelling through costume and how they can be a key part of realising the director’s vision. From her work on iconic comedy shows such as GAVIN & STACEY, NIGHTY NIGHT, THE OUTLAWS, THE LEAGUE OF GENTLEMAN, HUNDERBY and HIM & HER to her work in recent years on high end television and films such as INDUSTRY and SUSPICION, her ability to bring characters to life is evident.

**LOZ SCHIAVO – Hair & Makeup Designer**

Loz Schiavo is an award-winning hair and make-up designer who has worked across high-profile prestige TV and big feature film. She is best known for her work on PEAKY BLINDERS Series 1-5, for which she has won a BAFTA for Best Makeup Design, A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES for Bad Wolf, and DEATH COMES TO PEMBERLEY. Other film and TV credits include THE ESSEX SERPENT for Apple TV+, Anand Tucker’s THE CRITIC, Ralph Fiennes’ CORIOLANUS, LORD OF CHAOS, ANTHROPOID, VIRTUOSO, THE LOOK OF LOVE, LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED, MR NICE and CASINO ROYALE. She has also worked on commercials with directors such as Tom Hooper, Jonas Åkerlund and John Hillcoat.

**ABOUT BK STUDIOS**

BK Studios is a London based production and finance company established in September 2021, specialising in commercially driven content for global audiences.

BK Studios is currently in production on Destry Allyn Spielberg’s directorial debut PLEASE DONT FEED THE CHILDREN, starring Michelle Dockery and Giancarlo Esposito and ETERNAL RETURN starring Naomi Scott and Kit Harrington. Upcoming releases include THE CRITIC, starring Ian McKellen and Gemma Arterton (TIFF 2023 Official Selection); THE SHEPHERD, starring John Travolta (premiering on Disney+ this Christmas); psychological thriller, MY SISTER'S BONES, starring Jenny Seagrove; and an adaption of LONG DAY’S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT starring Jessica Lange and Ed Harris.

BK Studios prides itself on working with exciting filmmakers with compelling stories to tell. The company was founded by the late Bill Kenwright CBE (CHÉRIE, BROKEN) and is run by CEO David Gilbery (THE LOST DAUGHTER, BONE TOMAHAWK).