



THE WINTER LAKE

FIS ÉIREANN / SCREEN IRELAND AND EPIC PICTURES GROUP PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH FILMOPTION INTERNATIONAL A TAILORED FILMS EMAFILMS PRODUCTION 'THE WINTER LAKE' ANSON BOON EMMA MACKAY MARK MCKENNA
WITH CHARLIE MURPHY AND MICHAEL MCELHATTON COSTUME DESIGNER SARA JANE FFRENCH O'CARROLL PRODUCTION DESIGNER EMMA LOVINEY MUSIC BY AUGUST MURPHY KING CINEMATOGRAPHY BY RUIAIRI O'BRIEN
EDITED BY JOHN WALTERS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LESLEY MCKINNA JACKIE LARKIN SARAH DILLON PATRICK EWALD SHARKE BERENSON GILES DAJUSI CATHERINE DUMONCEAUX AND PATRICK FISCHER
PRODUCED BY RUTH TREACY JULIANNE FORDE AND ANNE-MARIE GELINAS WRITTEN BY DAVID TURPIN DIRECTED BY PHIL SHEERIN

TAILORED           

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Shooting format	4K
Projection format	DCP & Bluray
Length	92 minutes
Genre	Drama/Thriller
Original Version	English
Format	Scope 2.39
Sound	5.1
Countries of production	Ireland/Canada
Year	2020

SYNOPSIS

Alienated and wistful, Tom (16) has relocated from the UK to Ireland, with his Irish-born mother, Elaine. While exploring the dilapidated farm where he now lives, Tom comes across an oddity that is the farm's a turlough (a seasonal lake), at the bottom of which he discovers the skeleton of an infant. Unsure of what to do, Tom conceals the remains among his belongings. Not long afterwards he and Elaine become involved with Ward and Holly, the father and daughter from the neighbouring farm. While Elaine makes tentative steps towards a relationship with Ward, Holly learns of Tom's secret discovery. Playing on Tom's attraction to her and his protective impulse, Holly draws him into a warped psychosexual mystery. Inexorably the network of lies and secrets begins to unravel, pulling Tom into a violent confrontation with the darkest parts of human nature, in Elaine, Ward, Holly - and himself.



CAST

Anson Boon	Tom
Emma Mackey	Holly
Mark McKenna	Col
Michael McElhatton	Ward
Charlie Murphy	Elaine

CREW

Director	Phil Sheerin
Writer	David Turpin
Producers	Julianne Forde
	Ruth Treacy
	Anne-Marie Gélinas
Cinematographer	Ruairí O'Brien
Composer	August Murphy-King
Sound Design	Olivier Calvert
Sound Mix	Stéphane Bergeron
Editor	John Walters
Art Direction	Declan Sheridan
Wardrobe	Sarajane Ffrench O'Carroll
Make-Up	Caroline McCurdy



THE EXPERIENCE OF SHOOTING *THE WINTER LAKE*

***The Winter Lake* deals with Tom (Anson Boon), a teenage boy on the autism spectrum who makes a dark discovery in a seasonal lake, and is propelled into dealing with adult issues before he is ready.**

Having been forced to relocate to a dilapidated farmhouse with his mother Elaine (Charlie Murphy), Elaine befriends their neighbour Ward (Michael McElhatton) and Tom finds a friend in Ward's daughter Holly (Emma Mackie).

***The Winter Lake* is writer David Turpin's second screenplay to come to the screen after the very successful *The Lodgers* which was also produced by Ruth Treacy and Julianne Forde of Tailored films.**

"The film came about partly through inspiration of a story in my own family." explains producer Ruth Treacy "My Uncle has a farm in Roscommon and on it there is a seasonal lake which is a turlough and over the years we had heard stories about things that had happened on the Turlough. So this was, I guess, a jumping off point"

This developed into *The Winter Lake* that was brought to Screen Ireland who supported it through development and right through the production process.

David Turpin also explains how the film is quite personal "I've always had a fondness or a kinship for people who have social difficulty; difficulty in moving in the world in being a part of the world. And I suppose the character of Tom is like

that and also his mother, Elaine. You have two people trying to navigate a world that is quite hostile to them. We have to find strategies to deal with that or it will destroy us. And most of us don't find effective strategies and I mean in that sense it is a personal story."

Director Phil Sheerin who is making his feature film directorial debut explains how he was attracted to the film because of the quality of David's writing and the strength of the



characters, saying “all the characters seemed incredibly real and deep in a manner that I really believed”. Phil describes the film as being “kind of about how you need somebody in your life, no matter who you are or what you’re like.

It’s about how that can be used against you. We all need someone to love and someone to love us. It kind of drives a lot of what we do.”

Phil describes lead character Tom as a “bit of a fish out of water, he likes the more macabre things in life. He and his mam don’t really get on.” This is a view shared by actor Anson Boon (*1917, Blackbird*) saying “Tom has received a severe lack of TLC in his life which results in him being very alienated and mysterious and... slightly off.”

Talking about her character's relationship with her son, Charlie Murphy (*Love/Hate, Peaky Blinders*) says “They’ve had a tumultuous life together, dragging him up I suppose trying to do the best she can.”

Speaking about David’s script, Michael McElhatton (*Game of Thrones*) describes it as “evocative” and “beautifully written”. He was drawn to the character of Ward who he sees as “a very, very intriguing character”.

Emma Mackie (*Sex Education*) has similar praise saying “it’s really rare to read a script and not want to change anything. I think that’s a really good sign that you’re compelled by it. It’s like a novel.”

The Winter Lake was filmed in the Sligo/Leitrim area in the West of Ireland, which is seen by cast and crew as the perfect location for the film. Writer David Turpin explains “The landscape is much more powerful than I thought it would be and I remember being there at the shoot and finding the landscape and it thronged with a particular kind of strange ancient energy.”

Producer Julianne Forde was impressed by the level of support given from Sligo and the surrounding area, which made the process so much easier. A lot of the crew on the film were from the Sligo/Leitrim area.

As much of the film is filmed surrounding a turlough or seasonal lake, the crew had the difficult challenge of creating one. The team created an artificial turlough from an existing spring by damming the area around it so that the spring would fill the field with water. For the earlier scenes the dam was breached so that it would drain and be almost empty.



Anson Boon also had nothing but kind words for the people of the west, “From the second I touched down in the breath-taking landscape surrounding Knock airport to my final Guinness in the fantastic, old-school pubs near my residence in Manorhamilton, I have been extended nothing but friendliness, helpfulness and a healthy dose of craic! I have met some of the most skilled and professional crew in Ireland who manage to maintain the very rare but perfect balance of having fun and being efficient on a film set; and I was chuffed to even learn to speak some Irish from some of my coworkers. My next film in Ireland couldn’t come soon enough.”

Director Phil Sheerin was delighted to find the perfect house in county Leitrim to be Tom and Elaine’s home. Phil described finding the house a “film God’s’ smiling on us” moment.

Speaking from this house Michael McElhatton talks about how the setting for the film is so important “I think the setting is extremely important and that’s why we’re shooting around here. It’s very beautiful but it can also be incredibly bleak as you can see in this house. There’s a loneliness, I think that that sense of isolation from here, is a huge character in the film.”

The setting really helped the actors in finding their characters “It’s just a brilliant back drop and it really helps as an actor to have that surrounding envelop you.” says Charlie Murphy.

“There is this vast expanse of land and we live on a farm and it’s quite bleak and it’s quite kind of barren almost, there’s not much going on and yet it feels claustrophobic when you read it, it feels claustrophobic when you play it and so hopefully that will be the aesthetic that we end up getting.” says Emma Mackle.

Producer Ruth Treacy sums up the film as “a dark coming of age thriller. It has really strong characters in it. I think audiences will really engage with those characters and their longing for connection, their feeling of isolation.”

ANSON BOON - TOM

Anson Boon is a British actor and Screen International Star of Tomorrow for 2020. Boon takes on the lead role of Tom in *The Winter Lake*.

He made his National Theatre debut in *Master Harold and the Boys* at the Lyttelton Theatre. Boon also features in Sam Mendes' directorial feature *1917*. He has also filmed the TV series *Shadowplay* with Michael C. Hall and Taylor Kitsch. Boon also played the role of Stan in Alexandre Aja's *Crawl*.

Last year, Boon was seen in *The Alienist* for Netflix, which starred Daniel Bruhl, Dakota Fanning and Luke Evans. His other credits include *Living the Dream*, *Endeavour* and *All at Sea*. Boon was seen on TV screens this year, in sci-fi psychological drama *The Feed* playing the role of Anton.

He is set to appear in Roger Michell's *Blackbird* opposite an illustrious cast including Kate Winslet, Susan Sarandon and Mia Wasikowska.



EMMA MACKEY - HOLLY

Emma is French/English actress best known for her leading role Maeve Wiley in the Netflix series *Sex Education*, directed by Ben Taylor, which has received an incredible response worldwide since its release. It has just been commissioned for a third series.



Last year, Emma played a leading role in the independent feature *The Winter Lake*, directed by Phil Sheerin and produced by Tailored Films in Ireland, and is currently shooting the French feature, *Eiffel in Love*, directed by Martin Bourboulon and opposite French actor, Romain Duris. Emma recently finished filming on Kenneth Branagh's next feature, *Death on the Nile*, opposite Gal Gadot and Armie Hammer, and is set to appear in Keneth Brannagh's upcoming mystery thriller *Death on the Nile*. She will also be playing the role of Emily Brontë in a biopic focusing on her early life.

A portrait of Mark McKenna, a young man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark jacket over a grey sweater. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

MARK McKENNA - COL

Mark McKenna is an Irish actor and singer best known for playing the titular role in the YouTube premium series *Wayne* and for his debut performance in John Carney's *Sing Street*. Mark is also a member of the band *Milk*. He can also be seen in the feature film *Overlord* and the BBC drama series *Redwater*.

MICHAEL McELHATTON - WARD

Michael McElhatton is an Irish actor best known for playing the role of regular character Roose Bolton in the HBO series *Game of Thrones* and as Dr. Philipp Lenard in *Genius: Einstein*. He plays Ward in *The Winter Lake*.

Michael recently wrapped recurring roles on the new Amazon series *Wheel of Time*, the second season of TNT's *The Alienist*, and the second season of the Sky Atlantic/Hulu German series *Das Boot*.

He can most recently be seen in the Starz series *The Rook* as well as the HBO/Sky series *Chernobyl*. Michael can next be seen in the upcoming Disney+ feature film *To Go*, opposite Willem Dafoe.

He also boasts a range of appearances in big budget US productions such as *Justice League*, *The Foreigner* and *The Zookeeper's Wife*.





CHARLIE MURPHY - ELAINE

Charlie Murphy is an Irish actress best known for her role as Siobhán Delaney in the RTÉ drama series *Love/Hate*, for which she won Best TV Actress at the 2013 Irish Film and Television Award, and Best Actress in a Lead Role at the 2015 Irish Film and Television Awards. She plays the role of Elaine in *The Winter Lake*.

Other film credits include Yann Demange's multi-award winning '71, Stephen Frears' *Philomena*, *The Foreigner*, *The Corrupted* and *Dark Lies the Island*. Television credits include *Peaky Blinders* (BBC), *To Walk Invisible* (BBC), *Happy Valley* (BBC), *Rebellion* (Element Pictures/RTE/NETFLIX), *The Last Kingdom* (BBC), *The Village* (BBC), *Quirke* (BBC), *Ripper Street* (BBC), *Misfits* (C4) and *Love/Hate* (RTE/Netflix).

Stage work includes Enda Walsh's *Disco Pigs* (Young Vic), Mark O'Rowe's *Our Few And Evil Days* (The Abbey Theatre), *Big Maggie* (Druid), *The Silver Tassie* (Druid / The Lincoln Centre, New York), Enda Walsh's *Arlington* (St Ann's Warehouse, NY/The Abbey Theatre), an Irish Times Theatre Award winning performance in *Pygmalion* (The Abbey Theatre) and most recently Michael Grandage's *The Lieutenant Of Inishmore* (West End), and *Rooms*, Enda Walsh's audio experience at The Barbican.

Charlie will next be seen in a leading role in Showtime's highly anticipated *Halo* series, based on the wildly popular game of the same name.

PHIL SHEERIN - DIRECTOR

Phil Sheerin is an award winning director from Dublin, Ireland. After a successful career as an aircraft engineer, he embarked on becoming a filmmaker. He holds a 1st class Master's Degree in Directing Fiction from the prestigious NFTS in England and a BA in Film Production from the Irish National Film School, IADT, in Dublin. Phil's work has been nominated for a student Academy Award, Oscar long listed and screened as part of the BAFTA new talent showcase. He is in funded development on a number of TV & Film projects in the UK. His short films have won awards at high profile international festivals including the premier short film festival in the world; Clermont Ferrand, Raindance, Festival D'Aubagne, Galway Film Fleadh, amongst many others. His graduate short *North* starred Barry Keoghan in the leading role, and his most recent short *Dependent* was funded by Creative England and the BFI. *The Winter Lake* will be his debut feature film.



DAVID TURPIN - WRITER

David Turpin is an Irish-born screenwriter, film artist, academic and musician. His first feature as screenwriter, the 1920s-set psychosexual Gothic mystery *The Lodgers* (produced by Tailored Films) premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2017, and was closing film at the Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival in October that year. The film was subsequently acquired by Netflix for worldwide distribution. *The Winter Lake* is his second feature project. He has five further feature projects in active development with Screen Ireland, the national development agency for the Irish Film Industry – including the ‘genetic fable’ *Black Unicorn* and the surrealist melodrama *The Foundling* (both with Tailored Films) –and is currently developing his project as writer-director.

David experienced 28 seconds of death as a result of hypothermia, and releases music under the name The Late David Turpin. His albums *We Belong Dead* and *Romances* – the latter featuring contributions from over 40 singers, instrumentalists and artists – were well-received in 2013 and 2019, respectively. He was commissioned by the Irish Film Institute to perform a special piece for the legendary American underground filmmaker Kenneth Anger; and is the only music artist to three times perform in the Sculpture Hall at Dublin City Municipal Gallery.

David holds a PhD in English Literature, with a specialism in mid-century American poetry on the motif of human-to-animal transformation. In addition to his creative work, he has worked extensively as a university lecturer and tutor.

JULIANNE FORDE & RUTH TREACY (TAILORED FILMS) - PRODUCERS

Tailored Films is an award winning film and TV production company based in the heart of Dublin's city centre. Established by Irish National Film School graduates Ruth Treacy and Julianne Forde, the company has almost thirteen years' experience in the industry and a full time staff of five. Tailored Films has produced three large international feature films, two TV movies and seven TV series to date. The company has recently wrapped on their Irish/Canadian co-production *The Winter Lake*. The film stars Emma Mackey (*Sex Education*), Michael McElhatton (*Game of Thrones*) and Charlie Murphy (*Peaky Blinders*) and was financed by Screen Ireland, Telefilm Canada, Epic Pictures, BAI, Wrap Fund and Creative Europe. The film is a dark coming of age thriller, directed by Phil Sheerin and written by David Turpin. Prior to this, the company produced a 15 episode children's TV drama series *Mini Moguls* for national broadcaster RTE.

In 2016, Tailored Films produced gothic ghost story *The Lodgers*, written by David Turpin and directed by Brian O'Malley. The film was funded by Screen Ireland and Epic Pictures Group. *The Lodgers* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and since then has gone on to win a slew of international awards including Best Actress and Best Special Effects at Fancine Festival de Cine Fantastico, Best VFX at the Irish Film and TV Academy Awards and Best Film at the Molins de Rei Horror Film Festival. Since its premiere, it was released theatrically in 23 countries and has also secured a large worldwide rights deal with Netflix.

The company's first feature was the 2012 comedy horror *Stiches*, which sold internationally to: UK (released in over 100 cinemas by Kaleidoscope), USA (MPI), Germany (Universal), Canada (eOne), Australia (Anchor Bay), France (Family Films), Japan (Shochiku), South Korea (ACP), Benelux (Premiere), Scandinavia (Another World). *Stiches* screened at many festivals internationally and won the Midnight X-treme Prize at Sitges International Film Festival, as well as Best Death at Film4 Frightfest. It was the first editor's choice by Bloody Disgusting and described as being 'destined to be a cult classic'. On their TV slate, Tailored Films has produced 7 series and 2 TV movies for RTE including: reality series *Life Lessons*, 36-part comedy series *Tim's Tactical Tips*, interactive drama series and feature film *Spooky Stakeout* series 1 & 2, mystery series *Miss Mogul*, mystery series and film *Mini Moguls* and bedroom makeover show *Ace My Space*.



Tailored Films currently has a slate of seven projects in funded development with Screen Ireland, one of which, *Black Unicorn*, was recently awarded development funding by Creative Europe. The company focuses on compelling, high concept genre projects and is keen to expand its focus further into Europe for co-production opportunities.

ANNE-MARIE GÉLINAS (EMAFILMS) - PRODUCER

EMAFilms focuses on stories that both inspire and entertain. Founder Anne-Marie Gélinas produces films with her distinctive and diverse filmography, including both award winning drama (*Beans*: TIFF, Berlinale-crystal Bear, Csa's Best Motion Picture) and buzzy genre films (*Slaxx*: Sitges, Frightfest, *Turbo Kid*: Sundance, SXSW). Having produced internationally recognized films that span the globe and appeal to international audiences.

2021 releases include *Beans*, Tracey Deer's first feature film premiered at TIFF-2020 as part of the TIFF Next Wave and Discovery program, went on to play more than 20 festivals and counting, amongst others Berlinale 2021 as part of the Generation K program where it won the Crystal Bear for Best Film; and at the Canadian screen awards, where it won Best Motion Picture, and Best First Film. And the slasher-comedy *Slaxx*, co-written and directed by Elza Kephart, had its world premiere at the Fantasia Festival, Sitges and Frigthfest, winning recognitions! The film was sold to Shudder and is available in the US, UK, Australia and other English territories, and in Canada on Amazon, iTunes, Illico and others. And finally, the Irish co-production with Tailored Films, *The Winter Lake*, written by David Turpin, directed by Phil Sheerin and starring Anson Boon (*1917*) and Emma Mackay (*Sex Education*) was released in March 2021 on platforms across the US, UK and Ireland.

In 2015, *Turbo Kid* premiered at Sundance Film Festival, and was selected at SXSW, winning the Audience Award for best film in the Midnighters section. The film played in more than 60 festivals, garnering almost 20 prizes, including Best International Film at the Saturn Awards 2016. *Radius* (2017), a sci-fi feature thriller written and directed by Caroline Labrèche & Steeve Léonard starring Diego Klattenhoff (*Blacklist*) and Charlotte Sullivan (*Rookie Blue*) had its World Premiere at the Fantasia Film Festival and will also play at FrightFest, UK and many others. Raphaël Nadjari's *Night Song* (2016) was released, a musical feature narrative, a France-Canada coproduction starring Géraldine Pailhas, Luc Picard and Natalie Choquette, played in select festivals in Europe, and also played on screens in France, Canada and Israel. Other titles include *A Bottle in the Gaza Sea* (2012) and *Mars & Avril*, the sci-fi film by Martin Villeneuve (2012) both acclaimed in Canada and abroad.





RUAIRÍ O'BRIEN – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Being the son of an artist and an actor, cinematography always seemed like a natural fit for Ruairí. He graduated from film school in Dublin (IADT) and went on to shoot documentaries and no-budget film for some years.

In 2006 he landed his first TV drama, BBC1's *Murphy's Law*. Since then he has shot four feature films and about twenty TVdrama series, including *The Fall* and *Line of Duty*. He has shot for BBC, ITV, Channel 4, RTE, TG4, AMC and Netflix. He has worked in over twenty countries and was twice nominated for an IFTA for his photography on *Five Minutes of Heaven* and *The Fall*.

AUGUST MURPHY-KING – COMPOSER

Described as 'sublimely articulate,' the music of award-winning Toronto-based composer August Murphy-King blends the expressive energy of popular music with the technical and structural complexities of more traditional concert music. He placed second in the 2016 Land's End Composer's Competition and was also a 2017 winner of the SOCAN Foundation's Godfrey Ridout Award. In 2017, his work *Simul* won the Ann H. Atkinson Prize in Electroacoustic Composition at the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Toy Piano Composers, as well as the co-founder and co-artistic director of the Caution Tape Sound Collective - both Toronto-based composer collectives dedicated to the performance of new Canadian compositions. He recently complete a Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Toronto.

STÉPHANE BERGERON – SOUND MIX

Stéphane Bergeron has received nearly twenty award nominations (Emmys, Genies, Canadian Screen Awards, Geminis, Jutra, Iris and Gemeaux) winning an Emmy, a Genie, two Iris and a Jutra for his work as a sound re-recording mixer. Over the last two decades, Stéphane has worked on more than 400 TV episodes and 120 films, including *Polytechnique* from the Oscar nominated director Denis Villeneuve, landmark director Nicolas Roeg's *Puffball* and the multi-award-winning children's animation series *Arthur*.



Many of the films he worked on were selected by the most prestigious festivals around the world, Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Sundance and Toronto.

Yet if you ask Stéphane to name his favorite project, his answer is always the same: “The one I’m working on right now!”

JOHN WALTERS – EDITOR

John Walters is a film editor based in Dublin, Ireland.

A graduate of the National Film School, John began his post production career at The Factory, an independent filmmaker's collective housed in the legendary docklands recording studio of the same name, where he worked on many projects alongside some of Ireland's most well-known directors and actors.

Recent credits include Lance Daly's Irish box-office hit *Black '47*, venerable British director Adrian Shergold's forthcoming psychological thriller *Cordelia*, and BAFTA-winning director Neasa Hardiman's, *Sea Fever*. John's latest project, *The Winter Lake*, continues his decade-long creative collaboration with director Phil Sheerin.

John has lectured on film-making at The Irish School of Animation, The National Film School at IADT Dun Laoghaire, and Dundalk Institute of Technology.

Prior to his work in the film industry, John's career encompassed areas as diverse as animation, education, video game production and photocopier maintenance; all of which have proved to be invaluable training for dealing with the trials and tribulations of the cutting room.

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