



loaded

a film by Anna Campion

Synopsis

A group of seven sharp-minded English school leavers spend the weekend in a remote country house making their own horror video.

The horror, an impossibly ambitious Celtic fantasy, drifts from hilarity, to argument, to accusation as some members suspect others of feeding intimate details from their lives into the script. As they bicker on, the gap between self and character closes, in a disturbing foreshadowing of later events.

At the end of a day's filming, the group decides to brighten the atmosphere with an acid-inspired initiation. They record - in video-journal style - each other's secret dreams and fears.

Later in the night, a tragic accident occurs, forcing each one to enter a world beyond their experience.

While outwardly the group combats the world with a precocious knowledge, there is a deep underlying wariness, like the world has been used up, and that their generation must now make something of the dregs.

This is not the 60s generation - with their simple hopes for peace and love. This is a worldly generation of self-analytical realists who can't help but see the law and other social structures breaking down around them.

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David Hazlett Producer

David Hazlett has developed and produced both Anna Campion's short films 'The Audition' and 'Broken Skin'; and has been deeply involved in all stages of LOADED.

"It was very important to us that the film felt very modern and fresh. We wanted it to give an intelligent voice to young people."

Caroline Hewitt Producer

Caroline Hewitt brings an extensive experience of British production to the team. Amongst others, she has line produced 'Wish You Were Here' (dir. David Leland), 'A World Apart' (dir. Chris Menges), been associate producer on 'Queen of Hearts' (dir. Jon Amiel) and 'Fools of Fortune' (dir. Pat O'Connor), and is the producer of short films 'Arcadia', 'Heartsongs' and 'Chicken Talk'.

She was first attracted to LOADED by a script she found "completely authentic - Anna has a very true ear - with a more off-beat view of Britain" than she'd encountered before, and by working with Anna Campion whom she describes as "amazingly charismatic, very funny, very alchemical".

Bridget Ikin & John Maynard Producers

LOADED is the first UK/New Zealand Co-production. As the New Zealand producers, the opportunity of working with expatriate Anna Campion appealed instantly - "the script had an urgency, and was an intriguing personal view of contemporary England, yet an outsider's perspective, which we responded to."

Bridget Ikin's first feature was Jane Campion's 'An Angel at my Table'; her collaboration with director Alison Maclean includes the short film 'Kitchen Sink' and the feature 'Crush' (both in competition at past Cannes festivals).

John Maynard has produced Vincent Ward's first two features 'Vigil' and 'The Navigator: A Medieval Odyssey', and Jane Campion's first feature 'Sweetie' (all in competition at past Cannes festivals).

Anna Campion

LOADED is Anna Campion's first feature.



Coming from a noted theatrical family in New Zealand, and with five years as a professional actor, Anna came to London working first as a trainee group therapist, then gaining a fine arts degree at Goldsmiths College. Greatly encouraged by her sister Jane to make films, she completed a Masters in Film at the Royal College of Art. Her first film as writer/director, was 'The Audition' (featuring her mother Edith and sister Jane; winner of the BBC Student Drama prize, 1989). This was followed by a second short film 'Broken Skin' (In Competition at Cannes 1991). "The young people in LOADED belong to a generation that I see as attuned to the world in a more vibrant way than I was. They're facing the world smart and cynical, forced to grow up beyond their experience, left with no innocent playground. "I went for a cast of young actors who were individuals in themselves - beyond being actors. They are a young impulsive group... They have a vitality, and they take risks, which I find morbidly exciting. "I liked the idea of a weekend, as a microcosm of any human situation, where feelings - envy, hate, fear, guilt, jealousies - exist. I believe that as a species we're haunted by our emotions, very few of which we have under control."

Simon Fisher Turner

Simon Fisher Turner describes his music for LOADED as "very earthy, disorientating and modern. There's quite a range of music, underscoring the underside of the film, and weird, edgy, drug related music (but not in a blip-bloppy modern ecstasy way)."

Meeting director Derek Jarman in 1978 led to Simon composing the music for 'Caravaggio', 'The Last of England', 'The Garden', 'Edward II' and 'Blue'. As well as touring internationally doing the Blue Concerts, he has composed music for contemporary dance, and for other films including Andi Engel's 'Melancholia', and for several short experimental films such as Richard Heslop's 'Floating'.

