

DSP / DOUBLE SCORPIO PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

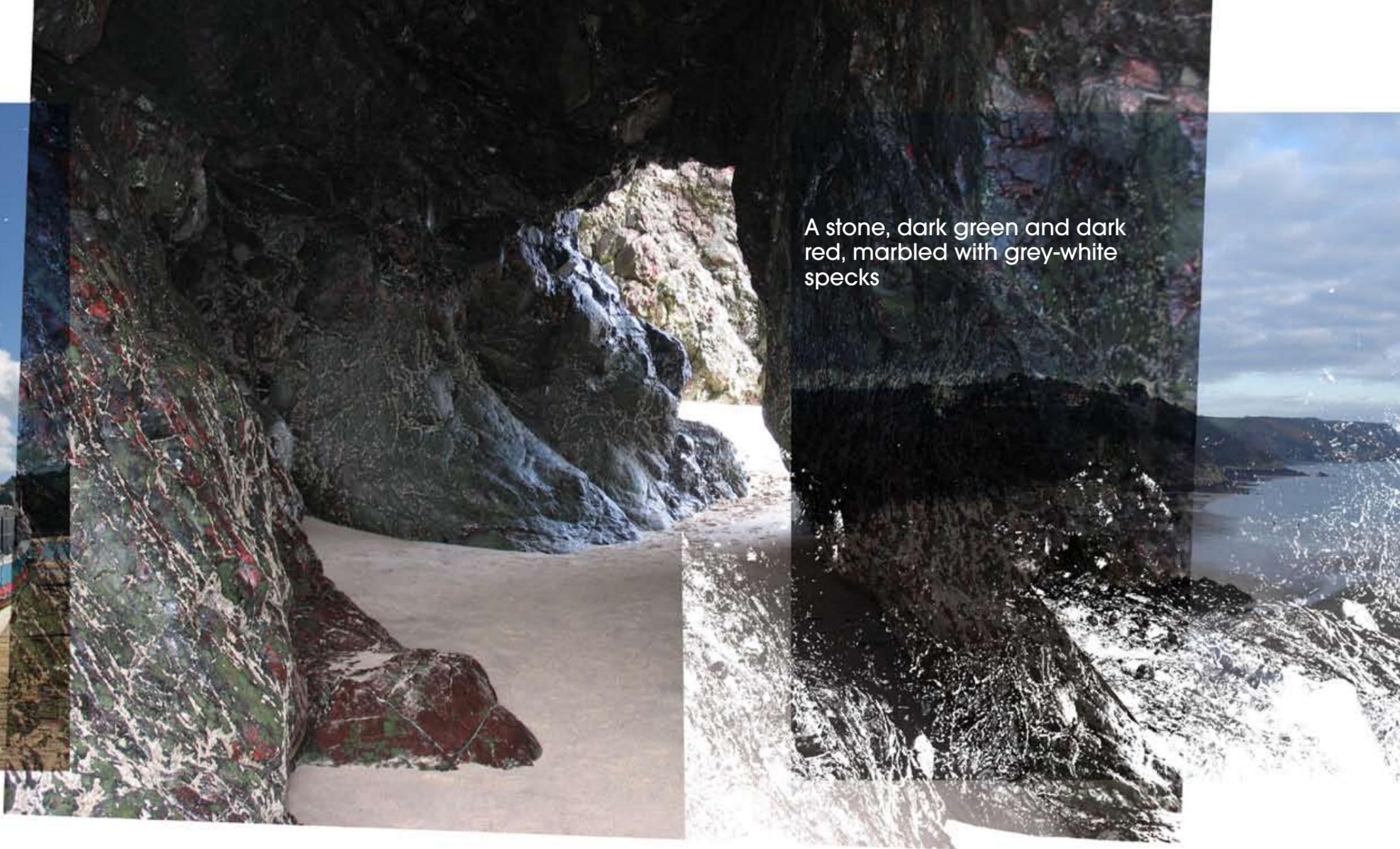
THE SERP ENTINE CAVE

THE BODY HAS MEMORIES TOO...



SCRIPT BY TONY OWEN, ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL
BY JILL PATON WALSH
DEVELOPED WITH THE SUPPORT OF CORNWALL FILM

CORNWALL
FILM



A stone, dark green and dark red, marbled with grey-white specks

THE SERPENTINE CAVE

Set against the background of a tragic lifeboat disaster, *The Serpentine Cave* is a late coming-of-age story that explores the body's power to redeem the past.

When Marian's mother dies suddenly she is left with an old house in a small coastal town, strange new friends, a stack of paintings and a stone with the power to bring back memories she'd rather forget. Among the paintings is a portrait of a young man, inscribed 'For Marian'. Is this her missing father? Who was he?

Marian's search for the father she never knew is sparked by physical flashbacks to a near-drowning experience in the serpentine cave. Thomas, her father is the man who missed the boat and let others die in his place. Their shared burden of memories and grief is the key to unlocking the past and making the most of the rest of their lives...

With the help of her daughter Alice, sculptor Leo and members of the local community, Marian finds a way through her nightmare memories to a new life for herself and her father. Uniquely British yet universal in scope, *The Serpentine Cave* is a distinctive story with the potential to appeal across generations.

Director: Jamie Payne (Lifeline / Primeval / The Dance of Shiva)
Producer: Maggie Taylor
Executive Producer: Andrew Curtis (Living Goddess / Bob, Bono, Brian and Me)
Editor: Nick Arthurs (Primeval / White Noise / Othello)
Casting: John Hubbard, Hubbard Casting
Status: Rehearsed reading at BAFTA
Budget: £2.5m



A winter's night, a storm at sea, a signal flare explodes into the night sky

A FEATURE FILM DIRECTED BY JAMIE PAYNE

The Characters / Old town:

Stella, a free-spirited artist from London is drawn to a fishing community where she falls in love with her new model, a handsome local fisherman.

Thomas is the fisherman who earns extra money by modelling for Stella.

Violet, Stella's artist friend, is envious of her talent and her life.

The Characters / New town:

Marian, Stella's daughter is a busy, city-loving pharmacist. When Stella dies suddenly, she drives to a small fishing town on the coast to sell Stella's house as quickly as possible but nightmare memories of events in the serpentine cave slow her down and push her into emotional freefall. She is shocked to discover that her long-lost father might still be living in the area and refuses to look for him until her adult daughter Alice, intervenes.

Thomas, Marian's father now a retired sea-captain, is living in exile on a cliff-top overlooking the fishing town. Proud, sad and stoical he resists meeting Marian until Alice comes to visit...

Alice, Marian's violist daughter plays Bach with a passion. On the rebound from a failed love affair in London she is soon distracted by the wit and rough charm of Leo, a sculptor. She becomes involved with the seaside community and soon finds links to a local family.

Leo, a local sculptor, adored and admired Stella. Although he is attracted to Marian he is seduced by Alice's passion for Bach and by her resemblance to the young Stella.

Violet, Stella's friend, now bitter and lonely, resolves to keep the secret of the serpentine cave.

A painting, a naked man sits on a chair in front of an open window



THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director: Jamie Payne

Jamie's first short film *The Dance of Shiva* (1998) starring Kenneth Branagh and Sanjeev Baskar was an Academy Award Finalist for Best Short Film. Recent work includes *Lifeline* with Ray Stevenson and Joanne Whalley for the BBC, *Child of Mine* with Joanne Whalley and Adrian Dunbar, *New Tricks* with Amanda Redman and Dennis Waterman and *Baby War* with Eva Birthistle and John Lynch. He directed six episodes of *Primeval* (2007/2008) for ITV.

Producer: Maggie Taylor

Maggie has a background in Shakespeare, film and photography. She has an MA in Film Studies and has written extensively on the work of Derek Jarman. In 1994 she presented a special screening of Jarman's *The Tempest* at London's National Film Theatre and later worked with Jarman's producer Don Boyd. She set up Double Scorpio Productions in 1998 and currently has three features in development.

Author: Jill Paton Walsh

Jill is the author of several highly praised novels, including the Booker Prize short-listed *Knowledge of Angels*, *Thrones, Dominations* (with Dorothy Sellers), *A Desert in Bohemia*, *A Presumption of Death* (with Dorothy Sayers) and her most recent work, *Debts of Dishonour*.

Scriptwriter: Tony Owen

Tony's short film *Fish*, starring Mel B was short-listed for the Levi Award in 1999. His feature *18 Drops* is currently in development with Tony Garnett's World Productions - award-winning director Robert Pejo is attached to direct - and his thriller *Midday Sun* is currently in development with Mark Lavender at RS Productions. With writer Steve Lewis, Tony co-wrote the comedy *Three and Out*, starring Mackenzie Crook and Imelda Staunton, which is currently screening in cinemas across the UK. Tony and Steve also have a comedy-drama in development with Simon Films (USA) to be produced by Martin Huberty (*Fried Green Tomatoes*) with Jon Avnet as Executive Producer. Their feature *The Be All and End All* has been optioned by Whatever Films and Bruce Webb is attached to direct. Tony is represented by Matthew Bates at Sayle Screen.

Editor: Nick Arthurs

Nick Arthurs received a BAFTA for *Othello* (dir Geoffrey Sax, script by Andrew Davies) in 2001 and was nominated for a BAFTA Craft Award for *Casanova* in 2006. Other work includes *White Noise*, *Lifeline* and six episodes of ITV's *Primeval* (2007/2008).

The Company

DSP/ Double Scorpio Productions is an independent production company with a slate of distinctive feature films in the mid-budget range.

OTHER FEATURES IN DEVELOPMENT

The Warrior Queen

A black comedy, script by Barbara Else, adapted from her best-selling New Zealand novel.

Trouble in Paradise? When Kate discovers that her husband is having an affair she plans her revenge in pure Boadicea fashion. Resolute, brave a pioneering spirit, she sets about unmasking his adultery using only available tools, namely condoms, credit cards and a rose called Cuddles.

When she meets a rich man with a real sense of humour her ambition to be the most faithful wife in town loses momentum. Will-she-won't-she fall in love herself?

The Warrior Queen is a humorous, highly translatable movie that subverts modern marriage and sends up the libido of the middle classes from Croydon to California, from Auckland to anywhere...

Producer: Maggie Taylor

Co-producer: Diana Williams (Exit 5 Entertainment)

Scriptwriter: Barbara Else

Budget: £2.5m

Taboo

Original script by Tanya Lees

Taboo was the recipient of Screen South development funding and was also selected by SOURCES 2 for a script development workshop with Ronald Harwood in Sweden, June 2004.

Set in 18th century Tahiti but filmed in contemporary documentary style, *Taboo* follows the rites of passage of the youngest mutineer on Bligh's *Bounty*: the story of a Pacific Braveheart.



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