



BENEATH THE TREES . . .
DARKNESS LIES IN WAIT .

BLUE MAGMA PRESENTS

B E N E A T H
T R E E S

SARAH
BRADNUM

JESSICA
CHAMBERLAIN

LOUIS
LEVI

DIRECTED BY MARCO DE LUCA
WRITTEN BY IRENE HARRIS

COMING SOON

B E N E A T H T H E T R E E S

BENEATH THE TREES... DARKNESS LIES IN WAIT.

Synopsis: Against her better judgement, young American student, Emily, agrees to a weekend camping in the English countryside with her new boyfriend, Jay and his strange cousin, Julia. A simple walk in the woods becomes a lethal brush with nature when Emily discovers that her new friends aren't who they seem... and her life is in danger... Beneath the Trees.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Growing up watching the Italian masters of horror like Dario Argento and Mario Bava has left me with a real passion for the genre which eventually grew into a love of American classics like the Exorcist, Rosemary's Baby and The Shining.

Beneath the Trees is Victorian Gothic low budget shot entirely on a Canon 5D. Using shadow and light to build tension rather than rely on gore, this folk horror, along the lines of The Wicker man, gives a nudge to those British horror series of the 70s such as Red Shift, 1978 Play for Today, and the BBC Horror series Dead of Night.

Just as the dead volcano in Picnic at Hanging Rock dominates a film which inspired me greatly, the forest in Beneath the Trees has a character very much its own, given added menace by the solitude and silence. Nothing feels real in this darkest of woods. Emily is lost, isolated and confused. More than rural idyll, this is the setting for sinister ancient rituals where reality must make way for magic...

I hope people will enjoy this tale of horror and suspense.

B E N E A T H T H E T R E E S



MARCO DE LUCA - DIRECTOR

Marco De Luca is a UK based film director, photographer and artist. Since studying filmmaking in Denmark, Marco has explored the different aspects of visual arts.

His 2010 directorial debut feature *I Imagine a Dream like That*, an indie low budget film, was selected for official competition at the Philadelphia International Film Festival, Trieste Maremetraggio Film Festival, Los Angeles Italian Film Festival, Aruba International Film Festival. His short films *Risveglio* (2004) and *La Coda del Serpente* (2006) were selected at the Fano International Film Festival and Paris Tout Court.

Marco's recent Sci-Fi short film *The Cause*, premiered at the Short Film Corner at the Cannes Film Festival. Since relocating to the UK Marco has worked in television making documentaries for various channels.



IRENE HARRIS - WRITER

Irene Harris started off in the visual arts and crafts before moving on to theatre and film design. She has worked for Scottish Opera, BBC Scotland, Parallax Pictures, Figment Films among others. She has written, commissioned and optioned feature films and television scripts and is currently working with director Marco De Luca on a horror feature.

B E N E A T H T H E T R E E S

C A S T



SARAH BRADNUM - EMILY

Sarah Bradnum is a London-based actor, producer, and writer, whose most recent acting credits include 'Manjana' in Universe of Gods (pilot), 'Mina Harker' in Dracula (Let Them Call it Mischief), and 'Kit' in Doctors (BBC). As a producer, Sarah has worked extensively with Clamour theatre company on projects that place stories of historically marginalised groups centre stage; most notably, she produced JOY at the Theatre Royal Stratford East, which featured a non-neurotypical cast and received national press attention. Sarah writes for the feminist website VERVE, where she blogs on a bimonthly basis on topics such as mental health, sexuality, and politics.



LOUIS LEVI - JAY

Louis fell in love with acting at the age of 10 when he starred in the school's Romeo and Juliet. His love for the thespian art developed into leading roles all through college. In 2013 he played the lead in the film "The lost mantle of Elijah". Since then he has participated in three short films and kept doing theatre at different fringe festivals around the UK. "Beneath the Trees" is his second film role.



JESSICA CHAMBERLAIN - JULIA

Jessica is an actress & writer who has appeared in in films: Suspension of Disbelief (Mike Figgis), Easy Pieces (Riffy Ahmed) and Stockholm Syndrome (Jacob Proud). Shes worked in theatre in performing at the Royal Opera House, Nottingham Playhouse, Southwark Playhouse, Surgeons Hall Edinburgh & Arcola Theatre, London. She has written comedic content for YouTube, as well as writing, producing and starring in a 7-part comedy series, Quick Fix.