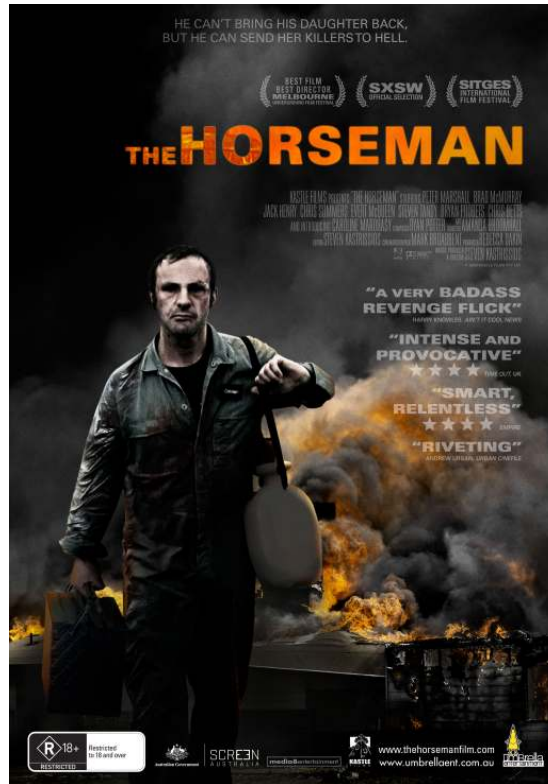


**Umbrella Entertainment
Presents**

The Horseman



Written and directed by Steven Kastrissios

With Peter Marshall, Caroline Marohasy,
Brad McMurray and Jack Henry

Running time: 94 minutes

Rating: R 18+

www.TheHorsemanFilm.com



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The Horseman

An action-packed, powerhouse Australian revenge-thriller and an unflinching study of grief & retribution.

Synopsis

An action-packed, multi-award winning Australian thriller, *The Horseman* features a range of powerhouse performances in an unflinching study of grief & retribution. Explore the dark fantasies we all dream up when Christian (**Peter Marshall**) is sent a horrifying pornographic video featuring his recently deceased daughter.

Setting out to find answers, he soon spirals into a world of violence and recklessness as he follows the links through the industry with his unique methods of brutal questioning.

Driving through north Queensland to locate the final suspect, he reluctantly picks up Alice (**Caroline Marohasy**), an awkward young runaway and an unlikely bond develops. But as the crime is pieced together, an ugly truth is revealed that leads everyone down a dangerous path.

Production Notes

The Horseman showcases the very best of Australian independent cinema. Writer/director **Steven Kastrissios** wrote the confronting feature screenplay in 2005 and then shot an award-winning short film based on the which demonstrated his vision and film making skills. This enabled him to sign on a stellar cast, led by veteran **Peter Marshall**, now considered to be the industry's best-kept secret.

The production features the stunning craft of a mixture of both new-comers making their feature debut and industry legends like stunt coordinator **Chris Anderson** (King Kong, Mad Max), who ensured the elaborate fight scenes designed by the first-time director would translate without concession.

With the aid of the now defunct 10BA tax certificate, which assisted in bringing about the dawn of Australian genre filmmaking in the 1970's, the filmmakers were able to bypass the usual government and private funding issues and keep the investment more 'in-house'. This enabled the filmmakers to retain full control over the film's development and execution.

"I had the freedom to tell whatever story I wanted, in any way I wanted and that freedom has led to a uniquely uncompromised, original film", says Kastrissios, who filled out many other roles including Producer, Editor and Digital Colourist. "I've never had a decent budget to play with, so when the opportunity of *The Horseman* came about, **Rebecca Dakin** and I knew how to

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put all the money up on the screen.”

Dakin came aboard to help produce, serving a multitude of tasks including unit manager, production accountant and even caterer. Together the team hit the ground running, tackling everything from intricate dramatic close-ups to multi-camera set-pieces to complete a successful production.

The final elements in post-production came together with Australia’s most treasured sound mixer, **Phil Judd** of Philmsound working tirelessly on the 5.1 surround mix to help beef up the film’s many fight scenes and delivering a thundering experience to the film.

Statement from Director, Steven Kastrissios

If a video arrived anonymously in the mail featuring your loved-one being mistreated accompanied with an address to the culprit’s home, what would you do? With this simple question in mind, I approached the screenplay as a realistic and unflinching exploration of revenge, whilst still aiming to satisfy a genre audience and, well...myself too. As much as I love a good action-thriller, I also want to believe what I’m seeing. Therefore, *The Horseman* is my take on the revenge genre.

Exploring the themes through the character of *Christian Forteski*, an average ‘Aussie bloke,’ helps ground the film in reality, as he is somebody we can all sympathise with. He’s not a Hollywood tough guy, martial arts expert or even a cowboy.

The concept of revenge is something we are all familiar with. Whether it involves dropping gum on the rude shopkeeper’s floor, crank-calling your ex or something more sinister, revenge and varying degrees of torture spill from us everyday. It is something we either embrace or deny and your mental and spiritual health will be deeply affected by either choice.

By keeping the budget low and privately financing the film without the usual government support, I have been able to take the film in directions that would usually be out of bounds for conservative mainstream cinema. When you ask the tough questions, you quickly find yourself writing something very confronting and possibly even controversial.

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PRINCIPLE CAST & CREW

THE CAST

Christian	Peter Marshall
Alice	Caroline Marohasy
Derek	Brad McMurray
Finn	Jack Henry
Pauly	Christopher Sommers
Devlin	Steven Tandy
Jim	Evert McQueen
Walters	Bryan Probets
Hilton	Chris Betts
Jesse	Hannah Levien
Chuck	Damon Gibson
Det Adams	Ron Kelly
Irene	Robyne Moore
Helen	Amanda Dettrick
Kenneth	Greg Quinn
Warren	Greg Jones
Bernie	Mick Glancy
Eddy	Rhye Copeman
Richards	Warren Meacham
Beefy	Cameron McKay
Christian	
Stunt Double	Nick Schodell

THE CREW

Writer, Producer & Director	Steven Kastrissios
Producer	Rebecca Dakin
Director of Photography	Mark Broadbent
Art Director	Amanda Broomhall
Editor	Steven Kastrissios
Composer	Ryan Potter

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BIOGRAPHIES

Steven Kastrissios (Writer/Producer/Director)

Born 1982 in Brisbane, Australia, Steven Kastrissios caught the filmmaking bug at the age of fourteen. Since then he has spent most of his free time making short films in almost every genre, often fulfilling most of the key roles.

At eighteen, Kastrissios began work on his most audacious short film, *The Park*. With a budget of only \$600, a running time of 50 minutes and several elaborate action sequences, the film went on to win several awards and furthered his confidence in low budget filmmaking.

Over the next few years, Kastrissios would develop a range of feature films whilst filling out various jobs in and out of filmmaking. In 2005 he wrote *The Horseman* and made an award-winning short film adapted from the feature screenplay. Based on its strengths he began recruiting a young and hungry team for the feature length production with a local cast & crew.

Selected Filmography:

2006 **The Horseman** (Short Film)

Winner Best Independent Drama 10-30 mins @ Queensland New Filmmaker Awards

2004 **Painter** (Short Film)

2003 **The Park** (Short Film) – Winner Best Producer (Steven Kastrissios, Anthony Cappe), Best Independent Drama 10-30 mins, Encouragement for Cinematography (Steven Kastrissios) @ Queensland New Filmmaker Awards

Rebecca Dakin (Producer)

Born 1974 in Brisbane, Australia, Rebecca Dakin has been in love with film since the tender age of seven, when family friends screened their homemade film at a local high school.

After taking film and television electives at high school, Dakin went on to do half an accounting degree as well as further study at film school, where she met future collaborator, Steven Kastrissios.

In her early years in the industry, Dakin plucked chickens, sugared donuts, cleaned locations and everything in between – and she wouldn't have it any other way.

Dakin's production credits include projects with a variety of budgets from US feature films, TV commercials, music video clips & short films. Her roles have ranged across many areas, including producing, production management, lighting & art department.

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Peter Marshall – *Christian Forteski*

Born 1964 in Townsville, Australia, Peter Marshall is one of those rare actors who has managed to find regular work throughout a twenty-year career. Discovered by Geoffrey Rush who directed him on stage in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Marshall has often headlined for Queensland's best theatre companies including; *Queensland Theatre Company (QTC)*, *Kooemba Jdarra*, *Qld Arts Council*, *Qld Biennial Festival of Music*, *La Boite*, *Backbone Youth Arts*, and *QPAC*.

Working extensively with QTC as both an actor and script developer, he has performed in over 20 plays for the company alone. His theatre highlights include lead roles in; *Anne of a Thousand Days*, *Skin of Our Teeth*, *Summer Rain*, *Last Drinks* and most recently, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*.

Marshall has also worked with well known theatre directors; *Robyn Nevin*, *Aarne Neeme*, *Aubrey Mellor*, *Gale Edwards*, *Roger Hodgman* and *Wesley Enoch*.

His film and television credits include: *The Team*, *Andrew's Guide*, *Mortified*, *Through My Eyes*, *Misery Guts*, *The Day of the Roses*, *Fire*, *Medivac*, *Time Trax*, *Pacific Drive*, *Paradise Beach*, *Fortress*, *Mr Reliable*, *Swimming Upstream*, *Mission Impossible –TV Series* and *Flair*. He also co-hosted *Bush Beat* and appeared in nearly every Queensland children's television series in the 80's and 90's.

Caroline Marohasy – *Alice*

Caroline Marohasy has always been passionate about the arts and started her acting training as an extra curricular activity. Midway through her high school years in Queensland, Marohasy relocated to Kenmore State High School where the performing arts boasted extended funding and facilities. She was then able to better focus her studies in drama and music to add to her years of training in song, dance & acting.

Across her senior years she lead and directed the school's major musicals before landing the role of 'Alice' in *The Horseman*. Prior to this, Marohasy had never performed in any professional capacity, thus marking *The Horseman* as her debut as a screen actor. She is currently studying acting full time at Actors Centre Australia in Sydney.

REVIEWS

"A very badass REVENGE flick" -**Harry Knowles, Aint it Cool News**

"Smart, Relentless" 4 stars – **Empire Magazine**

"Intense and Provocative" 4 stars – **Time Out, UK**

"one of the most intense, powerful, and aggressively compelling films I've seen in quite some time...a stunning lead performance by Peter Marshall...one rock-solid thriller that powers forward from frame one and never takes the easy way out."

-**Scott Wienberg, Fearnat**

"Writer/director Steven Kastrissios creates a pulverizing experience."

-**Peter Martin, Cinematical**

"A Powerhouse Debut...Wolf Creek meets Death Wish" – **Sky Movies**

"This is how a revenge flick is done...Kastrissios deftly builds that momentum to the point that the audience actually cheers with each excruciating turn."

-**Annette Kellerman, Ain't It Cool News**

"A riveting revenge thriller...a high impact, well crafted film that pushes the boundaries in every direction...among the best, most realistic and harrowing fight scenes captured on film anywhere." -**Andrew Urban, Urban Cinefile**

"The Horseman is a balls to the wall, edgy thriller. A simple, fast paced action movie - the kind people used to make in the 70's. Think 'Get Carter' in *stubbies* crossed with Tarantino." -**Greg Mclean (Wolf Creek, Rogue)**

"Powerful...Marshall's performance is stunning." -**Rob Hood, Black Magazine**

"Kastrissios might just be the first director in a long time that truly gets the revenge genre." -**Quiet Earth**

"Lets her rip and fails to let up." –**Michael Helms, Fangoria**

Awards

Winner Best Australian Film
Winner Best Australian Director
Best Actor (Peter Marshall)
Best Actress (Caroline Marohasy)
-2010 A Night of Horror International Film Festival

Winner Best Australian Film
Winner Best Australian Director
-2008 Melbourne Underground Film Festival

Festival Selections

2008 Melbourne International Film Festival - World Premier
2008 Melbourne Underground Film Festival
2009 South-by-South West Film Festival – North American Premier
2009 London Australian Film Festival – European Premier
2009 Newport Beach Film Festival
2009 Frightfest Film Festival
2009 Fantasia Film Festival
2009 SITGES Film Festival

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About Umbrella Entertainment

Founded in 2001, Umbrella Entertainment is an independent, Australian-owned distribution company run by expert staff with a true passion for feature film, television, music and documentary content. Umbrella has bought over 1500 releases to the market in Australia and New Zealand.

As an all rights and content management company, Umbrella Entertainment licenses and distributes first-run theatrical releases across a range of genres. Previous releases for Umbrella include the Claude Lelouch French thriller Roman De Gare and French romantic comedy, Shall We Kiss?

In addition to a growing theatrical platform, Umbrella Entertainment licenses and distributes television titles in the following categories; Australian Cinema and Television, Arthouse and World Cinema, Horror, Documentary, Children's, Cult, USA and British Television, Comedy, Music Performance and Music Documentary. Umbrella distributes in the subsequent platforms; DVD for the Home, Video on Demand, Digital Television and Wireless.

Umbrella boasts a highly diverse and prestige catalogue, including the very best Academy Award-winning feature films (The Last Emperor, Cinema Paradiso); Australian film masterpieces (The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith, Picnic at Hanging Rock); landmark World Cinema (La Dolce Vita, The Bicycle Thief); plus the finest in cult (Repo Man), contemporary TV (Outrageous Fortune) and film drama (What's Eating Gilbert Grape).

Visit Umbrella Entertainment at www.umbrellaent.com.au

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