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A MAGNET RELEASE

THE SEEDING

Written & Directed by Barnaby Clay

Starring: Scott Haze and Kate Lyn Sheil

94 minutes / US

Official Selection:

2023 Tribeca Film Festival – World Premiere, Midnight Section
2023 Beyond Fest

FINAL PRESS NOTES

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SYNOPSIS

In *THE SEEDING*, a hiker lost in the desert takes refuge with a woman living alone, and soon discovers that she might not be there willingly. Directed by Barnaby Clay (*SHOT! THE PSYCHO-SPIRITUAL MANTRA OF ROCK*), the film stars Scott Haze (*VENOM*, *JURASSIC WORLD DOMINION*) and Kate Lyn Sheil (*YOU'RE NEXT*, *V/H/S*).

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

THE SEEDING emerged from two deeply important parts of my life: a love of psychological horror films that began in my early teens, and family; the birth of my son in particular. I'd been searching for a story that was both contained and compelling, and walking through the Joshua Tree Desert with my wife who was pregnant at the time, I came up with the central conceit for *The Seeding*:

A man finds himself marooned in an inescapable desert canyon, where the inhabitants have built a primordial society, structured around a merciless coda of survival and procreation.

You may ask how such a brutal film could be inspired by the joyous birth of my son and I answer that birth is brutal, an experience rivaled only by death in its level of raw intensity. Also, as the man in the equation, you are an appendage, potentially interchangeable and at the mercy of the mother, who is everything.

This film is a hybrid of two genres I love: 'environmental/elemental' thrillers like *Picnic At Hanging Rock*, *Deliverance* and *Walkabout*, where the landscape becomes as threatening as its inhabitants; and a strand of psychological horror like *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *Rosemary's Baby* and *Lord of The Flies* (1963 version), where ordinary people become tainted by the madness of their situation.

Filming on location in Utah was integral to the process. From myself to the cast and crew, we all felt the intensity of being isolated in a canyon for 19 days; the struggle against nature was presented to us daily. It was not without its challenges, but essential to making such a potentially surreal story somehow believable.

Like the canyon itself, the film is a microcosm, a distillation of the very basic cycles of life.

- Barnaby Clay



CAST/CREW BIOGRAPHIES

SCOTT HAZE – Wyndham Stone

Scott Haze recently wrapped Kevin Costner's HORIZON opposite Sam Worthington and Sienna Miller and is set to return for the fourth film. He can soon be seen co- starring opposite Orlando Bloom and Andie MacDowell in RED RIGHT HAND as well as in a starring role in the independent film, THE SEEDING, which will have its world premiere at this year's Tribeca Film Festival. Haze recently starred in Universal Pictures' JURASSIC WORLD: DOMINION opposite Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Laura Dern and Jeff Goldblum. He can also be seen opposite Keri Russell and Jesse Plemons in Searchlight Pictures' horror film ANTLERS, directed by Scott Cooper and produced by Guillermo Del Toro.

In 2021, Haze starred in Plan B Entertainment/A24's Academy Award Winning film MINARI opposite Steven Yeun, Sony Pictures Classics' 12 MIGHTY ORPHANS opposite Robert Duvall, Martin Sheen and Luke Wilson, and WILD INDIAN opposite Kate Bosworth and Jesse Eisenberg which premiered at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival. Haze can also be seen in WHAT JOSIAH SAW opposite Robert Patrick and OLD HENRY alongside Tim Blake Nelson, which premiered at the 2021 Venice Film Festival.

Haze started his career with his breakthrough performance in CHILD OF GOD which premiered at the Venice International Film Festival and earned critical acclaim naming him a Breakout Actor in the NEW YORK TIMES and a VARIETY Top 10 Actor to Watch. He went on to star in the Warner Bros. drama MIDNIGHT SPECIAL opposite Michael Shannon directed by Jeff Nichols, Joseph Kosinski's ONLY THE BRAVE for Sony opposite Josh Brolin, Universal/Dreamworks' THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE opposite Miles Teller (directed by Academy Award- nominated Jason Hall), and Sony's box-office smash hit VENOM opposite Tom Hardy, earning over \$855 million worldwide.

KATE LYN SHEIL - Alina

Being hailed by Indiewire as "the Meryl Streep of Independent Cinema", Kate Lyn Sheil is one of the most in demand and sought after actresses in the independent film space. In the years since her debut, she has gone on to act in such films as Carlo Mirabella-Davis' KNIFE POINT, Alex Ross Perry's THE COLOR WHEEL (AFI 2011), Lawrence Michael Levine's GABI ON THE ROOF IN JULY, Sophia Takal's GREEN (SXSW 2011), Joe Swanberg's SILVER BULLETS (Berlin 2011), Adam Wingard's YOU'RE NEXT (Toronto 2011), Amy Seimetz's SUN DON'T SHINE (SXSW 2012), Robert Byington's SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME (SXSW 2012), Alex Ross Perry's LISTEN UP PHILIP, Zachary Wigon's THE HEART MACHINE (SXSW 2014) and Drake Doremus' sci-fi futuristic love story EQUALS.

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Kate can most recently be seen as the lead in Justin Chon's JAMOJAYA which made its debut at Sundance this year. She was also seen in a starring role in Amy Seimet's SHE DIES TOMORROW which was distributed by Neon.

Kate was the Sundance darling of 2016 with the premiere of Robert Greene's genre bending documentary, KATE PLAYS CHRISTINE which follows Kate preparing to portray the role of Christine Chubbuck, a real-life news reporter who killed herself on national television in 1974. Kate most recently appeared in Alex O Eaton's MOUNTAIN REST, Michael Tyburski's THE SOUND OF SILENCE (Sundance 2019) and WHITE ECHO directed by Chloe Sevigny. Previously she appeared in the Sundance breakout, BRIGSBY BEAR, directed by Dave McCary.

In the television arena, she starred in Robert Kirkman's OUTCAST and she has had a number of meaningful recurring roles including her work as "Lisa Williams" in the critically acclaimed Netflix series, HOUSE OF CARDS and "Avery Suhr" in the Starz series, THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE created by Amy Seimet (Sundance Premiere). In addition, Kate can be seen as a recurring role in HBO's HIGH MAINTENANCE.

BARNABY CLAY – Writer/Director

Born in London, Barnaby Clay is a writer, director, and documentarian who has directed award winning music videos for influential bands including TV On The Radio, Gnarl's Barkley, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Rhianna and Depeche Mode's Dave Gahan.

Clay's short film credits include Carousel, starring Chloë Sevigny, Sickdog, starring Tunde Adebimpe and Natasha Lyonne, and Finkle's Odyssey, which won the Méliès d'Argent at the Fantporto Film Festival and collected awards at the Brooklyn International Film Festival, Marvais Genre, IFCT, and 24 FPS Film Festival.

Clay collaborated with Mick Rock and David Bowie to re-work the classic music video for "Life On Mars" as part of Vice Media and Intel's Creators Project series, under the name Life On Mars Revisited. His collaboration with Vice Media continued when he directed the feature documentary on the legendary photographer Mick Rock, entitled *Shot! The Psycho-Spiritual Mantra of Rock*. The film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and was theatrically released by Magnolia Pictures in 2017.

In 2019 Clay was the creative director of 'An Encounter With Lux Prima', a large-scale immersive installation at the Marciano Art Foundation (now Gagosian Marciano) in Los Angeles. The project was built around the music of 'Lux Prima' by Danger Mouse and Clay's wife, Karen O of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs.



The Seeding is Barnaby Clay's first narrative feature film.

BRIAN ETTING – Producer

Brian is a Film, TV, Documentary and Commercials producer whose work includes the recent Lionsgate/Hulu thriller, “Angel of Mine” (Noomi Rapace, Luke Evans, Yvonne Strahovski), the Starz comedy, “Tijuana Jackson: Purpose over Prison” (Romany Malco and Regina Hall); the Sony/Sam Goldwyn comedy, "A Good Old Fashioned Orgy" (Jason Sudeikis, Will Forte, Lake Bell, Nick Kroll), "Relative Strangers" (Danny DeVito, Kathy Bates, Bob Odenkirk, Ron Livingston, Christine Baranski, Neve Campbell), and HBO's award-winning series *Funny or Die Presents*, including episodes from directors - The Daniels and the Sundance winner, “Drunken History: Lincoln/Douglas” starring Will Ferrell and Don Cheadle.

He's produced multiple campaigns for the Super Bowl, Olympics and the Oscars, including multiple spots for directors Dayton/Faris; Nicole Holofcener, Seth Rogan & Evan Goldberg; Davis Guggenheim, Todd Field, Scott Cooper, Jason Reitman, Miguel Arteta, Bob Odenkirk, Grant Heslov, Jason Woliner and Maggie Carey.

Brian recently produced the Lionsgate/Buzzfeed rom-com, *Puppyhood* starring Lucy Hale and *Never Catch Pigeons* - a documentary about Vans shoes founder, Paul Van Doren from award-winning director Doug Pray.

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CREDITS

CAST

SCOTT HAZE
KATE LYN SHEIL
ALEX MONTALDO
THATCHER JACOBS
CHARLIE AVINK
MICHAEL MONSOUR
AARMAN KOMIC-BOTTIE
HARRISON MIDDLETON

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

BARNABY CLAY

PRODUCED BY

BRIAN ETTING

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

BARNABY CLAY WILLIAM ORZOLEK

JOSH ETTING EDDY MORETTI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

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PIP NGO NICK SPICER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

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COMPOSER

TRISTAN BECHET

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

DAVID BRIDSON

COSTUME DESIGNER

CHRISTINA BLACKALLER