

Simon Rumley



Simon Rumley is one of the great British cinematic outsiders, a gifted director with the know-how to puncture the conventions of horror..." (Screen International)

Writer/Director Simon Rumley burst onto the international film scene in 2006 with his tragic-horror *The Living and The Dead*. One of the darkest films to come out of England this past decade it premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival to great critical acclaim and went on to play in over 40 festivals worldwide, winning 15 awards including Best Film and Best Director at Austin's FantasticFest

His latest film is *Red White & Blue*, a disturbing, sociopathic study of sex, love and revenge set in the claustrophobic heart of Austin, Texas. Starring Noah Taylor, Amanda Fuller and Marc Senter, the film had its world premiere at the 2010 Rotterdam Festival and its American premiere at Austin's South by SouthWest Film Festival. It will receive its UK premiere at Film4 FrightFest this August.

Raised in and around Tunbridge Wells, Kent, Rumley went to Hull University to study law. However, a dormant desire to be a film-maker came to life when, aged 19, he literally woke up one morning, borrowed a Super 8mm camera and shot his first short film by the end of that term. "I've continued making films from there onwards", he says.

In 1995 he signed on and started writing feature scripts. He rapidly caught the attention of the film industry and was invited onto the Carlton Television Writing Course - a course for the country's most talented writers. His short *Laughter* was nominated for the ICA's annual Dick Award and in 1998 he was invited by the European Film Academy to be part of their annual 'A Month in the Country' - a meeting place for Europe's most promising young film-makers. He was also nominated for 'Most Talented Newcomer' and 'Best Achievement in Production' at the inaugural British Independent Film Awards for his debut feature, *Strong Language* which was released through the BFI at the National Film Theatre in 2000. His next feature *The Truth Game* was similarly released in 2001 and in 2002 he completed his unofficial London 90s youth culture trilogy with *Club Le Monde*. In 2006 he directed Thomas Beach's *The Handyman*. Starring Greta Scacchi and Bill Sage, the film won a handful of prizes including Best Short Film at Sitges.

Simon admits he is drawn to things that push the boundaries of what is acceptable. "More than anything", he says, "I think it's important for me to explore characters who are based in a believable reality so that when they do go off the rails, it's all the more disturbing for an audience because the audience thinks they already understand the character"

Signed to ICM agency in the US, Simon has just teamed up with cult British fantasy/horror directors Sean Hogan and Andrew Parkinson to write, produce and direct a psycho-sexual horror anthology *Little Deaths*, which will receive its world premiere at Film4 FrightFest.

