

Why Not Productions  
presents  
In association with Film4, BFI, Amazon Studios, Sixteen Films, JWFilms



# YOU WERE NEVER REALLY HERE

A film by  
Lynne Ramsay

Starring  
Joaquin Phoenix, Ekaterina Samsonov

95 min | UK | English | Color | Digital | 2.39 | 24fps | 5.1

## **International Sales**

IMR

Vincent Maraval

Noémie Devide

[ndevide@insiders-films.com](mailto:ndevide@insiders-films.com)

Kim Fox | Lesly Gross

Samantha Deshon

[SamanthaD@madriverpics.com](mailto:SamanthaD@madriverpics.com)

## **International PR**

Charles McDonald

[charles@charlesmcdonald.co.uk](mailto:charles@charlesmcdonald.co.uk)

+44 7785 246 377

## **US PR**

Jeff Hill

[jeff@houseofpub.com](mailto:jeff@houseofpub.com)

# SYNOPSIS

A missing teenage girl.

A brutal and tormented enforcer on a rescue mission.

Corrupt power and vengeance unleash a storm of violence that may lead to his awakening.



# LYNNE RAMSAY

Director

Born in Glasgow, Lynne Ramsay is considered one of the British most original and exciting voices working in Independent cinema today. She has a long running

relationship with Cannes winning the Prix de Jury in 1996 for her graduation film, the short *Small Deaths* and in 1998 for her third short *Gasman*. Her debut feature film *Ratcatcher* premiered in Un Certain Regard (2000) winning Special Mention. *We need to talk about Kevin* was the only British film nominated for the Palme d'Or in official competition in 2011. It received several BAFTA nominations and won 'Best Director' at the British independent Film awards, 'Best film' at the London Film Festival and 'Best Screenplay' from the Writers Guild of Great Britain. *Swimmer*, commissioned by the Cultural Olympiad of Great Britain (2012), won the BAFTA (2013) for Best short film.



# JOAQUIN PHOENIX

## Actor

Joaquin Phoenix began his acting career at the age of eight. In 2000, he earned his first Academy Award® nomination as the complex Commodus in Ridley Scott's Oscar-winning Best Picture, *Gladiator*. In addition to nominations for the Oscar, the Golden Globe and the British Academy (BAFTA) Award, he received awards as Best Supporting Actor from the National Board of Review and The Broadcast Films Critics Association. He followed that up with Philip Kaufman's Oscar-nominated *Quills* in the film based on Douglas McGrath's play about the Marquis de Sade, for which he won the Broadcast Film Critics Award as Best Supporting Actor. Also that year, he starred in James Gray's *The Yards*.

In 2002, he starred in M. Night Shyamalan's film, *Signs*, which earned a half billion dollars worldwide. He reteamed with Shyamalan two years later on the gothic thriller *The Village*.

In 2006, Joaquin Phoenix was hailed for his mesmerizing performance as legendary singer-songwriter Johnny Cash (opposite Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon) in James Mangold's riveting biopic, *Walk the Line*. For his performance, he collected his second Academy Award® nomination (Best Actor) and won the Golden Globe as Best Actor in a Musical as well as nominations for BAFTA, SAG, BFCA and Chicago Film Critics Awards.

In 2007, the two-time Academy Award® nominee starred in two features: Sony Pictures' *We Own the Night* where he reteamed with Mark Wahlberg and director James Gray. He then starred in *Reservation Road* for director Terry George. In 2008, working with director James Gray for a third time, he starred in *Two Lovers* opposite Gwyneth Paltrow.

That same year Phoenix starred in the mockumentary *I'm Still Here*, directed by Casey Affleck. The film debuted at the Venice Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival in 2010.

In 2011 he starred in the Paul Thomas Anderson film *The Master*, opposite the late Philip Seymour Hoffman. That year they both won the Volpi Cup at the Venice Film Festival. In addition, he was nominated for an Oscar, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA. He next starred in *The Immigrant*, working with director Gray for a fourth time.

In 2014, he starred in the award-winning Spike Jonze film *Her*. In 2015, he reteamed again with director Paul Thomas Anderson for *Inherent Vice*. That same year he also starred in Woody Allen's *Irrational Man* opposite Emma Stone.

In 2016 Phoenix co-starred opposite Rooney Mara in *Mary Magdalene*.

He most recently completed the Gus Van Sant directed film *Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot*. His next film is Jacques Audiard's *The Sisters Brothers*.



# THOMAS TOWNEND

## Director of Photography

Tom Townend studied Photography in Edinburgh before graduating in Cinematography from the NFTS in 1999. As a student he shot unit stills on *Ratcatcher* starting a 20 year old friendship with director Lynne Ramsay.

His first feature as DP was Joe Cornish's *Attack The Block*. He then partnered with the Duffer Brothers (*Stranger Things*) on their first film *Hidden. You Were Never Really Here* marks his first feature film collaboration with Lynne Ramsay.

# JONNY GREENWOOD

## Original Music Composer

Jonathan Richard Guy "Jonny" Greenwood is best known as the lead guitarist and keyboardist of the alternative rock band Radiohead. A multi-instrumentalist, Greenwood also plays the bass guitar, piano, viola, and drums, and is a prominent player of the ondes Martenot, an early electronic instrument. He works with electronic techniques such as programming, sampling and looping, and writes music software used by Radiohead. He has been named one of the greatest guitarists of all time by publications including the NME, Rolling Stone and Spin.

Greenwood released his first solo work, the soundtrack for the *Bodysong*, in 2003, and has since scored the films *There Will Be Blood* (2007), *Norwegian Wood* (2010), *The Master* (2012) and *Inherent Vice* (2014). This is his second collaboration with Lynne Ramsay after *We Need To Talk About Kevin* (2011).

# JONATHAN AMES

## Original Novel Writer

Johnathan Ames is a novelist, essayist, and television show runner. He created the HBO original series *Bored to Death*, starring Jason Schwartzman, Zach Galifianakis, and Ted Danson; and he also created the STARZ original series *Blunt Talk*, which starred Patrick Stewart, Jacki Weaver, and Adrian Scarborough.

In addition to his television work, Ames is the author of nine works of fiction and non-fiction: *I Pass Like Night*, *The Extra Man*, *What's Not to Love?*, *My Less Than Secret Life*, *Wake Up, Sir!*, *I Love You More Than You Know*, *The Alcoholic* (a graphic-novel), *The Double Life Is Twice as Good*, and the novella *You Were Never Really Here*.

His novel *The Extra Man* was also adapted into a film (2010) and it starred Kevin Kline and Paul Dano. Ames adapted his memoir *What's Not to Love?* into a television special for the Showtime network and played himself. His books have been widely translated and he is the winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Ames also has had a long career as a monologist, having staged a one-man show *Oedipussy*, as well as performing frequently with the Moth. He has also acted in several films and television shows, including *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and *Bored to Death*, and was the lead in the IFC film *The Girl Beneath the Waves*.



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Directed by  
Lynne Ramsay

Writing Credits  
Lynne Ramsay

Based on a novel by                      Jonathan Ames

Cast	
Joaquin Phoenix	Joe
Ekaterina Samsonov	Nina
Alessandro Nivola	Senator Williams
Alex Manette	Senator Votto
John Doman	John McCleary
Judith Roberts	Joe's Mother

Produced by	
Rosa Attab	producer
Pascal Caucheteux	producer
James Wilson	producer
Lynne Ramsay	producer

Cinematography by                      Thomas Townend

Film Editing by                              Joe Bini

Casting By                                      Billy Hopkins & Ashley Ingram

Production Design by                      Tim Grimes

Costume Design by                              Malgosia Turzanska

Head Makeup	
Department	James Sarzotti
head hair department	Sarah Hindsgaul

Sound mixer	Drew Kunin
Stunt coordinator	Chris Colombo
Unit production manager	Carrie Fix
First assistant director	Tomas Deckaj
Second Unit Director	Scott Bowers
Post production producer	Beatrice Mauduit
Post production supervisor	Dan Bentham
Supervising Sound editor	Paul Davies
Music by	Jonny Greenwood
Music Editor	Graeme Stewart
Music supervisor	Fred Junqua
Head of VFX	Gary Brown



INSIDERS  

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**IMR**

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MAD RIVER