

BOUDU FILM PRESENTS

A FILM BY THOMAS CLAY

*The Great Ecstasy of*  
**ROBERT CARMICHAEL**

DANNY DYER   LESLEY MANVILLE   DAN SPENCER   RYAN WINSLEY   CHARLES MNENE

CASTING: SUE JONES, C.D.G.   DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: YORGOS ARVANITIS, A.F.C.   ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: DANIEL NIXON   EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: THOMAS CLAY & PETER ALLEZ  
wild bunch   BOUDU   PRODUCED BY JOSEPH LANG   WRITTEN BY THOMAS CLAY & JOSEPH LANG   DIRECTED BY THOMAS CLAY



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## Synopsis

In a small English coastal town, three teenage boys are drawn into a world of temptation and violence. Bored, troubled, excluded, unable to accept or even to recognise moral boundaries, the boys' actions move inexorably towards a shocking act that will horrify their sleepy community and expose its deepest, hidden fears.

Brutal, poetic and explosive, infused with a dark and ironic wit, *THE GREAT ECSTASY OF ROBERT CARMICHAEL* issues a fierce challenge to the moral and political complacency of our times and heralds the arrival of a remarkable new British cinematic talent.

25-year-old director Thomas Clay's extraordinary film features the beautiful and stately camerawork of acclaimed DP Yorgos Arvanitis (*ETERNITY & A DAY*, *À MA SOEUR!*) and startlingly assured performances from newcomers Dan Spencer, Ryan Winsley and Charles Mnene alongside established acting talents Danny Dyer (*HUMAN TRAFFIC*, *THE FOOTBALL FACTORY*) and Lesley Manville (*VERA DRAKE*, *ALL OR NOTHING*).

## Cast and Crew

*Larry* - Danny Dyer  
*Sarah* - Lesley Manville  
*Robert* - Dan Spencer  
*Joe* - Ryan Winsley  
*Ben* - Charles Mnene  
*Monica* - Miranda Wilson  
*Jonathan* - Michael Howe  
*Stuart* - Stuart Laing  
*John* - Rob Dixon  
*Marie* - Ami Instone

**Director:** Thomas Clay

**Screenplay:** Thomas Clay and Joseph Lang

**DP:** Yorgos Arvanitis, AFC

**Music:** Elgar, Harvey, Purcell

**Editor:** David Wigram

**Production designer:** Atilla Raczkey

**Casting director:** Sue Jones, CDG

**Additional casting:** Donna Shilling

**Production manager:** Nicky Moss

**1st Assistant director:** Simon Rooke

**Assistant producer:** Corinna Mcfarlane

**Associate producer:** Daniel Nixon

**Producer:** Joseph Lang

**Production:** Boudu Film / Pull Back Camera Ltd.

**International Sales:** Wild Bunch

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## Directors Statement

THE GREAT ECSTASY OF ROBERT CARMICHAEL starts with a portrait of a community, a microcosm of society from the first generation immigrant to the celebrity aristocracy. Each has their own place and their own set of problems and desires. At the epicentre of this world sit our three young protagonists and in particular Robert Carmichael. Robert is quiet, unassuming, he seems but a part of the landscape, yet he is watching and learning every hour of the day.

In the second act, a firestorm sweeps through this community, a single catalyst in the form of Larry Haydn. This one man - one force - is all it takes to provoke destruction and instability.

The third act is the aftermath, the results of the alchemy and a final explosion, at once a conflagration and affirmation of all that has come before. What we have been watching are the formative experiences of the boy Robert Carmichael and, finally, he acts. Despite first appearance, his act is not one of rebellion or transgression but rather the purest primal expression of the society in which he lives. His actions speak for us, our drive for success, wealth, sex, power, our selfishness, one-upmanship, our murderous economics, our mock-concern, the lack of God, the lack of meaning, the lack of foresight for the future. This is the great ecstasy of Robert Carmichael.

- Thomas Clay, 2005

## Thomas Clay

Thomas Clay was born in Brighton, England in 1979. THE GREAT ECSTASY OF ROBERT CARMICHAEL is his first feature as co-writer, director and sound designer. Clay studied 16mm production at the CFU in London. He has previously worked with writer/producer Joseph Lang on a series of short film projects. His other work includes music production for US label Nice Records.

### Selected filmography:

2001 MOTION	Short, DV
1998 FAMILY MAN	Short, DV
1994 PROJECTION THERAPY	Short, 16mm

## Yorgos Arvanitis

Yorgos Arvanitis is a world-renowned cinematographer who has shot more than ninety feature films. His longest-lasting collaboration is with Theo Angelopolous, with whom he worked for more than 25 years. More recently he has worked with Catherine Breillat and Amos Gitai.

## Danny Dyer

Danny Dyer is one of Britain's hottest young actors. Recently he played the lead in the British box-office and DVD hit, THE FOOTBALL FACTORY. His star qualities were first noticed in the cult British rave film, HUMAN TRAFFIC.

## Lesley Manville

Lesley Manville is one of Britain's most versatile character actresses. She has appeared in numerous Mike Leigh films, most famously ALL OR NOTHING. More recently she has appeared in Leigh's VERA DRAKE, and the National Theatre's production of HIS DARK MATERIALS.