

BEN RIVERS

THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS

THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS is a new feature film by British artist and filmmaker Ben Rivers. Premiered at Locarno Film Festival 2015, it has also been accepted by the **London Film Festival**, **Toronto International Film Festival** and the **New York City International Film Festival**.

At the heart of the film's multiple narratives is an adaptation of *A Distant Episode*, the savage short story set in Morocco by American author Paul Bowles, first published in 1947.

Moving between documentary, fiction and fable, *THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS* sees its protagonist, filmmaker Oliver Laxe, directing his own film in Morocco, the forthcoming *Las Mimosas*, only to walk off set and into Rivers' narrative. Shot against the staggering beauty of the Moroccan landscape, from the rugged terrain of the Atlas Mountains to the stark and surreal emptiness of the Sahara, with its encroaching sands and abandoned film sets, Laxe is drawn into a hallucinatory and perilous adventure of cruelty, madness and malevolence. Bowles' story is combined with observational footage to form a multi-layered excavation into the illusion of cinema itself.

"In a café in Morocco, about 50 years ago, Paul Bowles overheard a man, high on kif, say the title of this film. And so he wrote a story around this statement, a story that moves between different planes of reality. I read the story, and the story behind the story, and the strange phrase kept circling around my mind, creating images and dreams. This film is a manifestation of these images, along with obsessions about cinema and how far we will go to make it"

Director Ben Rivers, 2015

THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS follows Rivers' first feature film *Two Years at Sea* (2011), winner of the FIPRESCI International Critics Prize at the 68th Venice Film Festival.

THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS is presented by Artangel and BFI and is an Artangel production.

For further press information and images, please contact: Artangel Head of Communications Anna Larkin at anna@artangel.org.uk, Communications Co-ordinator Nick Chapman nick@artangel.org.uk or the Artangel office on +44(0)20 7713 1400

NOTES TO EDITORS

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

Public screening: 11/09/15, 9.15pm, Jackman Hall
Press and industry screening: 12/09/15, 4.45pm, Scotiabank

6ch

Public screening: 18/09/2015, 6pm, Cinema 3

NEW YORK CITY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

04/10/15, 8.30pm, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

04/10/15, 9.00pm, Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

17/10/15, 9pm, NFT1

18/10/15, 1pm, Ritzy Cinema

Ben Rivers (b. 1972) is a British artist and filmmaker using 16mm and hand processing. His practice treads a line between documentary and fiction, often following and filming people who have in some way separated themselves from society.

Selected filmography: *Two Years at Sea*, 2011; *A Spell to Ward Off Darkness*, 2013; *This Is My Land*, 2006; *Origin of the Species*, 2008; *Ah, Liberty!*, 2008; *I Know Where I'm Going*, 2009; *Slow Action*, 2010; *Sack Barrow*, 2011.

Rivers won the FIPRESCI International Critics Prize, 68th Venice Film Festival for his first feature film *Two Years At Sea*; the inaugural Robert Gardner Film Award, 2013; Baloise Art Prize, Art Basel 42, for *Sack Barrow*; Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists, 2010.

Selected festival retrospectives: Courtisane Festival; Pesaro International Film Festival; London Film Festival; Tirana Film Festival; Punto de Vista; Pamplona; IndieLisboa; Milan Film Festival; Karlovy-Vary International Film Festival.

Recent solo exhibitions include: *Fable*, Temporary Gallery Cologne, 2014; *Things*, Kate MacGarry Gallery, London, 2014; *Ah, Liberty!*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, 2013; *Slow Action*, Hepworth Wakefield, 2012; *Sack Barrow*, Hamburg Kunsthalle, 2012 and Hayward Gallery, London, 2011; *Slow Action*, Matt's Gallery, London and Gallery TPW, Toronto, 2011. His films have screened worldwide at numerous festivals including Rotterdam Film Festival, where he twice won a Tiger Award for Short Film. Rivers' feature film *A Spell To Ward Off The Darkness*, co-directed with Ben Russell, premiered at Locarno International Film Festival, and won top prizes at CPH:DOX and Torino Film Festival. Between 1995 and 2005 he co-programmed Brighton Cinematheque. He is currently a Radcliffe Fellow at Harvard University and represented in London by Kate MacGarry.

www.benrivers.com

Oliver Laxe is a filmmaker, who lives and works in Morocco. His first feature film *Todos vós sodes capitáns*, 2010, was premiered at the Cannes Film Festival Directors' Fortnight, where he received the International Critics Award. He is one of the founders of Zeitun Films. Laxe is currently working on the feature film *Las Mimosas*.

www.zeitunfilms.com/en/tvsc/director

Jacqui Davies has been producing artists' film projects for 19 years and works in collaboration with partner organisations and freelance associates to support artists' production. Davies has worked with over 50 artist-filmmakers including Marina Abramović, Richar Billingham, James Franco, Johan Grimontprez, Ben Rivers, Martha Rosler, Mark Wallinger and Apichatpong Weerasethakul.

www.jacquidavies.com

Artangel presents exceptional projects by outstanding contemporary artists in unusual spaces. Over the past two decades, audiences have encountered Artangel projects in a wide range of different sites

and situations across Britain and internationally. Artangel has generated some of the most talked-about art of recent times, including projects with Clio Barnard, Jeremy Deller, Roger Hiorns, Michael Landy, Steve McQueen, Rachel Whiteread, and most recently Ryoji Ikeda and PJ Harvey.

Artangel and BBC Radio 4's collaboration continues in 2015 with a new project by Maria Fusco to be presented in Scotland.

www.artangel.org.uk

With over £26m to invest a year, the **BFI** is the UK's largest public investor in film - supporting first-class filmmaking through development and production, to distribution and international sales.

Recent releases backed by the BFI Film Fund include Mike Leigh's critical and box office hit, *Mr. Turner*; Matthew Warchus's *Pride*; Jonathan Glazer's *Under the Skin*; Yann Demange's '71; Randall Wright's *Hockney*; Lone Scherfig's *The Riot Club*; Amma Asante's *Belle*; Daniel Wolfe's *Catch Me Daddy*; Stephen Frears' *Philomena*; John Michael McDonagh's *Calvary*; Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard's *20,000 Days on Earth*; and André Singer's *Night Will Fall*.

www.bfi.org.uk/filmfund

THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS was originally commissioned through Open 2013 by Artangel in association with BBC Radio 4.

BBC Radio 4 is committed to providing comprehensive arts programming of the highest quality through regular strands such as Front Row, Open Book and Poetry Please, thought-provoking documentary series such as Playing the Skyline, Zeitgeisters with Will Gompertz and The Business of Film with Mark Kermode, and creative partnerships with organisations such as Artangel, the British Museum and the RIBA.

www.bbc.co.uk/radio4

Some sequences in this film form part of an exhibition, co-commissioned by Artangel and the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester, as part of The Artangel Collection.

Artangel is generously supported by Arts Council England and the private patronage of The Artangel International Circle, Special Angels and The Company of Angels.

Written and directed by Ben Rivers

Producer: Jacqui Davies

Executive producers: Michael Morris, Cressida Hubbard and Lizzie Francke

Co-producer: Ben Rivers

Featuring: Oliver Laxe

Director of Photography: Ben Rivers

Editors: Ben Rivers and Benjamin Mirguet

Supervising Sound Editor: Philippe Ciompi

Cast: As himself

Chief Bandit

Bandits

Merchant

Oliver's doubles

Soldiers

Horses

Crew: First Assistant Director

Sound Recordist

Focus Puller / 1st AC

Stills Photographer

Service Producer

Line Producer

Location Manager

Shakib Ben Omar

Ali Boumzgour

Abdelkader Bouchefra, Mohamed Bouhri, Aldelhadi Elbaz

Adberazak Aït El Kaïd

Hamza Sekri, Mohamed Bohandi,

Cory Zacharia

Azdine Ahchmi, Samir Hmidouch

Nasser, Atbir, Amara, Sahar

Lina Laraki

Philippe Ciompi

Sarah Rollason

Yuki Yamamoto

Lamia Chraïbi

Yassin Marco Marroccu

Jaouad El Kacimi

Second Location Manager Mourad Kamel
Casting Director Baha Choukri
Costume Designer Julie Verges
Set Designer Hassan Osfour
2nd AC Amine Boudour
Camera Trainee Tawfik Smaoui
Make-up Artists Aziz Agoujil, Imane Moulaoui
Special Effects Hassan Tibe
Fixers Braham Ait Iddar, Karim Zoubir, Hicham Chibane

Horse Wrangler Nahid Mohamed
Assistant Horse Wrangler Abderahim Ait Ben
Dog Wrangler Karim Azlag

Also featuring:

Nadia Acimi, Said Agli, Badr Aït Said, Margarita Alboris, Abdelhamid Anwar, Ikram Anzouli, Hassan, Badiba, Javier Barbero, Soukayna Belghiti, Shakib Ben Omar, Samir Benayyad, Tawfik Bennani, Mohammed Bisbis, Patricia Charlin, Baha Choukri, Mounir El Bahri, Hamza El Hachimy, Amina El Halhouli, Akrame El Meziane, Foudel El Oiridi, Ahmed El Othmani, Hamid Fardjad, Santiago Fillol, Fatima Habib, Hicham Haidar, Ahmed Hammoud, Mauro Herce, Abdellatif Hwidar, Abderrahim Issoukine, Khalid Karraki, Felipe Lage, Hamid Latima, Jaouad Nani, Ilham Oujri, Mohamed Oummad, Jamal Quandil, Alejo Ramos-Sabugo Sampedro, Alvaro Redondo, Amanda Villavieja Garcia.

Post production:

Re-recording Mixer Ernst Karel
Colourist Max Horton
Online Editor Matt Pamplin
Post Producer Laura Sharpley
Rushes Colourist Dan Crussell
Dolby Sound Consultant Peter Mendonca
Visual Effects Artist Marc Hutchings
Titles Design Fraser Muggeridge studio
Production Assistant Miranda Townsend
Additional Assistants Joseph Constable, Alex Borokowski
Translators Mohamed Azaanoun, Nagi Mikail, Paula Lopez Zambrano
Production Accountant Shipleys LLP, MacIntyre Hudson LLP
Legal Services Jeremy Gawade, Lee and Thompson, Shane Horgan, Lee and Thompson

Post production houses:

E & O Insurance Charles Milnes & Company Ltd
Rushes Processing i dailies Ltd
Post Production House ONSIGHT
Re-recording Studio Art 4 Noise
Digital Imaging Peerless
35 mm Prints Cinema Printing Company
Dolby Mastering Point1Post

Production hire:

Richmond Film Services, Aimimage, Four Corners

Original music by Carles Santos

“Early Hypnagog”

Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe © 2015

“The” composed and performed by Nadja

Licensed by Broken Spine Productions

© Ah Syd Music 2007

FOR BFI

Director of Lottery Film Fund

Ben Roberts

Head of Production
Senior Development Executive
Production Finance
Business Affairs Manager

Fiona Morham
Tally Garner
Sofia Neves
Virginia Burgess

MADE WITH THE SUPPORT OF

The Estate of Paul Bowles
Artangel International Circle, Special Angels and The Company of Angels
Arts Council England
BBC Radio 4
Delfina Foundation
Film and Video Umbrella
Jacqui Davies Limited
La Prod
Rouge International
The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
Harvard University
The Wylie Agency
Zeitun Films

SPECIAL THANKS

Oliver Laxe, Shezad Dawood, Mohammed Mrabet, Mike Ott, Cory Zacharia, Rodrigo Rey Rosa

THANKS

Craid Baldwin, Vanessa Branson, Robert Devereaux, Mati Diop, Mouad Ibno Bachir, Touria el Glaoui, Kate MacGarry, Mark Perenson, Athina Rachel Tsangari, Casbah des Arts, Agdz, John Dewhurst, WAM Consultant

“A Distant Episode” from *A Distant Episode: The Selected Stories by Paul Bowles* © 1988 by Paul Bowles, used with permission of the Wylie Agency LLC

THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH US AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS
by Ben Rivers uses footage generated in the production of *Las Mimosas*, film by Oliver Laxe, produced by Zeitun Films, Rouge International and LaProd

Made with the support of the BFI's Film Fund



Artangel



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



the Whitworth



