ELLE FANNING

KARL GLUSMAN JENA MALONE BELLA HEATHCOTE

ABBEY LEE WITH CHRISTINA HENDRICKS & KEANU REEVES



THE

NEONDEM ON NA FILM BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN

Le Pacte



SPACE ROCKET

سايحا لهامجلا





GAUMONT, WILD BUNCH & NICOLAS WINDING REFN
PRESENT

A SPACE ROCKET PRODUCTION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH VENDIAN ENTERTAINMENT LLC AND BOLD FILMS LLC

NEON DEMON

A FILM BY

NICOLAS WINDING REFN

STARRING ELLE FANNING / KARL GLUSMAN / JENA MALONE /
BELLA HEATHCOTE / ABBEY LEE / DESMOND HARRINGTON
WITH CHRISTINA HENDRICKS & KEANU REEVES

USA, DENMARK & FRANCE - 117 MIN - COLOR - 2.39 - 5.1



INTERNATIONAL SALES:

GAUMONT

30 avenue Charles de Gaulle - 92200 Neuilly sur Seine IN CANNES: 2 rue Bivouac Napoleon, 6th Floor Phone: +33 4 93 68 90 20

WILD BUNCH 65 rue de Dunkerque - 75009 Paris

IN CANNES:
4 La Croisette, 1st Floor
Phone: +33 4 93 30 17 00

INTERNATIONAL PRESS:

GAUMONT

30 avenue Charles de Gaulle - 92200 Neuilly sur Seine Contact: Sophie Bollotte / sbollotte@gaumont.fr IN CANNES: 2 rue Bivouac Napoleon, 6th Floor Phone: +33 4 93 68 90 20













THE STORY

When aspiring model Jesse moves to Los Angeles, her youth and vitality are devoured by a group of beauty-obsessed women who will use any means necessary to get what she has.

FRAGMENTS BY NWR

THE DEMON RISES

"For a number of years, I've had this interest in making a film about beauty, because, in my life, I'm surrounded by it,"

NWR says, referring to his wife, filmmaker LIV CORFIXEN (MY LIFE DIRECTED BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN),
his two young daughters, and, presumably, the myriad actresses and models he's encountered directing both
feature films and fashion advertisements for brands like Gucci, YXL, H&M and Hennessey. "And I see a lot of
female empowerment with beauty."

"The currency of beauty continues to rise and never falls. And, as we evolve the lifespan of beauty becomes more limited, while our obsession with it becomes more and more extreme. This obsession can often lead to a unique kind of madness."

To illustrate this, NWR references Narcissus, the subject of ancient Greek myth who became so enamored with his own beauty he drowned in its reflection.

Known for both embracing and subverting such well-worn genres as the prison drama (2008's **BRONSON**), the historical adventure (2010's **VALHALLA RISING**), the action thriller (2011's **DRIVE**), and the revenge drama (2013's **ONLY GOD FORGIVES**), NWR was similarly curious to see if he could both honor and defy the "horror movie". "Was there a way to hit all of the basic genre beats, but not necessarily in the right order?" And could he "make a horror film without the horror?"

To help give voice to **THE NEON DEMON's** quartet of young female characters, NWR sought collaboration with a young female writer – preferably one with a background in the more dialogue-intensive world of theater... NWR found these qualities in two writers: POLLY STENHAM, a well-known British playwright, and MARY LAWS, an up-and-coming American one.

"Both women were absolutely wonderful to work with because of their differing approaches. And each brought a distinct perspective that helped mold the script in very interesting ways."





NEON BEAUTIES

The first and most pivotal role to cast was Jesse, a seemingly innocent young beauty from small town Georgia whose character slowly starts to transform as her modeling career takes off.

"To me, ELLE FANNING is a blend of the greatest silent movie stars of the past and the most cutting edge actresses of today. She has this magnificent ability to transform herself. And the camera just loves her."

To prepare for the role, NWR instructed Fanning to watch a series of films - but not just in the horror genre. Like **VALLEY OF THE DOLLS** and **BEYOND THE VALLEY OF THE DOLLS**.

According to NWR, JENA MALONE became "very instrumental in creating the Ruby character because this character was more of an enigma at the script stage. So I needed someone that could transform and mutate into her."

SUPPORTING THE DEMON

"The minute KEANU REEVES' name came up, I was like, that would be the best. And it was a way for me to complete a full circle because Keanu and I had met about ten years ago on my first big job in Hollywood. That film never materialized... but I always wanted to revisit the chance to work with him. Very few actors have the pop icon status that he has and the ability he has as an actor, combined with a bona fide movie star aura."

"Then DESMOND HARRINGTON came in - I think two days before we were to start shooting that role - and when I saw him, it was more like, now there's a mystery to Jack because Desmond is a very enigmatic personality."

NWR was also intent on creating an opportunity to reunite with CHRISTINA HENDRICKS, who here portrays Roberta Hoffman, head of Jesse's modeling agency.

NWR had been tipped off to KARL GLUSMAN's talent by filmmaker friend GASPAR NOÉ, who worked with Karl on the controversial romance **LOVE**. "I kind of put it off a little bit. And then Karl would contact me and I didn't really respond. And we were running out of time and there was no actor that I wanted to use - so Karl came back from France and I said, 'Let's get him in and see how this works out.' And Elle was going to be there for the reading. Their chemistry - from the moment he walked in the room - was so obvious."

DEMON CREW

"It was a combination of two things: after shooting **ONLY GOD FORGIVES** in Bangkok, I wanted to do a film in Tokyo, and Liv said, 'I'm not living in Tokyo.' Then I asked her, 'What's a compromise?' And she said, 'L.A.'" In terms of the creative impetus for setting the story in L.A., NWR says, "I'd been doing a lot of fashion work in L.A. so I got to see the fashion side of it. And, even though you might say high-end fashion is more based in New York or Paris, every part of the entertainment industry leads back to L.A.. So you can say L.A. is the gateway between all entertainment and the rest of the world.

"One of the first challenges in L.A. is that it's an expensive city to shoot in. So it was difficult getting a crew for the amount of money I had. But I think that forced me to...really go outside of my comfort zone and work with people who are much more new and fresh; people who were on the verge of breaking into the industry in a much bigger way, which actually added to the movie."

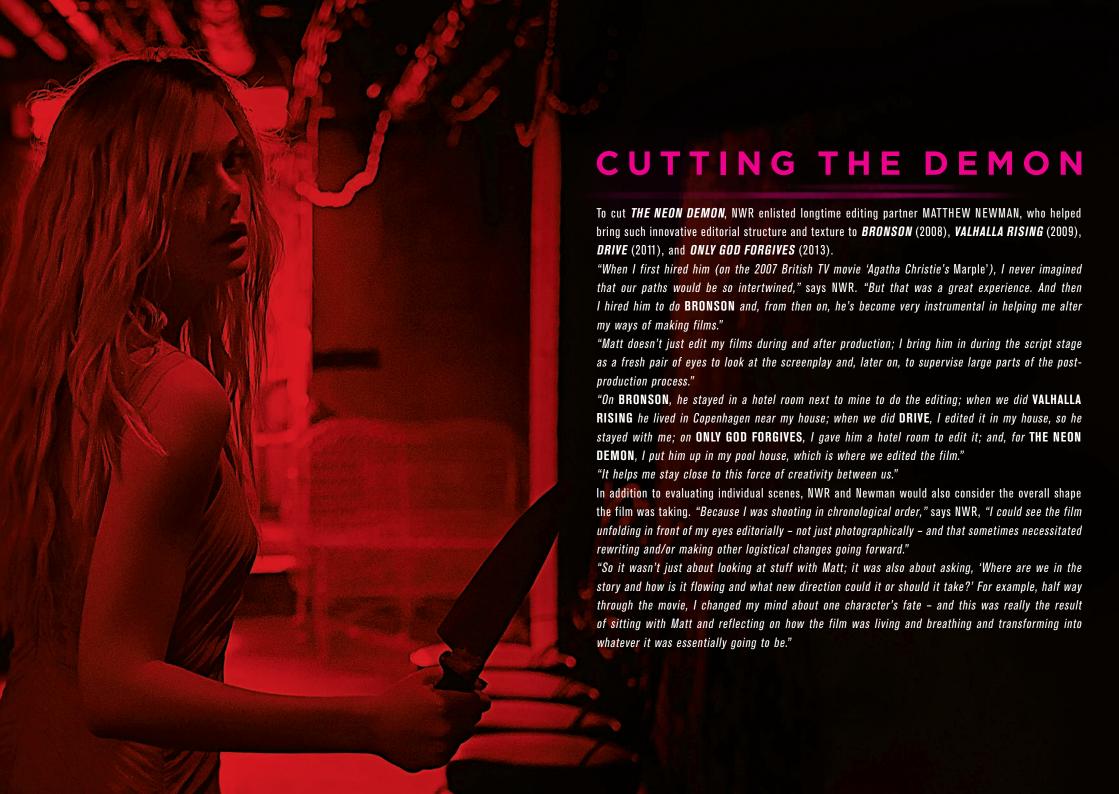
"I spent two months finding the right set of anamorphic lenses and then fixing them because I chose a very old set that not a lot of people use anymore. They're called "Crystal Express" and they were made by JOE DUNTON, a legend in the anamorphic field. They're great because they're very soft and gentle and cosmetic on the faces. And I needed the skins to be as close to those captured on a fashion photo shoot - although those are always extremely corrected in Photoshop. But I knew on our budget we were not going to be able to treat the skins in post, so I had to do as much as I could in-camera."

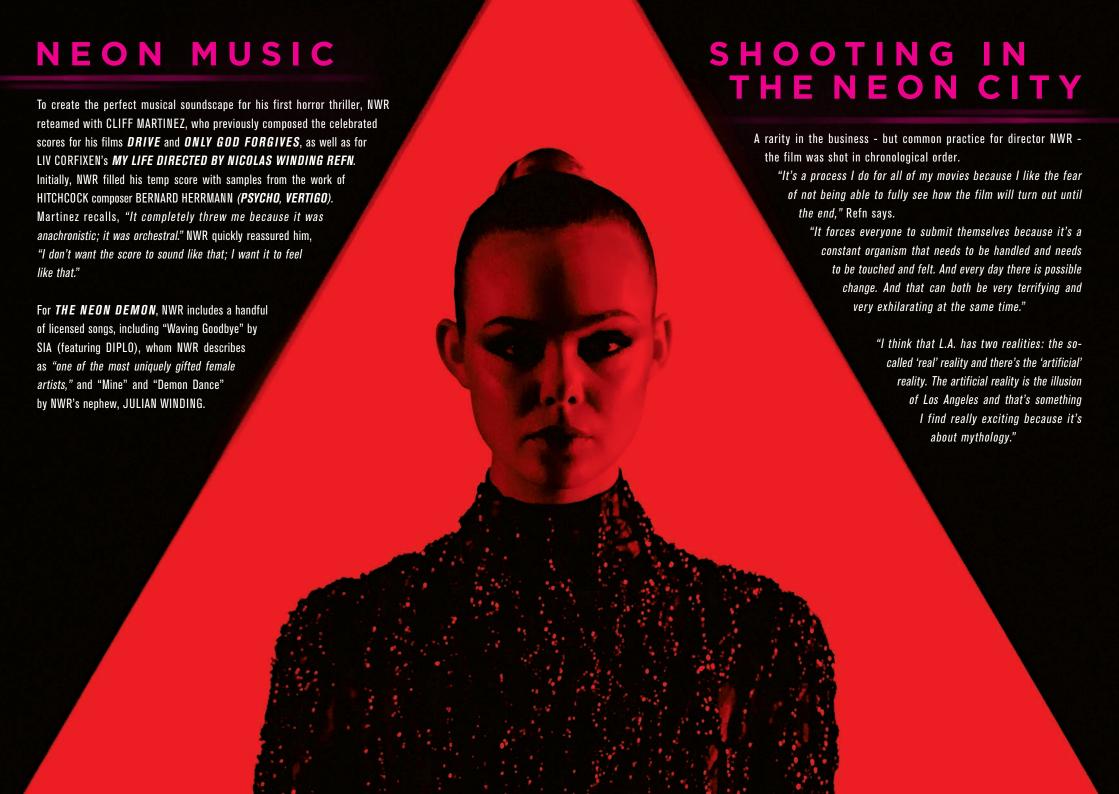
NWR describes the hiring of both production designer ELLIOTT HOSTETTER and director of photography NATASHA BRAIER as "absolutely crucial in designing and creating the film."

DRESSING THE DEMON

When **THE NEON DEMON** finally commenced pre-production, NWR told ERIN BENACH (costume designer) he wanted the film's costume design to "really push the envelope and set the stage for high fashion – not fake high fashion." This presented Benach with the dual challenge of both finding authentic pieces and then giving them an "elevated look that really feels like the high-fashion world."













ABBEY LEE SARAH SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY 2016 THE NEON DEMON by Nicolas Winding Refn **GODS OF EGYPT** by Alex Proyas 2015 MAD MAX: FURY ROAD by George Miller RUBEN GUTHRIE by Brendan Cowell

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

NICOLAS WINDING REFN (Director & Screenwriter) was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1970. At only 24, NWR had written and directed *PUSHER* (1996). The film became a cult phenomenon and won him instant international critical acclaim. After the success of his debut, NWR wrote, produced, and directed his next film, *BLEEDER*. Highly stylized and focused on introverted reactions to outward situations, this film was a marking point for the shaping of NWR's career.

NWR's third feature, **FEAR X** (2003) was his first foray into English language films. Starring JOHN TURTURRO and co-written by HUBERT SELBY, JR.

Determined to reignite his career, NWR somewhat reluctantly wrote, directed, and produced **PUSHER II** (2004) and **PUSHER III** (2005), as a result of the first movie's growing cult following. This turbulent time in the life of NWR and his wife, LIV CORFIXEN, was captured by filmmaker PHIE AMBO, in her documentary **GAMBLER**. The subsequent success of **PUSHER II** and **III**, along with the first, became the internationally renowned **PUSHER** Trilogy, cementing it as a worldwide phenomenon.

In 2008, NWR wrote and directed **BRONSON**, an ultra-violent, surreal, escapist film following the real life landmarks and self-entrapment of Britain's most notorious criminal, MICHAEL PETERSON, who claims his alter ego is legendary actor CHARLES BRONSON. The film resulted in the world media calling NWR the next great European auteur.

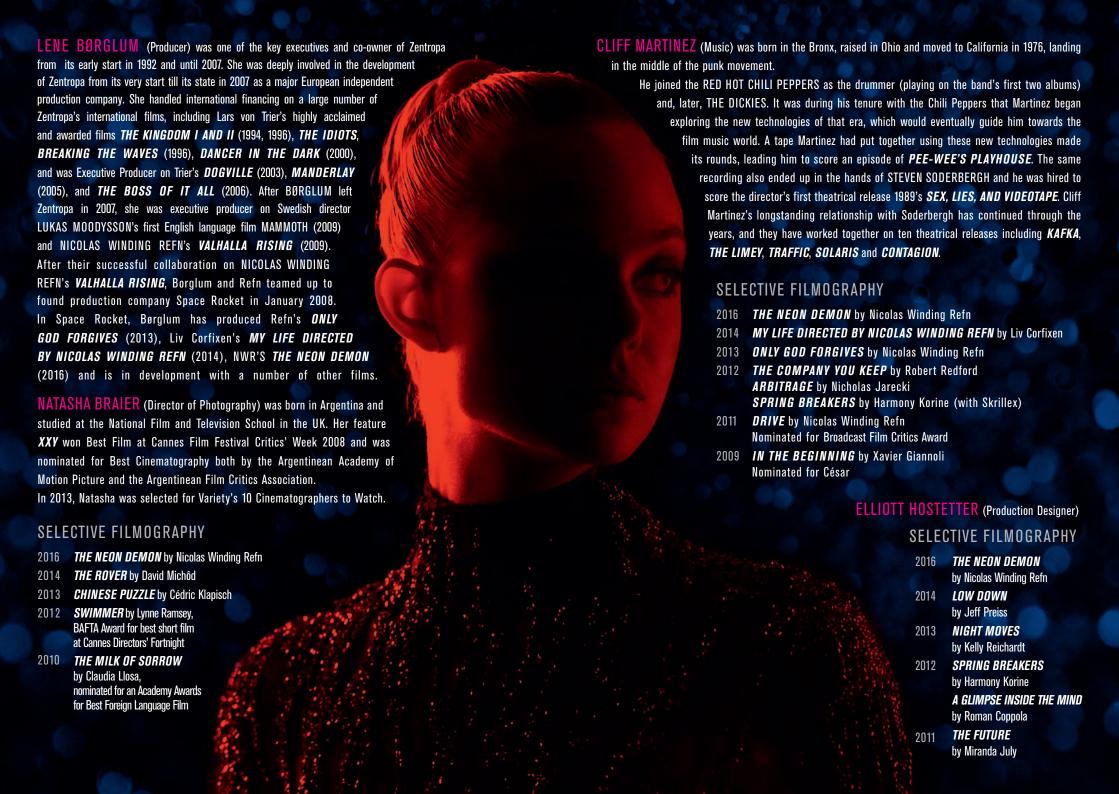
NWR next wrote, directed and produced **VALHALLA RISING**, starring his long time collaborator, MADS MIKKELSEN. **VALHALLA RISING** is a film inspired by a story NWR's mother read to him when he was young. The film led the world media to define NWR's filmic style as "Refn-esk."

Due to the success of both **BRONSON** and **VALHALLA RISING**, NWR was offered a two-picture deal with Wild Bunch and Gaumont, which was promptly interrupted by a meeting between NWR and RYAN GOSLING, leading NWRtohisnextfilm, **DRIVE DRIVE** premiered at the Cannes Film Festivalin 2011 where it won Best Director and was in competition for the Palme d'Or.

Following the success of **DRIVE**, NWR wrote and directed **ONLY GOD FORGIVES** starring RYAN GOSLING and KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS. It was met with polarizing critiques, which ultimately and ironically lead to the film's success. NWR's wife, LIV CORFIXEN, offers an intimate look into their lives during the making of this film through her documentary, **MY LIFE DIRECTED BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN**.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2016 THE NEON DEMON
 - Cannes Film Festival 2016, official selection, competition
- 2013 ONLY GOD FORGIVES
 - Cannes Film Festival 2013, official selection, competition
- 2011 **DRIVE**
 - Cannes Film Festival 2011, Best Director Award
- 2009 VALHALLA RISING
 - Venice Film Festival 2009, official selection
- 2008 BRONSON
 - Sundance Film Festival 2009, official selection
- 2005 PUSHER III
- 2004 PUSHER II
- 2003 INSIDE JOB (Fear X)
- 1999 BLEEDER
 - Venice Film Festival 1999, official selection
- 1996 PUSHER



MATTHEW NEWMAN (Editor) entered the film industry in Rome at Cinecittà Studios, working for cameraman MICHAEL BALLHAUS on *GANGS OF NEW YORK*. After moving into editing, he met director NICOLAS WINDING REFN, with whom he has since made six films.

ERIN BENACH (Costumes) began her career designing the costumes for the award-winning indie *HALF NELSON* (2006), starring RYAN GOSLING. Her creative collaboration with Gosling continued with 2010's *BLUE VALENTINE* by DEREK CIANFRANCE; 2011's *DRIVE* for director NICOLAS WINDING REFN; and 2012's *THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES*, again for Cianfrance.

SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY

2016 THE NEON DEMON by Nicolas Winding Refn MIDNIGHT SPECIAL by Jeff Nichols

2015 THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS by Derek Cianfrance

2014 **LOST RIVER** by Ryan Gosling

2013 **THE HOST** by Andrew Niccol

2011 THE LINCOLN LAWYER by Brad Furman

DEVIL by John Erick Dowdle

2009 **COLD SOULS** by Sophie Barthes

2008 **THE POKER HOUSE** by Lori Petty

SUGAR by Ryan Fleck & Anna Boden

SPACE ROCKET is a Denmark-based independent production company dedicated to producing highly artistic, edgy, and counter-cultural feature films for an international audience. The company was founded in 2008 by producer LENE BØRGLUM and NICOLAS WINDING REFN after their successful collaboration on NWR's feature film **VALHALLA RISING**.

Space Rocket produced **ONLY GOD FORGIVES** (2013) by NWR, which was in competition at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival and **MY LIFE DIRECTED BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN**, which premiered at Austin's Fantastic Fest in 2014.

Recently, Space Rocket teamed with producer WILLIAM LUSTIG to develop a remake of the cult classic *MANIAC GOP*, which will be directed by JOHN HYAMS and will go into production this year.



CAST LIST

WILD BUNCH / GAUMONT NICOLAS WINDING REFN

Present

THE NEON DEMON

ELLE FANNING Jesse

KARL GLUSMAN Dean

JENA MALONE Ruby

BELLA HEATHCOTE Gigi

ABBEY LEE Sarah

With CHRISTINA HENDRICKS Roberta Hoffman



Gaumont wild bunch VENDIAN I MEDIA DR BOLD DOOR & American Humane









CREW LIST

Directed by NICOLAS WINDING REFN

Story NICOLAS WINDING REFN

Screenplay NICOLAS WINDING REFN

MARY LAWS & POLLY STENHAM

Producer LENE BØRGLUM

Producers SIDONIE DUMAS, VINCENT MARAVAL

Executive producers CHRISTOPHE RIANDEE

BRAHIM CHIOUA

CHRISTOPHER WOODROW

MICHAEL BASSICK

STEVEN MARSHALL

MICHEL LITVAK

GARY MICHAEL WALTERS

JEFFREY STOTT

MANUEL CHICHE

MATTHEW READ

VICTOR HO

RACHEL DIK

THOR SIGURJONSSON

Co-producers K. BLAINE JOHNSTON

ELEXA RUTH

Director of photography NATASHA BRAIER

Editor MATTHEW NEWMAN

Music CLIFF MARTINEZ

Production designer ELLIOTT HOSTETTER

Costume designer ERIN BENACH

Casting NICOLE DANIELS & COURTNEY BRIGHT

Line Producer CARSTEN SPARWATH

Sound designers EDDIE SIMONSEN & ANNE JENSEN

Visual effects supervisor PETER HJORTH

A SPACE ROCKET NATION production

In association with VENDIAN ENTERTAINMENT LLC & BOLD FILMS LLC

With the support of THE DANISH FILM INSTITUTE/ KIM LEONA / THE MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

In collaboration with DANISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

A film by NICOLAS WINDING REFN

