

Blumhouse Productions & The Safran Company

Present



MARTYRS

A film by
The Goetz Brothers

Bailey Noble, Troian Bellisario

87 min - USA - 2015 - DCP - Scope - 5.1

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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SYNOPSIS

10-year-old Lucie flees from the isolated warehouse where she has been held prisoner. Deeply traumatized, she is plagued by awful night terrors at the orphanage that takes her in. Her only comfort comes from Anna, a girl her own age. Nearly a decade later and still haunted by demons, Lucie finally tracks down the family that tortured her. As she and Anna move closer to the agonizing truth, they find themselves trapped in a nightmare - if they cannot escape, a martyr's fate awaits them...

Based on Pascal Laugier's cult classic - the horrifying new movie from the producers of *Paranormal Activity*, *Insidious* and *The Conjuring*.

DIRECTORS' NOTE

Like most fans of the original *Martyrs*, when we first heard about this new rendition we were shocked... A remake? The paint on Pascal Laugier's classic hadn't even dried yet. And the original has such a massive following of dedicated fans... Could we somehow do it justice? Once we read Mark L. Smith's screenplay we knew we had to make it.

What attracted us most to this version of *Martyrs* was not only the strong female roles of Lucie and Anna exacting merciless revenge, but revealing what would happen if Lucie didn't end up dying when she did in the original. If Lucie lived on in that moment, what would the bond between these two women be able to endure? How far could it take them? We looked forward to creating a dark and terrifying world where the only glimmer of hope and goodness could be born from the enduring bond of friendship and love. Very quickly we knew that this wasn't the same *Martyrs* - and it's wasn't a toned down (American) version that decides to pander to the masses either. No, this was still a deep and profoundly moving story set against the same backdrop as the original - nodding to the shadows of a underworld that is all too real. This new *Martyrs* became its own thing - a rebirth for the characters and for us - and we never looked back.

The scariest kinds of stories are those that represent true evil found here on earth, rooted within humanity. This is one of the elements that we loved about the original. We love turning the convention of monsters and ghosts on its head and forging ahead with unapologetic and distinct storytelling that paves new paths.

As much as *Martyrs* explores man exacting his force upon another man - kidnapping, torture, pain, dominance - it also presents an existential question: is it possible for those so close to death on Earth to actually see the other side before they perish, and to pass that information back to the living? Imagine the possibility. Imagine the measure of the answer and you realize a cult searching for an answer like this very well could and probably has truly existed. This is the worst kind of evil. This is ultimate power misused through delusions of grandeur. Searching for answers to a higher power. Questioning religion. Sacrificing for knowledge.

Enter Lucie and Anna. Two little girls forgotten by the world around them. Abused by the world around them. All they have are one another. How far will that childhood bond take them? And will they be able not only to withstand an evil so palpable and real, but ultimately to prevail against it?

We think so.

Michael & Kevin Goetz

PRESS NOTE

Martyrs is a story of horror, friendship, revenge and reconciliation.

The US remake of *Martyrs* came to fruition in 2015 through a collaboration between writer Mark L. Smith, production companies Blumhouse Tilt, The Safran Company and Wild Bunch - and last, but certainly not least, directors Kevin and Michael Goetz.

The Goetz Brothers had previously directed the film *Scenic Route*, which premiered at the South By Southwest Film Festival in 2013. For *Martyrs*, the directors brought back a lot of the same collaborators from their previous film, including director of photography Sean Odea.

Rounding out the production crew were production designer Alan Roderick Jones (*Star Wars*, *Tarzan* and the winner of 6 Cleo awards for Excellence in Advertising), costume designer Sheila Hume (a veteran of nearly a dozen Goetz-directed commercials), editor Jake York (*At The Devil's Door*, *Area 51*, *The Possession of Michael King*) and composer Evan Goldman (*The Den*).

Kevin and Michael Goetz recall the casting process:

"Casting was easy - Troian Bellisario came in and auditioned; we had known of her from Pretty Little Liars, but we hadn't seen her really dig into a role like this. Her audition was flawless - she was fully committed - she tapped into some darkness, some sadness and we remember being in the casting room with her and being affected by her performance. Bailey Noble (most notably from True Blood) held just the right amount of naïveté and confidence. We needed someone who could transition from a pure and delicate girl to a fierce warrior who exacts her revenge with an angst born from her love for her best friend. Bailey was able to make that transition beautifully."

DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHY

Kevin and Michael Goetz have been directing television commercials and music videos for over 15 years, helming projects for Nissan, Honda, Disney, HBO, State Farm, McDonald's and BMW to name but a few.

Their first feature - *Scenic Route*, starring Josh Duhamel and Dan Fogler - enjoyed positive reviews following its world premiere at the 2013 SXSW Festival, and was later picked up and released worldwide by Vertical Entertainment.

The Brothers were nominated for a Primetime Emmy for their opening design and direction of *The Wonderful World of Disney* for ABC, and two of their commercials have been placed in the permanent collection in the MoMA, New York City. They have had a music video win "Fuse's Best Rock Video of the Year" and two more of their spots have been shortlisted at the Cannes Lions. Most recently, their *Call of Duty: Black Ops* spot was shortlisted for an AICP Award.

CAST

Bailey Noble (*True Blood, Glee*)

Troian Bellisario (*Pretty Little Liars*)

Kate Burton (*127 Hours*)

Blake Robbins (*Sons of Anarchy*)

CREW

DIRECTED BY Kevin and Michael Goetz (*Scenic Route*)

SCREENPLAY Mark L. Smith

DP Sean O'Dea (*Scenic Route*)

EDITOR Jake York
(*The Possession of Michael King, At the Devil's Door*)

PRODUCTION DESIGNER Alan Roderick-Jones (*Star Wars*)

STUNTS David Rowden
(*Transformers: Age of Extinction, Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones, Iron Man 3, Minority Report*)

PRODUCERS Jason Blum for Blumhouse Productions
(*Paranormal Activity, Insidious, The Bay, Sinister*)
Peter Safran for The Safran Company
(*The Conjuring, Annabelle*)

wild bunch