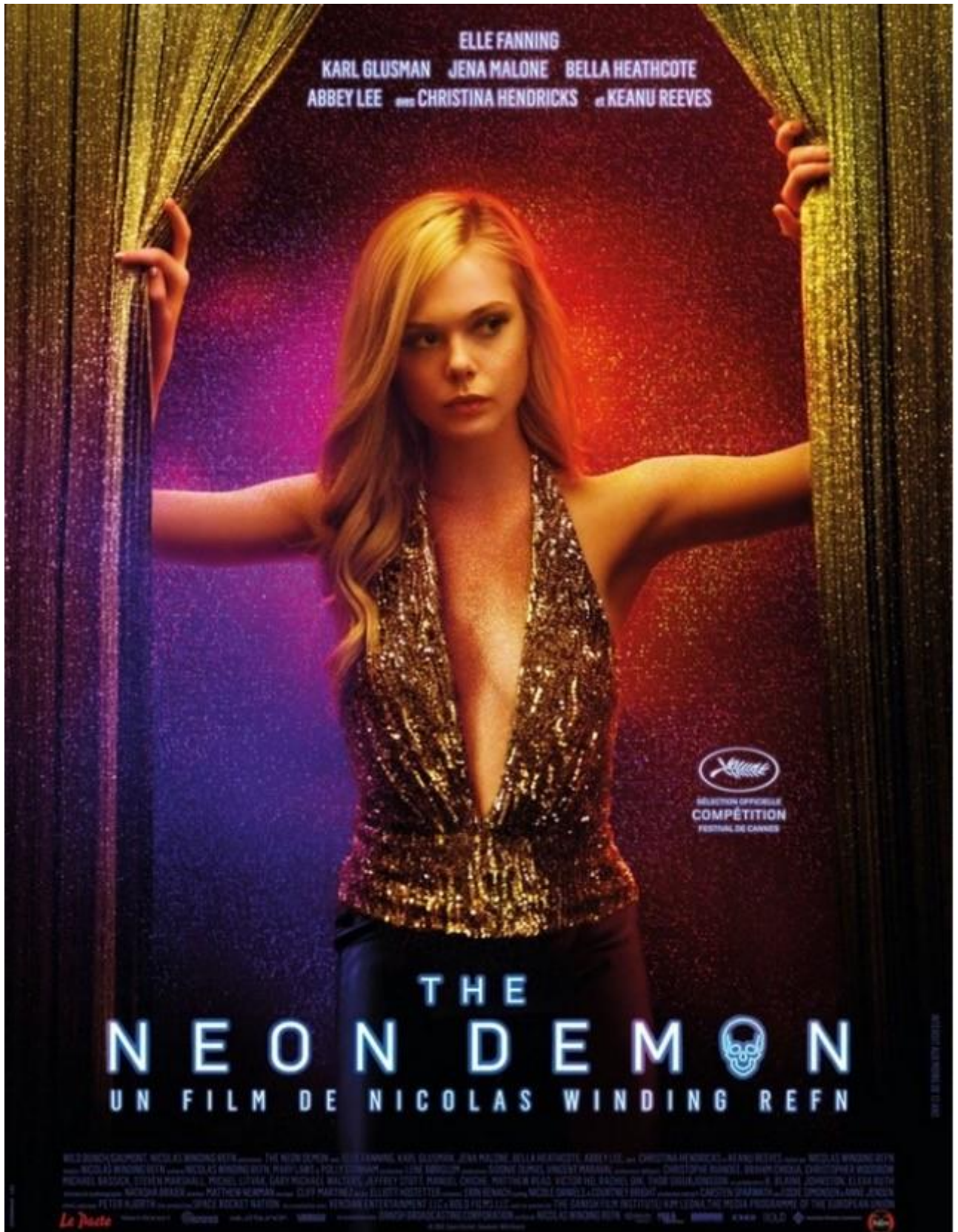


# Persmap



# THE NEON DEMON

Een film van Nicolas Winding Refn

*Jesse (Elle Fanning), een beginnend model, verhuist naar Los Angeles, waar ze is aangenomen door een modekoning (Alessandro Nivola) als zijn muze. Bij het binnentreden van de modellenindustrie van deze stad, worden haar schoonheid en vitaliteit verslonden door een groep van door schoonheid geobsedeerde vrouwen die koste wat het kost willen wat Jesse heeft.*

*De horrorfilm met Elle Fanning, Abbey Lee, Keanu Reeves en Christina Hendricks is geregisseerd door Nicolas Winding Refn, die met zijn film DRIVE genomineerd was voor een Oscar. Zijn vorige film ONLY GOD FORGIVES draaide drie jaar geleden in de competitie in Cannes.*



Speelduur: 110 min. - Land: USA- Jaar: 2016 - Genre: Drama/Horror  
Releasedatum bioscoop: 14 juli 2016  
Distributie: Cinéart

Meer informatie over de film:

Cinéart Nederland – Noor Pelser & Roos Schregardus  
Herengracht 328 III / 1016 CE Amsterdam  
Tel: +31 (0)20 5308845  
Email: noor@cinéart.nl  
www.cinéart.nl

*Persmap en foto's staan op: [www.cineart.nl/pers](http://www.cineart.nl/pers) - inlog: cineart / wachtwoord: film*

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## Cast

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<b>Jesse</b>	Elle Fanning
<b>Dean</b>	Karl Glusman
<b>Ruby</b>	Jena Malone
<b>Gigi</b>	Bella Heathcote
<b>Sarah</b>	Abbey Lee
<b>Roberta Hoffman</b>	Christina Hendricks
<b>Hank</b>	Keanu Reeves

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## Crew

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<b>Regie</b>	Nicolas Winding Refn
<b>Verhaal</b>	Nicolas Winding Refn
<b>Scenario</b>	Nicolas Winding Refn Mary Laws Polly Stenham
<b>Producent</b>	Lene Borglum Sidonie Dumas Vincent Maraval
<b>Uitvoerende producenten</b>	Christophe Riandee Brahim Chiqua Christopher Woodrow Michael Bassick Steven Marshall Michel Litvak Gary Michael Walters Jeffrey Scott Manuel Chiche Matthew Read Victor Ho Rachel Dik Thor Sigurjonsson
<b>Co-producenten</b>	K. Blaine Johnston Elexa Ruth
<b>DoP</b>	Natasha Braier
<b>Editing</b>	Matthew Newman
<b>Muziek</b>	Cliff Martinez
<b>Production Designer</b>	Elliott Hostetter
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Erin Benach
<b>Casting</b>	Nicole Daniels & Courtney Bright
<b>Line Producer</b>	Carsten Sparwath
<b>Sound design</b>	Eddie Simonsen Anne Jensen
<b>Visual effects supervisor</b>	Peter Hjorth

<b>Productie</b>	SPACE ROCKET NATION WILD BUNCH GAUMONT
<b>In samenwerking met</b>	Vendian Entertainment LLC Bold Films LLC Danish Broadcasting Corporation
<b>Met behulp van</b>	The Danish Film Institute Kim Leona The Media Programme of the European Union



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## Actrice Elle Fanning

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Elly Fanning is een Amerikaans actrice geboren op 9 april 1998. Ze is het jongere zusje van actrice Dakota Fanning. Als 2- en 3-jarige speelde ze de jongere versie van haar zus in de miniserie TAKEN en in de film I AM SAM. Op 4-jarige leeftijd speelde ze haar eerste rol onafhankelijk van haar zus in de film DADDY DAY CARE.

Inmiddels vijftien jaar later heeft Elle Fanning een gevestigde actrice en ze heeft rollen gehad in onder andere WE BOUGHT A ZOO, MALEFICENT en TRUMBO. Voor haar rol in GINGER & ROSA was ze genomineerd als Beste Actrice voor een British Independent Film Award en voor haar rol in SUPER 8 ontvang ze een Spotlight Award bij de Hollywood Film Awards.

### Selectie van filmografie:

2016	THE NEON DEMON
2015	ABOUT RAY
2015	TRUMBO
2014	MALEFICENT
2014	LOW DOWN
2012	GINGER & ROSA
2011	WE BOUGHT A ZOO
2011	SOMEWHERE
2011	SUPER 8
2006	DÉJÀ VU
2006	BABEL
2001	I AM SAM

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## Actrice Jena Malone

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### SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY

2016	THE NEON DEMON
2016	CLAIRE
2015	THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 2
2014	ANGELICA
2014	INHERENT VICE
2014	TIME OUT OF MIND
2013	THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE
2013	THE WAIT
2012	IN OUR NATURE THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 1
2011	SUCKER PUNCH
2009	THE MESSENGER
2007	INTO THE WILD
2005	PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
2004	SAVED!
2003	COLD MOUNTAIN
2001	DONNIE DARKO
1996	BASTARD OUT OF CAROLINA



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## Actrice Christina Hendricks

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Christina Hendricks is geboren op 3 mei 1975 in Tennessee en is een Amerikaans actrice. Ze won in 2009 de prijs voor Beste Actrice in een dramaserie op het Televisiefestival van Monte Carlo voor haar rol in Mad Men.

Hendricks heeft in het begin van haar carrière veel gastrollen gehad in televisieseries, waaronder Angel, ER, Cold Case en Without a Trace.

Sinds haar rol in Mad Men is Hendricks steeds vaker te zien in grote speelfilms, zoals DRIVE, DETACHMENT en GINGER & ROSA.

### Selectie van filmografie:

2016 ZOOLANDER 2  
2014 LOST RIVER  
2012 GINGER & ROSA  
2011 DRIVE  
2011 DETACHMENT

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## Acteur Karl Glusman

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Karl Glusman is bekend van de films LOVE, EMBERS en STARSHIP TROOPERS: INVASION. LOVE won de juryprijs voor Beste 3D Film tijdens Camerimage.

### Selectie van filmografie:

2016 THE NEON DEMON  
2015 EMBERS  
2015 LOVE  
2015 RATTER  
2015 STONEWALL  
2008 THE ICONOGRAPHER



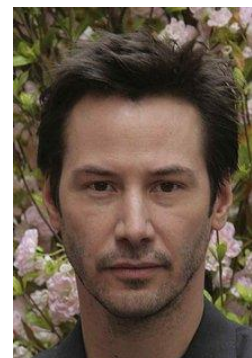
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## Acteur Keanu Reeves

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Keanu Reeves is geboren in Beiroet op 2 september 1964, maar opgegroeid in Toronto en is een Canadees filmacteur.

Zijn eerste succes was in de film RIVER'S EDGE (1987), maar zijn eerste grote rol was in de ijshockeyfilm YOUNGBLOOD met Rob Lowe. De rol die hem wereldwijd populair maakte was die van TED IN BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE uit 1989. Hij speelde samen met Charlize Theron en Al Pacino in THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE. Later speelde hij samen met Charlize Theron in SWEET NOVEMBER. Tegenwoordig is hij bekend door zijn hoofdrol in de sciencefictionfilmtrilogie THE MATRIX, waarmee hij meer dan 200 miljoen dollar verdiende, wat hem de bestbetaalde acteur aller tijden maakt.



In 2012 verscheen de documentaire SIDE BY SIDE, die Reeves produceerde en waarvoor hij verschillende interviews afnam, waarin verschillende regisseurs als James Cameron en Martin Scorsese spreken over de geschiedenis van de digitalisering van de film.

Reeves' regiedebuut, MAN OF THAI CHI, ging in 2013 in première, ook acteert hij in de film.

#### **Selectie van filmografie**

2016 THE NEON DEMON  
2014 KNOCK KNOCK  
2009 THE PRIVATE LIVES OF PIPPA LEE  
2008 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL  
2006 THE LAKE HOUSE  
2005 CONSTATINE  
2003 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS  
2003 THE MATRIX RELOADED  
2001 SWEET NOVEMBER  
1992 DRACULA  
THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE  
1989 BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE  
1986 YOUNG BLOOD  
1986 RIVER'S EDGE

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## **Actrice Bella Heatcote**

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#### **Selectie van filmografie:**

2016 THE NEON DEMON  
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES  
2014 THE RE-WRITE  
2012 NOT FADE AWAY  
DARK SHADOWS  
2011 IN TIME  
2008 ACOLYTES

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## **Actrice Abbey Lee**

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#### **Selectie van filmografie:**

2016 THE NEON DEMON  
GODS OF EGYPT  
2015 MAD MAX : FURY ROAD  
RUBEN GUTHRIE

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## Regisseur Nicolas Winding Refn

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NICOLAS WINDING REFN (Director & Screenwriter) was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1970.

At only 24, NWR had written and directed *PUSHER* (1996). The film became a cult phenomenon and won him instant international critical acclaim. After the success of his debut, NWR wrote, produced, and directed his next film, *BLEEDER*. Highly stylized and focused on introverted reactions to outward situations, this film was a marking point for the shaping of NWR's career.

NWR's third feature, *FEAR X* (2003) was his first foray into English language films. Starring JOHN TURTURRO and co-written by HUBERT SELBY, JR.



Determined to reignite his career, NWR somewhat reluctantly wrote, directed, and produced *PUSHER II* (2004) and *PUSHER III* (2005), as a result of the first movie's growing cult following. This turbulent time in the life of NWR and his wife, LIV CORFIXEN, was captured by filmmaker PHIE AMBO, in her documentary *GAMBLER*. The subsequent success of *PUSHER II* and *III*, along with the first, became the internationally renowned *PUSHER* Trilogy, cementing it as a worldwide phenomenon.

In 2008, NWR wrote and directed *BRONSON*, an ultra-violent, surreal, escapist film following the real life landmarks and self-entrapment of Britain's most notorious criminal, MICHAEL PETERSON, who claims his alter ego is legendary actor CHARLES BRONSON. The film resulted in the world media calling NWR the next great European auteur. NWR next wrote, directed and produced *VALHALLA RISING*, starring his long time collaborator, MADS MIKKELSEN. *VALHALLA RISING* is a film inspired by a story NWR's mother read to him when he was young. The film led the world media to define NWR's filmic style as "Refn-esk." Due to the success of both *BRONSON* and *VALHALLA RISING*, NWR was offered a two-picture deal with Wild Bunch and Gaumont, which was promptly interrupted by a meeting between NWR and RYAN GOSLING, leading NWR to his next film, *DRIVE*. *DRIVE* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2011 where it won Best Director and was in competition for the Palme d'Or.

Following the success of *DRIVE*, NWR wrote and directed *ONLY GOD FORGIVES* starring RYAN GOSLING and KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS. It was met with polarizing critiques, which ultimately and ironically lead to the film's success. NWR's wife, LIV CORFIXEN, offers an intimate look into their lives during the making of this film through her documentary, *MY LIFE DIRECTED BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN*.

### FILMOGRAPHY

2016 THE NEON DEMON  
2013 ONLY GOD FORGIVES  
2011 DRIVE  
2009 VALHALLA RISING  
2008 BRONSON  
2005 PUSHER III  
2004 PUSHER II  
2003 INSIDE JOB (Fear X)  
1999 BLEEDER  
1996 PUSHER



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## Producent LENE BØRGLUM

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LENE BØRGLUM was one of the key executives and co-owner of Zentropa from its early start in 1992 and until 2007. She was deeply involved in the development of Zentropa from its very start till its state in 2007 as a major European independent production company. She handled international financing on a large number of Zentropa's international films, including Lars von Trier's highly acclaimed and awarded films THE KINGDOM I AND II (1994, 1996), THE IDIOTS, BREAKING THE WAVES (1996), DANCER IN THE DARK (2000), and was Executive Producer on Trier's DOGVILLE (2003), MANDERLAY (2005), and THE BOSS OF IT ALL (2006). After BØRGLUM left Zentropa in 2007, she was executive producer on Swedish director LUKAS MOODYSSON's first English language film MAMMOTH (2009) and NICOLAS WINDING REFN's VALHALLA RISING (2009). After their successful collaboration on NICOLAS WINDING REFN's VALHALLA RISING, Borglum and Refn teamed up to found production company Space Rocket in January 2008. In Space Rocket, Børglum has produced Refn's ONLY GOD FORGIVES (2013), Liv Corfixen's MY LIFE DIRECTED BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN (2014), NWR'S THE NEON DEMON (2016) and is in development with a number of other films.

### SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY

2016 THE NEON DEMON  
2014 THE ROVER  
2013 CHINESE PUZZLE  
2012 SWIMMER  
2010 THE MILK OF SORROW

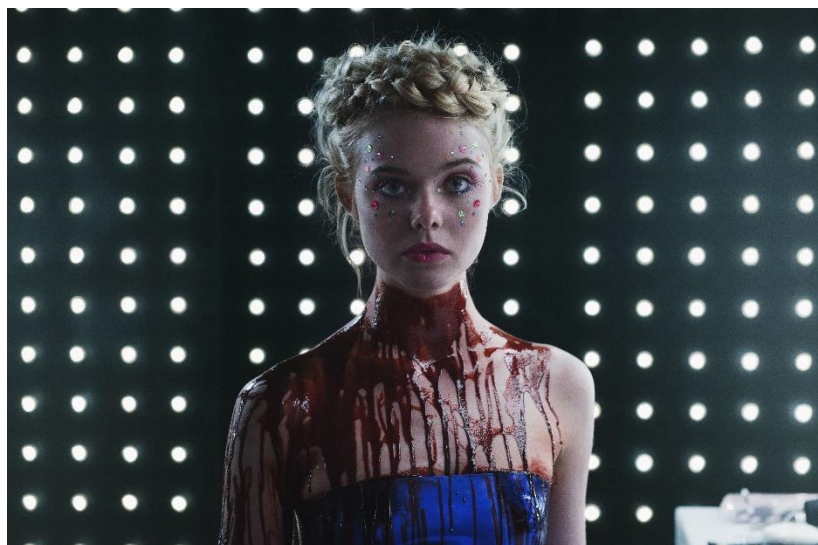
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## Productie Designer

Elliott Hostetter

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2016 THE NEON DEMON  
2014 LOW DOWN  
2013 NIGHT MOVES  
2012 SPRING BREAKERS  
2011 THE FUTURE



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## Cliff Martinez

## Muziek

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CLIFF MARTINEZ (Music) was born in the Bronx, raised in Ohio and moved to California in 1976, landing in the middle of the punk movement. He joined the RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS as the drummer (playing on the band's first two albums) and, later, THE DICKIES. It was during his tenure with the Chili Peppers that Martinez began exploring the new technologies of that era, which would eventually guide him towards the film music world. A tape Martinez had put together using these new technologies made its rounds, leading him to score an episode of PEE-WEE'S PLAYHOUSE. The same recording also ended up in the hands of STEVEN SODERBERGH and he was hired to score the director's first theatrical release 1989's SEX, LIES, AND VIDEOTAPE. Cliff Martinez's longstanding relationship with Soderbergh has continued through the years, and they have worked together on ten theatrical releases including KAFKA, THE LIMEY, TRAFFIC, SOLARIS and CONTAGION.

### SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY

2016 THE NEON DEMON  
2014 MY LIFE DIRECTED  
2013 ONLY GOD FORGIVES  
2012 THE COMPANY YOU KEEP  
2012 ARBITRAGE  
2012 SPRING BREAKERS  
2011 DRIVE  
2009 IN THE BEGINNING



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## Editor

## Matthew Newman

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MATTHEW NEWMAN (Editor) entered the film industry in Rome at Cinecittà Studios, working for cameraman MICHAEL BALLHAUS on GANGS OF NEW YORK. After moving into editing, he met director NICOLAS WINDING REFN, with whom he has since made six films.

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## Kostuum

## Erin Benach

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ERIN BENACH (Costumes) began her career designing the costumes for the award-winning indie HALF NELSON (2006), starring RYAN GOSLING. Her creative collaboration with Gosling continued with 2010's BLUE VALENTINE by DEREK CIANFRANCE; 2011's DRIVE for director NICOLAS WINDING REFN; and 2012's THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES, again for Cianfrance.

#### **SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY**

2016 THE NEON DEMON  
2016 MIDNIGHT SPECIAL  
2015 THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS  
2014 LOST RIVER  
2013 THE HOST  
2011 THE LINCOLN LAWYER  
2010 SYMPATHY FOR DELICIOUS  
2010 DEVIL  
2009 COLD SOULS  
2008 THE POKER HOUSE  
2008 SUGAR



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## **SPACE ROCKET**

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SPACE ROCKET is a Denmark-based independent production company dedicated to producing highly artistic, edgy, and counter-cultural feature films for an international audience. The company was founded in 2008 by producer LENE BØRGLUM and NICOLAS WINDING REFN after their successful collaboration on NWR's feature film VALHALLA RISING.

Space Rocket produced ONLY GOD FORGIVES (2013) by NWR, which was in competition at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival and MY LIFE DIRECTED BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN, which premiered at Austin's Fantastic Fest in 2014.

Recently, Space Rocket teamed with producer WILLIAM LUSTIG to develop a remake of the cult classic MANIAC COP, which will be directed by JOHN HYAMS and will go into production this year.

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## Fragments by NWR

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### THE DEMON RISES

“For a number of years, I’ve had this interest in making a film about beauty, because, in my life, I’m surrounded by it,” NWR says, referring to his wife, filmmaker LIV CORFIXEN (MY LIFE DIRECTED BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN), his two young daughters, and, presumably, the myriad actresses and models he’s encountered directing both feature films and fashion advertisements for brands like Gucci, YXL, H&M and Hennessy. “And I see a lot of female empowerment with beauty.”

“The currency of beauty continues to rise and never falls. And, as we evolve the lifespan of beauty becomes more limited, while our obsession with it becomes more and more extreme. This obsession can often lead to a unique kind of madness.”

To illustrate this, NWR references Narcissus, the subject of ancient Greek myth who became so enamored with his own beauty he drowned in its reflection.

Known for both embracing and subverting such well-worn genres as the prison drama (2008’s BRONSON), the historical adventure (2010’s VALHALLA RISING), the action thriller (2011’s DRIVE), and the revenge drama (2013’s ONLY GOD FORGIVES), NWR was similarly curious to see if he could both honor and defy the “horror movie”. “Was there a way to hit all of the basic genre beats, but not necessarily in the right order?” And could he “make a horror film without the horror?”

To help give voice to THE NEON DEMON’s quartet of young female characters, NWR sought collaboration with a young female writer – preferably one with a background in the more dialogue-intensive world of theater... NWR found these qualities in two writers: POLLY STENHAM, a well-known British playwright, and MARY LAWS, an up-and-coming American one.

“Both women were absolutely wonderful to work with because of their differing approaches. And each brought a distinct perspective that helped mold the script in very interesting ways.»

### NEON BEAUTIES

The first and most pivotal role to cast was Jesse, a seemingly innocent young beauty from small town Georgia whose character slowly starts to transform as her modeling career takes off.

“To me, ELLE FANNING is a blend of the greatest silent movie stars of the past and the most cutting edge actresses of today. She has this magnificent ability to transform herself. And the camera just loves her.”

To prepare for the role, NWR instructed Fanning to watch a series of films - but not just in the horror genre.

Like VALLEY OF THE DOLLS and BEYOND THE VALLEY OF THE DOLLS.

According to NWR, JENA MALONE became “very instrumental in creating the Ruby character because this character was more of an enigma at the script stage. So I needed someone that could transform and mutate into her.”

### SUPPORTING THE DEMON

“The minute KEANU REEVES’ name came up, I was like, that would be the best. And it was a way for me to complete a full circle because Keanu and I had met about ten years ago on my first big job in Hollywood. That film never materialized... but I always wanted to revisit the chance to work with him. Very few actors have the pop icon status that he has and the ability he has as an actor, combined with a bona fide movie star aura.”

“Then DESMOND HARRINGTON came in - I think two days before we were to start shooting that role - and when I saw him, it was more like, now there’s a mystery to Jack because Desmond is a very enigmatic personality.”

NWR was also intent on creating an opportunity to reunite with CHRISTINA HENDRICKS, who here portrays Roberta Hoffman, head of Jesse's modeling agency.

NWR had been tipped off to KARL GLUSMAN's talent by filmmaker friend GASPAR NOÉ, who worked with Karl on the controversial romance LOVE. "I kind of put it off a little bit. And then Karl would contact me and I didn't really respond. And we were running out of time and there was no actor that I wanted to use - so Karl came back from France and I said, 'Let's get him in and see how this works out.' And Elle was going to be there for the reading. Their chemistry - from the moment he walked in the room - was so obvious."

### **DEMON CREW**

"It was a combination of two things: after shooting ONLY GOD FORGIVES in Bangkok, I wanted to do a film in Tokyo, and Liv said, 'I'm not living in Tokyo.' Then I asked her, 'What's a compromise?' And she said, 'L.A.'" In terms of the creative impetus for setting the story in L.A., NWR says, "I'd been doing a lot of fashion work in L.A. so I got to see the fashion side of it. And, even though you might say high-end fashion is more based in New York or Paris, every part of the entertainment industry leads back to L.A.. So you can say L.A. is the gateway between all entertainment and the rest of the world."

"One of the first challenges in L.A. is that it's an expensive city to shoot in. So it was difficult getting a crew for the amount of money I had. But I think that forced me to...really go outside of my comfort zone and work with people who are much more new and fresh; people who were on the verge of breaking into the industry in a much bigger way, which actually added to the movie."

"I spent two months finding the right set of anamorphic lenses and then fixing them because I chose a very old set that not a lot of people use anymore. They're called "Crystal Express" and they were made by JOE DUNTON, a legend in the anamorphic field. They're great because they're very soft and gentle and cosmetic on the faces. And I needed the skins to be as close to those captured on a fashion photo shoot - although those are always extremely corrected in Photoshop. But I knew on our budget we were not going to be able to treat the skins in post, so I had to do as much as I could in-camera."

NWR describes the hiring of both production designer ELLIOTT HOSTETTER and director of photography NATASHA BRAIER as "absolutely crucial in designing and creating the film."

### **DRESSING THE DEMON**

When THE NEON DEMON finally commenced pre-production, NWR told ERIN BENACH (costume designer) he wanted the film's costume design to "really push the envelope and set the stage for high fashion - not fake high fashion." This presented Benach with the dual challenge of both finding authentic pieces and then giving them an "elevated look that really feels like the high-fashion world."

### **CUTTING THE DEMON**

To cut THE NEON DEMON, NWR enlisted longtime editing partner MATTHEW NEWMAN, who helped bring such innovative editorial structure and texture to BRONSON (2008), VALHALLA RISING (2009), DRIVE (2011), and ONLY GOD FORGIVES (2013).

"When I first hired him (on the 2007 British TV movie 'Agatha Christie's Marple'), I never imagined that our paths would be so intertwined," says NWR. "But that was a great experience. And then I hired him to do BRONSON and, from then on, he's become very instrumental in helping me alter my ways of making films."

"Matt doesn't just edit my films during and after production; I bring him in during the script stage as a fresh pair of eyes to look at the screenplay and, later on, to supervise large parts of the postproduction process."

"On BRONSON, he stayed in a hotel room next to mine to do the editing; when we did VALHALLA



RISING he lived in Copenhagen near my house; when we did DRIVE, I edited it in my house, so he stayed with me; on ONLY GOD FORGIVES, I gave him a hotel room to edit it; and, for THE NEON DEMON, I put him up in my pool house, which is where we edited the film.”

“It helps me stay close to this force of creativity between us.”

In addition to evaluating individual scenes, NWR and Newman would also consider the overall shape the film was taking. “Because I was shooting in chronological order,” says NWR, “I could see the film unfolding in front of my eyes editorially – not just photographically – and that sometimes necessitated rewriting and/or making other logistical changes going forward.”

“So it wasn’t just about looking at stuff with Matt; it was also about asking, ‘Where are we in the story and how is it flowing and what new direction could it or should it take?’ For example, half way through the movie, I changed my mind about one character’s fate – and this was really the result of sitting with Matt and reflecting on how the film was living and breathing and transforming into whatever it was essentially going to be.”

### **NEONMUSIC**

To create the perfect musical soundscape for his first horror thriller, NWR reteamed with CLIFF MARTINEZ, who previously composed the celebrated scores for his films DRIVE and ONLY GOD FORGIVES, as well as for LIV CORFIXEN’s MY LIFE DIRECTED BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN. Initially, NWR filled his temp score with samples from the work of HITCHCOCK composer BERNARD HERRMANN (PSYCHO, VERTIGO). Martinez recalls, “It completely threw me because it was anachronistic; it was orchestral.” NWR quickly reassured him, “I don’t want the score to sound like that; I want it to feel like that.”

For THE NEON DEMON, NWR includes a handful of licensed songs, including “Waving Goodbye” by SIA (featuring DIPLO), whom NWR describes as “one of the most uniquely gifted female artists,” and “Mine” and “Demon Dance” by NWR’s nephew, JULIAN WINDING.

### **SHOOTING IN THE NEON CITY**

A rarity in the business - but common practice for director NWR - the film was shot in chronological order. “It’s a process I do for all of my movies because I like the fear of not being able to fully see how the film will turn out until the end,” Refn says.

“It forces everyone to submit themselves because it’s a constant organism that needs to be handled and needs to be touched and felt. And every day there is possible change. And that can both be very terrifying and very exhilarating at the same time.”

“I think that L.A. has two realities: the so-called ‘real’ reality and there’s the ‘artificial’ reality. The artificial reality is the illusion of Los Angeles and that’s something I find really exciting because it’s about mythology.”