



**SARAH BOLGER in** 

# A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND

a film by ABNER PASTOLL

"A cinematic punch in the face."

-Horror Channel

"One hell of a performance."

-Slash Film

"Electrifying."

-Sight & Sound

United Kingdom, Belgium, Ireland | 2019 | English Language 97 minutes | 2.39:1 | Stereo 2.0 and 5.1 Surround Sound

**AVAILABLE ON DEMAND, DIGITAL & ON VIRTUAL CINEMA - MAY 8, 2020** 

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# **LOGLINE**

A recently widowed young mother will go to any length to protect her children as she seeks the truth behind her husband's murder.

# **SYNOPSIS**

Sarah is a young mother with two small children. Her son Ben is an elective mute. He hasn't spoken since the day he witnessed his father, Stephen, being knifed to death on their estate, three months ago. The police have done little to nothing to catch the killer and categorized the death as a falling out amongst thieves, because Stephen had a minor drugs conviction. Then Tito quite literally bursts into Sarah's world. Tito has ripped off a bunch of drug-dealers on the estate. On the run, he decides to stash the stolen drugs in Sarah's home. Frightened senseless, cowering under Tito's threats, Sarah wants nothing to do with this but caught between a rock and a hard place, she sees the opportunity to use Tito to gain information about what might have happened to her husband, and does so by taking extreme measures.



# CAST

SARAH	SARAH BOLGER
LEO MILLER	EDWARD HOGG
TITO	ANDREW SIMPSON
ALICE	JANE BRENNAN
TERRY	CAOLAN BYRNE
MACKERS	PACKY LEE

# CREW

DIRECTED BY	ABNER PASTOLL
WRITTEN BY	RONAN BLANEY
PRODUCED BY	JUNYOUNG JANG
	<b>GUILLAUME BENSKI</b>
CO-PRODUCED BY	JEAN-YVES ROUBIN
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	GILLIAN DEVENNEY
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	RICHARD BELL
COMPOSER	MATTHEW PUSTI



# **SELECT PRESS QUOTES**

- "The perfect marriage of a director who knows how to generate suspense and an actress capable of delivering a knockout, three-dimensional performance."
- -Mike McGranaghan, Aisle Seat
- "Sarah Bolger's magnetic performance anchors this nerve-rattling suspense thriller."
- -Shaun Munro, Flickering Myth
- "A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND is a lean, mean, painfully real crime thriller that will make you cheer for Sarah and her ability to overcome the worst of humanity and come out the other end kicking all sorts of ass."
- -Rafael Motamayor, Slash Film
- "Well-crafted on every level, A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND works above all because of how attuned it is to its people... And if you want to find one of the very best performances by a woman on the recent genre scene, you need look no further."

  —Michael Gingold, Rue Morque
- "A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND is a mix of social realism, crime thriller and family drama. What makes it stand out is a strong central performance from Bolger."

  —Rob Aldam, Backseat Mafia
- "A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND feels timely and unnerving while also embracing its genre roots... an unmissable crime thriller from a new director to watch."

  -Christopher Webster, Screen Anarchy
- "Beautifully executed... part gritty crime drama and part revenge thriller... Abner Pastoll rewards genre lovers with a brutal crescendo that is unexpected yet wholly gratifying."

  —Becky Sayers, Dread Central
- "Beautifully observed and with a terrific central performance from Bolger, this is a film that takes a simple story and gives it real power."
- -Jennie Kermode, Eye for Film

# **AWARDS**

Winner - Best Film - FrightFest

Winner - Best Actor - FrightFest

Winner - BritFlicks Award - Best Actor - FrightFest

Winner - BritFlicks Award - Best Villain - FrightFest

Winner - BritFlicks Award - Best of British - FrightFest

Winner - Best Actress - ScreamFest

Nominated - Fresh Blood Award - Fantasy Filmfest

# **ABOUT THE FILM**

Set on a run-down council state on the edges of an unnamed Irish city, our story reflects a situation where a section of people feel increasingly marginalized and betrayed and abandoned by the civil authorities. It is a zeitgeist story, which attempts to capture the rage against the machine. But we didn't set out to make some 'worthy' kitchen-sink melodrama. Rather, we wanted to throw the audience a curve-ball and suggest this was just such a story, only to play with genre conventions before taking it somewhere else entirely, somewhere much more interesting and entertaining, to create an exciting no-punches-pulled what-happens-next thriller.

Our hero is the most vulnerable figure we could find – a young mother with two small children. Initially she is someone who plays by the rules, who expects help in her situation. But when none is forthcoming, she does what she has to do in order to find justice. But not only justice. Sarah finds self-respect and self-definition and self-justification by the use of the most heinous methods. In order to survive, in order to become a true person of self-worth and dignity, this young penny-wise mother must become utterly ruthless.

Sarah is no Loachian heroine. A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND contains scenes of body horror and extreme violence and black comedy, which make it distinct from social realism. It is too visceral and distinctive and daring for that. It rejects this approach from the moment Sarah picks up her vibrator and goes for the jugular! Yet for all that, it asks the same deadly serious question as social realist drama – Is this the kind of society we wish to perpetuate?

A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND is a riveting thrill-ride into the depths of a mother's mind. Actor Sarah Bolger is our emotional anchor, catching each nuance and complicated moral dilemma so intimately, bringing an uncompromising truth without too much sentimentality.

# Director Abner Pastoll & Writer Ronan Blaney



# **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **SARAH BOLGER** AS SARAH

Sarah Bolger is fast becoming one of Hollywood's most promising talents. She starred opposite Olivia Wilde, Evan Peters and Mark Duplass in THE LAZARUS EFFECT for Blumhouse, and led the indie thriller EMELIE. Bolger made her award-winning debut aged 11 in Jim Sheridan's IN AMERICA for Fox Searchlight. She has since top-lined THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES for Paramount and THE MOTH DIARIES for IFC, with pivotal roles in TV such as on Showtime's THE TUDORS, ABC's ONCE UPON A TIME, AMC's INTO THE BADLANDS and Starz's COUNTERPART opposite JK Simmons. She is currently starring in MAYANS MC for FX NETWORKS. She has been nominated for the Irish Film & Television Awards five times and won Best Supporting Actress for THE TUDORS.



## **EDWARD HOGG** AS LEO MILLER

A RADA graduate, Edward Hogg is known for his astounding debut leading role opposite Carrie Fisher in WHITE LIGHTNIN', the British comedy BUNNY AND THE BULL and TV series TABOO opposite Tom Hardy. His credits include ANONYMOUS by Roland Emmerich, JUPITER ASCENDING by the Wachowskis, KILL YOUR FRIENDS opposite Nicholas Hoult, BBC drama INDIAN SUMMERS and miniseries JONATHAN STRANGE. He was the UK recipient of the Shooting Stars Award at the Berlin Film Festival 2010.



#### **ANDREW SIMPSON** AS TITO

Andrew Simpson debuted in SONG FOR A RAGGY BOY. He then made a mark opposite Cate Blanchett, Judi Dench and Bill Nighy in NOTES ON A SCANDAL for Fox Searchlight. Simpson had his first major leading role in Abner Pastoll's ROAD GAMES. His other recent credits in television and film include NICK NICKLEBY for the BBC, REBELLION for RTE, PERRIER'S BOUNTY, GOOD VIBRATIONS and BAFTA-nominated THE SURVIVALIST.



#### **JANE BRENNAN** AS ALICE

Jane Brennan starred opposite Saoirse Ronan in the Academy Award-nominated film BROOKLYN for which she won Best Supporting Actress at the Irish Film & Television Awards. She had a recurring role on Showtime series THE TUDORS and appeared in the TV remake of THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS. Her credits include VERONICA GUERRIN, PERRIER'S BOUNTY, DEATH OF A SUPERHERO and John Crowley's INTERMISSION. She is also a renowned stage actress in the UK & Ireland.

#### **CAOLAN BYRNE** AS TERRY

Caolan Byrne graduated from the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in 2002 and then spent 3 years with the Royal Shakespeare company. He has performed world premieres of works by John Grogan, Owen McCafferty, Nona Sheperd and in 2013 was a member of the re-formed internationally acclaimed Field Day Theatre company, performing the world premiere of Sam Sheperd's A PARTICLE OF DREAD. His recent credits include THE FOREIGNER by Martin Campbell and the TV series THE MINIATURIST.

## **PACKY LEE** AS MACKERS

Packy Lee is best known for his breakthrough role in the Netflix drama series PEAKY BLINDERS, in addition to roles in THE FRANKENSTEIN CHRONICLES, CLEAN BREAK and THE SHORE.

# **CREW BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **DIRECTOR ABNER PASTOLL**

Abner's debut feature ROAD GAMES, a France-UK co-production, has been distributed worldwide including theatrically in the U.S. by IFC Films, in the UK & Ireland by ICON, in France by Sony and in Korea by CJ Entertainment. His short film ME OR THE DOG premiered in Coup de Coeur at the Cannes Film Festival in 2011 and had a limited theatrical release in London the following year. A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND is his second feature.

#### WRITER RONAN BLANEY

Ronan is a BAFTA winner and Academy Award nominee for his short film BOOGALOO AND GRAHAM. His feature credits include LOVEBITE (Eccose Films 2012) and DON'T GO (Wide Eye Films 2019) starring Stephen Dorff and Melissa George. He's currently working on a wide variety of projects including new collaborations with director Abner Pastoll, and also with Michael Lennox – their Oscar nominated short BOOGLAOO AND GRAHAM is being developed into an animated series with Pesky Films and Sixteen South.

## PRODUCER JUNYOUNG JANG

Junyoung is a producer at February Films. She is a member of the ACE (Ateliers du Cinéma Européen) Producer's Network. She produced suspense-thriller ROAD GAMES by Abner Pastoll; a UK-France co-production released theatrically in the US by IFC Films. She previously co-produced THE HOST by Bong Joon-ho, which had an \$80m domestic theatrical box office after premiering at Director's Fortnight in Cannes. Her other producing credits include A LONG WAY FROM HOME (winner of the Michael Powell award at the Edinburgh Film Festival) starring BAFTA winner James Fox, Academy Award winner Brenda Fricker and Natalie Dormer (Game of Thrones). Junyoung is currently, since 2017, a Senior Consulting Producer at NBCUniversal.

## PRODUCER GUILLAUME BENSKI

Guillaume is the founder and producer of Superbe Films. His producing credits include Emilia Ferreira's debut THE UNATTAINABLE STORY, which premiered at the Mostra de Sao Paulo 2016 and at Cinequest 2017 and will be released in Jan 2018; and the South-African/French coproduction ACCIDENT by Dan Tondowski to be released in December 2017. His latest production, ROAD GAMES by Abner Pastoll was released in 2016 by IFC (USA), Icon (UK) and more than 30 countries after screening at Frightfest in 2015. His credits include A LONG WAY FROM HOME with James Fox and Natalie Dormer, which premiered at the Edinburgh Film Festival 2013, THE BACKWOODS starring Gary Oldman and GOODBYE BAFANA as an associate producer.

#### CO-PRODUCER JEAN-YVES ROUBIN

Jean-Yves Roubin's credits include RAW (World Premiere – Cannes Critic's Week 2016, Official Selection – Toronto 2016, Sundance 2017) which was picked up for distribution by Focus World, DAGUERROTYPE (Toronto 2016), SOUVENIR (Toronto 2016) starring Isabelle Huppert and HEAL THE LIVING (Venice 2016, Toronto 2016) starring Tahar Rahim and Emmanuelle Seigner. Associated with the Dardenne Brothers and Tarantula Belgium, Frakas Productions is a co-founder of Cinéfinance SA, a fundraiser in Tax Shelter. Director of Universciné Belgique, Jean-Yves Roubin is part of its board of directors. He is also a member of the ACE Producer's Network, of EAVE and has served for four years at the Film Selection Commission of the Wallonia Brussels Federation.

#### PRODUCTION DESIGNER GILLIAN DEVENNEY

A graduate of University of Ulster Art College, Gillian was Art Director and then Creative Director of Belfast's leading advertising agency McCann Erickson. Gillian designed various sitcoms and studio programmes for BBC-NI before moving into TV and film drama. She has over 30 Art Direction credits including FIVE MINUTES OF HEAVEN, STARRED UP, GOOD VIBRATIONS, and HIGH RISE. Gillian was Production Designer on THE FALL season 3 and for three series of the highly rated BBC police drama LINE OF DUTY. Recent credits include a feature film for Cinemagic and a period short for RTE Storyland. She has worked on numerous commercials, corporate videos and live events for clients such as BT, Smirnoff, and First Trust Bank.

#### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD BELL

Richard is cinematographer who works internationally on commercials, music videos and narrative fiction. His unmatched style and clear thinking lend itself to commercials for Asics, Lurpak, Siemens, Tesco, McDonalds, Glenfiddich and Ebay. Richard studied in Australia and in 2008 he won his first QLD Cinematographers Society Award in the student category, graduating with a Bachelor of Film and Screen Media Production from Griffith Film School the following year. Since then he has won 18 Australian Gold Cinematographers Society awards and most recently the ACS Golden tripod Award at the national level. A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND is Richard's feature film debut as cinematographer.

## COMPOSER MATTHEW PUSTI

Matt composes under the moniker MAKEUP AND VANITY SET. He is an American electronic musician from Nashville, TN. He has been creating dark, expansive electronic music for the past two decades, releasing numerous albums, EPs and soundtracks. His past work includes the horror trilogy CHARLES PARK, the science fiction epic 88:88 and the dystopian double-album WILDERNESS. His output has included releases with Telefuture Records (US), YK Records (US), Data Airlines (FR) and Electric Dreams Records (US). His soundtrack work includes podcasts UP AND VANISHED, MONSTER, and TO LIVE AND DIE IN LA (Tenderfoot), and films such as DEATH NOTE for Netflix and the upcoming GODZILLA VS. KONG (2020) for Legendary. A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND is Matt's feature film debut as composer.

# **MAIN CREDITS**

Directed by ABNER PASTOLL

Written by RONAN BLANEY

Produced by JUNYOUNG JANG

**GUILLAUME BENSKI** 

Co-Produced by JEAN-YVES ROUBIN

**CASSANDRE WARNAUTS** 

Executive Producers JAMES ARTHERTON

JAN PACE

**BILLY ACUMEN** 

**BUMSU LEE** 

ABNER PASTOLL

Starring SARAH BOLGER

**EDWARD HOGG** 

**ANDREW SIMPSON** 

And JANE BRENNAN

**CAOLAN BYRNE** 

**PACKY LEE** 

Introducing RUDY DOHERTY

**MACIE MCCAULEY** 

With SUSAN ATEH

JOSH BOLT

SIOBHAN KELLY

**SEAN SLOAN** 

Music by MATTHEW PUSTI

Director of Photography RICHARD BELL

Production Designer GILLIAN DEVENNEY

Costume Designer ELISE ANCION

Casting by MATHILDE SNODGRASS CSA

**CARLA STRONGE CSA** 

Supervising Sound Editor NICK BALDOCK

Production Sound Mixer PAUL HEYMANS

Film Editor ABNER PASTOLL

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FRAKAS PRODUCTIONS

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# ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Founded in 2002, Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 250 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Melanie Laurent. In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, Sergio Corbucci and Ettore Scola. For more information, visit www.filmmovement.com.

