



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
UN CERTAIN REGARD  
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

# SNOW IN PARADISE

A FILM BY ANDREW HULME



## SYNOPSIS

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Dave is a petty criminal who thrives on drugs and violence in London's East End. When his actions kill his best friend Tariq he's propelled into unknown feelings of shame and remorse. He discovers Islam and begins to find peace until his old life of crime comes back to test his new belief.

*Snow In Paradise* is a hard hitting feature based on the true story of Martin Askew, who grew up in a crime riddled east end in a culture of violence.

It is the debut feature of editor-turned-director, Andrew Hulme, known for *Control*, *The Imposter*, *Red Riding 1974*, *Lucky Number Slevin* and *Gangster No. 1*.





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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When I met writer Martin Askew I found someone with a story so incredible I was compelled to try and tell it in cinematic form. Here was someone born into East End crime, whose uncle was 'The Guvnor' Lennie MacLean, yet had converted to Islam. Here was someone with a dark past who had managed to control his anger and aggression through religion, someone who had understood he needed to correct himself if he were to escape and survive.

*Snow In Paradise* is only loosely based on Martin's experiences. Real names have been changed, real events dramatised because ultimately this is a drama and not a documentary.

It's a journey through violence and guilt towards religion and possible redemption.

It was my intention to make a film that works on many levels: a film that straddles both the arthouse and mainstream markets, one that works with narrative but also has poetry in it. I didn't want to make a British gangster film, I wanted a more ambiguous film, one that didn't spell everything out to the audience but left them to think about what they'd just seen.

The film begins much like any gritty inner city story: here are two roguish but likeable characters trapped in a changing world that they are not part of. As the story unfolds and Dave's stupidity

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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and arrogance gets his best friend killed then the story takes on a more dream-like but nightmare-ish tone. As Dave's situation within the crime world becomes more fraught and dangerous so he comes to question the meaning of his life and discover the world around him is full of people he can't trust. In turning towards Islam he finds a warmth and acceptance that is not available to him elsewhere.

When Martin and I started writing the film began as pure character, but we realised in order to tell this extraordinary story we had to grab the audience's attention. Consequently *Snow In Paradise* became a character piece hidden within the structure of a thriller. The story though quickly

revealed itself to contain universal themes that took it beyond just entertainment. Fundamentally, this is the story of the man who reneges on the Faustian pact, and of the misunderstood youth who escapes his background to re-invent himself. What I think makes it unique is the refuge to which both Martin and our main character escape.

When I was growing up, stories of conversions were commonplace. But they were Christian stories. What this journey represents is a change within the heart of Europe. Islam is the outsider religion, castigated and reviled by many but simultaneously appealing to the marginalised and voiceless in our society. Whilst Dave



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(and Martin's journey) may be totally unique it illuminates Europe's dilemma regarding Islam.

The journey of making *Snow In Paradise* has been very difficult, mostly due to a lack of interest from the British funding bodies. We were lucky that through Cinemart we found sympathetic partners in France and Germany who believed in the story and in me as a director. We have had to make this film with limited money and resources, we were forced into the sidelines and so we had to be resourceful. Consequently it's a film that is not like everyone else's.

I didn't want to cast this film with the same old familiar faces, I wanted to see something I hadn't

seen before. As a result of this instinct we found Frederick Schmidt on a Hoxton street corner in a bad mood smoking a cigarette. He was our perfect Dave, not a privileged young kid from West London but someone who had experienced life and had a well of emotions to dig into.

As a film editor I have learnt how to make films work and how to tell stories. I have had the opportunity to watch directors and learn from them and to sculpt performances from great actors. I'm grateful for that experience and hope that I've managed to use it in the telling of *Snow in Paradise*, a true story of our times.



# ANDREW HULME



Andrew is one of the UK's top film editors having worked on films such as *Control*, *Lucky Number Slevin*, *Gangster No1*, *The Imposter* and *Appropriate Adult* as well as receiving a personal BAFTA nomination for editing for *Red Riding 1974*. He also writes and produces music, sound designs and has directed 2nd Unit.

*Snow in Paradise* is his debut feature film.

## WRITER/DIRECTOR

### SNOW IN PARADISE

Ipsos Facto 2014  
Feature. Co-written with Martin Askew.

## FILM EDITOR

1990 – present (selected credits)

### THE IMPOSTER

(dir: Bart Layton)  
Raw TV/Passion Pics (2011)  
Documentary feature, premiered at Sundance 2011.  
Awards: 10 wins/15 nominations

### APPROPRIATE ADULT

(dir: Julian Jarrold)  
2 part ITV drama, 2011  
Starring Emily Watson & Dominic West.  
Awards: 12 wins/9 nominations

### THE AMERICAN

(dir: Anton Corbijn)  
Focus Features, 2010.  
Starring George Clooney.  
No.1 US box Office, September 2010.

### RED RIDING 1974

(dir: Julian Jarrold)  
Revolution/Channel 4, 2009  
Starring Andrew Garfield.  
BAFTA nomination for Best Editing.

### CONTROL

(dir: Anton Corbijn)  
NorthSee Films, 2007  
Starring Sam Riley/Samantha Morton.  
Awards: 25 wins/20 nominations

### PLAY YOUR OWN THING

(dir: Julian Benedikt)  
Benedikt Pictures, 2006  
Documentary about jazz in Europe.

### LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

(dir: Paul McGuigan)  
Ascendant Pictures, 2005  
Starring Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman,  
Ben Kingsley.

### HANGAR 10

(dir: Daniel Simpson)  
Newscope Films, 2014.

### SOULBOY

(dir: Shimmy Marcus)  
Ipsos Facto, 2010.

### THE GIRL

(dir: Julian Jarrold)  
BBC/HBO Feature drama (2012).

### WICKER PARK

(dir: Paul McGuigan)  
Lakeshore, 2004.

### WHITE TEETH

(dir: Julian Jarrold)  
4 part TV series, Channel 4, 2002.

### GANGSTER NO1

(dir: Paul McGuigan)  
Feature, Film 4, 2000.

### THE ACID HOUSE

(dir: Paul McGuigan)  
Feature, Umbrella/Channel 4, 1998.

### BLUE NOTE – A STORY OF MODERN JAZZ

(dir: Julian Benedikt)  
EuroArts, 1997 Debut feature film.





## CHRISTINE ALDERSON / IPSO FACTO PRODUCTIONS



Ipsos Facto Films started in 1994 and Ipsos Facto Productions was started in 2012 by Christine Alderson, previous films include *Nasty Neighbours* directed by Debbie Isitt (*Confetti/Nativity*), *School For Seduction* (2004), starring Kelly Brook; *Bye Bye Blackbird*, directed by Robinson Savary, *Dot Com* by Luis Galvao Teles and *Irina Palm* directed by Sam Garbarski starring Marianne Faithfull. She executive produced *Valhalla Rising* (Mads Mikkelsen) from director Nicolas Winding Refn (*Drive*) and Northern Soul feature *Soulboy* (Martin Compston, Felicity Jones).

Most recently *Comes A Bright Day* by Simon About, starring Craig Roberts, Imogen Poots and Timothy Spall and *Event 15* starring Jennifer Morrison. She just completed *Snow In Paradise* the feature film debut of Andrew Hulme, which is in Official Selection Cannes 2014 and also *Second Origin* the posthumous film of Bigas Luna, Christine Alderson is a graduate of EAVE, EAVE+ ACE and INSIDE PICTURES. She is a voting member of the European Film Academy and BAFTA.

# CAST & CREW



## SNOW IN PARADISE

A film by  
ANDREW HULME

B MEDIA GLOBAL  
presents an  
IPSO FACTO PRODUCTIONS  
in association with  
MILLBROOK PICTURES  
SNOW IN PARADISE UK  
GLOUCESTER PLACE FILMS  
and  
BACK UP MEDIA

## CAST

Dave:  
FREDERICK SCHMIDT  
Tariq:  
AYMEN HAMDOUCHI  
Uncle Jimmy:  
MARTIN ASKEW  
Theresa:  
CLAIRE-LOUISE CORDWELL  
Amjad:  
ASHLEY CHIN  
and Mickey Young:  
DAVID SPINX

## CREW

Directed by:  
ANDREW HULME  
Written by:  
MARTIN ASKEW  
& ANDREW HULME  
Produced by:  
CHRISTINE ALDERSON  
Director of Photography:  
MARK WOLF  
Production Designers:  
ALEXANDRA WALKER  
SOPHIA CHOWDHURY  
Editor:  
BARRY MOEN  
Composer:  
KEVIN POLLARD  
Costume Designer:  
IAN FULCHUR  
Make Up & Hair Designer:  
TAHIRA HEROLD

## CREW

Casting:  
AISHA WALTERS  
SHAHEEN BAIG  
Sound:  
GIANCARLO DELLAPINA  
ANDREW STIRK  
PAUL DAVIES  
Line Producer:  
VANESSA TOVELL

Executive Producers:  
JANE BRISTOW  
ROSHANAK BEHESHT NEDJAD  
PAUL DE LA PENA  
YASMINE ASKEW  
THOMAS STERCHI  
LARS WIEBE  
BEAT ARNOLD  
NIGEL THOMAS  
CHARLOTTE WALLS





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## **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Running Time: 108 min  
Aspect Ratio: 2.39:1  
Sound Format: 5.1 Dolby Digital  
Original Version: English



## **WORLD SALES**

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