

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR

A Film by Kasra Farahani

Starring James Caan, Logan Miller and Keir Gilchrist

PRODUCED BY

Elana Barry | Allan Mandelbaum | Rosalie Swedlin | Giri Tharan

Origin: US

Running time: 98 minutes

Release date: 16/09/2016

THE WAITING

SYNOPSIS

The experiment started with a simple idea: if you had the equipment and the ambition, could you convince another person that they're being haunted? THE WAITING follows two teenage boys (Logan Miller and Keir Gilchrist) as they attempt to do just that. Through a series of escalating “haunts”, the boys prod an elderly neighbor (James Caan) further and further in order to get a reaction. As their suspicions grow and the tension mounts, they realize too late that the man they're manipulating is the last person they should've chosen for their project.

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR KASRA FARAHANI

Tell us about how you got involved with *The Waiting*.

I first heard about the project through my agents. They sent over the script and said that it was a strong piece. When I read it I immediately saw the potential in the story. The film is unique as the very premise of the film is a sort of misdirect. Much like the characters in the film, what the audience believes they've signed up to see quickly changes into something very different than they expected.

Can you discuss the concept behind the film?

On the surface the film is about two teenage boys who set out to convince a reclusive, elderly neighbor that his house is haunted, and to capture his entire experience on surveillance cameras. In actuality, the story is an examination on prescient themes such as our culture's increasingly casual attitude towards cruelty, the erosion of empathy as more and more human interactions happen via screens, and the ever growing obsession with fame.

This is your first time directing a feature film. How was the experience transitioning from your background as an art director, and how it shaped your vision for the movie?

Creatively speaking, as a production designer or an art director, you're looking for the set, the space in which the story happens to passively tell the audience about who these characters are. As a director I've tried to draw on this past experience to build a rich and detailed world for our story to play out in. Our film is contained, which makes the richness of the settings all the more critical.

Did you use any special equipment or techniques for the shoot? Were there any differences between filming the teenagers' home and Grainey's?

Actually yes, we used two very different looks for the two different perspectives. The boys were always filmed in a 16 x 9 aspect ratio that is common to consumer DSLR cameras and surveillance cameras. In addition to that, their storyline was filmed completely in subjective angles; every shot had an author. In contrast to this the photography of Grainey's world was completely objective. Like the view of an omniscient watcher. In addition we used a completely different aspect ratio and lens set to the boy's coverage. With Grainey everything was shot using vintage anamorphic lenses which had a 2.40 aspect ratio, which is considerably wider than the image we have with the boys. I hope this gives the sense that the omniscient view is the "biggest" image of the film.

Talk about the casting process and working with James Caan.

The casting process was a lot of fun. We met a lot of great potential actors for the roles of Ethan and Sean, and then we met Logan Miller and Keir Gilchrist. They just clicked into the parts perfectly. For the role of Grainey I really wanted to get an iconoclastic actor. Someone that the audience would have always had in their mind, but was hopefully being portrayed in an entirely fresh light. Working with Jimmy was exhilarating and inspiring; he's a legend. The

stories and perspectives that he can share will make your jaw drop. He loves to joke around on set but, as you'll see in the film, he really brings the intensity on screen.

Did you have any struggles or difficulties during production?

Our film was independently produced, and we wanted to really push the limits of what we could do with our resources, so in that sense everything was a struggle. There was very little slack in the budget or schedule for changes or new ideas, but I have to say, despite that, because we had an amazing crew and fantastic producing team, I was very seldom told “no we can't do that.” The team was clever, and innovative and we seemed always to find a way to push the scope and quality of the film to the next level despite our tiny footprint.

What was your favorite scene to shoot?

This is tough to say. There were several really fun days. I think the film's climax was pretty great to shoot. This is one of the scenes that we shot on the vintage Kowa Anamorphics, and the shots just looked so great, and the intensity and emotion was palpable on set.

What are some of your favorite films that influence you, and filmmakers who you look up to?

So many. This answer may be cliché, but Kubrick is of course a big influence. He was a master of restraint. It takes great courage and confidence to let a shot linger, or frame a bit wider, or just generally allow ambiguity to have a role in the storytelling. In my opinion he was great at that, and as a result was so effective at creating tone and atmosphere that wafts over the whole film and is bigger than the specific events of the story. I tried hard to take inspiration from his work. I watched a lot of Hitchcock and Fincher in pre-production too. These guys are of course giants of suspense.

What are you working on next?

I have a few different projects going on. I just shot another feature in January called *Tilt*, and am in the post process on that. Other than that I have a science fiction film that I am working on putting together with some of the team from *The Waiting*.

ABOUT THE CAST

JAMES CAAN (Harold Graine)

One of the most versatile actors in motion pictures, James Caan is best known for his Academy Award® nominated performance as Sonny Corleone in *The Godfather* and for his Emmy-nominated portrayal of football star Brian Piccolo in *Brian's Song*.

Appearing in more than 50 feature films over the course of his career, Caan also earned great recognition starring in Rob Reiner's highly successful and critically acclaimed film *Misery*, a psychological thriller based on the novel by Stephen King and in *For The Boys*, a romantic drama co-starring Bette Midler. He was equally praised for his performance as a brain damaged football star in Francis Ford Coppola's *The Rain People*, garnering him the Best Actor Award from the San Sebastian Film Festival. He also received the Actor of the Year honor from the National Association of Theater Owners for his role in *The Gambler*.

Born in the Bronx and raised in Queens, New York, Caan knew early on that he did not want to follow in his father's footsteps and work in the family meat business. He entered Michigan State University at age sixteen to study economics and to play football. Caan transferred to Hofstra University to study law and during a spring break was interviewed by, and accepted to Stanford Meisner's Neighborhood Playhouse. He then won a scholarship to study with Wynn Handman, and went on to get the first four jobs he auditioned for in the theater.

Caan began his career on stage in the 1961 off-Broadway production of "La Ronde." He followed with a powerful slate of guest appearances in virtually every major television series of the day.

In addition to the previously named titles, Caan's other film credits include *Cinderella Liberty*, *Funny Lady*, *A Bridge Too Far*, *Thief*, *T.R. Baskin*, *Slither*, *Silent Movie*, *Rollerball*, *The Killer Elite*, *Another Man, Another Chance*, *Comes A Horseman*, *Gardens Of Stone*, *Alien Nation*, *Flesh And Bone*, *The Program*, *Honeymoon In Vegas*, *Eraser*, and *Mickey Blue Eyes*.

He also starred in *The Yards*, for Miramax Films, opposite Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg and Charlize Theron, Artisan Entertainment's *The Way of the Gun*, in which he co-starred with Benicio Del Toro, New Line Cinema's mega-hit comedy *Elf*, in which he co-starred with Will Ferrell, Lars von Trier's *Dogville*, co-starring Nicole Kidman, and the NBC drama "Las Vegas." His most recent projects include a guest star appearance in several episodes of the Starz Channel series "Magic City," in which he portrays underworld boss Sy Berman; and co-starring with Clive Owen, Marion Cotillard and Billy Crudup in the indie drama, *Blood Ties*. Caan made his directorial debut as well as starred in the critically acclaimed film *Hide In Plain Sight*.

LOGAN MILLER (Ethan)

Named one of The Wrap's "Ten Breakout Stars" for his two films at Sundance last year, Logan Miller recently starred in Paramount's horror comedy *Scouts vs. Zombies* for director Christopher Landon (*Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones*), starring Tye Sheridan, Joey Morgan, David Koechner, Cloris Leachman, Halston Sage, Patrick Schwarzenegger and Blake Anderson.

Miller was last seen in the highly anticipated drama *The Stanford Prison Experiment*, which premiered in competition at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and was acquired for distribution by IFC Films. He co-stars in the ensemble alongside Billy Crudup, Ezra Miller, Olivia Thirlby, Michael Angarano, James Wolk, Tye Sheridan, Nicholas Braun, James Frecheville and Thomas Mann for director Kyle Patrick Alvarez (*C.O.G., Easier With Practice*). Also at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival, Miller starred as the lead role of 'Ryder' in writer/director Matt Sobel's feature debut *Take Me to the River*. The cast includes Robin Weigert, Richard Schiff and Josh Hamilton.

Logan wrapped production on Ry Russo Young's feature adaptation of the best-selling novel *Before I Fall* opposite Zoey Deutch, Halston Sage and Diego Boenta as well as the DreamWorks feature *A Dog's Purpose* with Dennis Quaid, Britt Robertson and the voice of Bradley Cooper for director Lasse Hallström. He also completed the independent feature *The Scent of Rain and Lightning* opposite Maika Monroe, Maggie Grace and Mark Webber.

No stranger to independent film, Logan starred in Kelly Reichardt's *Night Moves* opposite Peter Sarsgaard, Jesse Eisenberg and Dakota Fanning that premiered at Venice, the IFC Films sci-fi thriller *Plus One* that premiered at SXSW and the drama *Deep Powder* opposite Shiloh Fernandez and Haley Bennet that premiered at Tribeca.

Logan's TV credits include recurring roles on the NBC series "Growing Up Fisher" starring Oscar winner J.K. Simmons and "Awake" starring Jason Isaacs, the lead role for two seasons on the Disney-XD comedy series "I'm in the Band" and continues the voiceover role of 'Sam' on the animated series "Ultimate Spider-Man."

Logan began his career playing the young Matthew McConaughey in the New Line Cinema feature *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past* for director Mark Waters (*Mean Girls*). Born in Englewood, CO, Miller later lived in Albuquerque, NM, and Shakopee, MN, before settling in Flower Mound, TX with his family.

KEIR GILCHRIST (Sean)

Keir Gilchrist was born in London, England, and lived in Boston, New York City, and Toronto before moving to Los Angeles. He has taken drama classes since he was very young, and at the encouragement of a Toronto drama teacher, decided to act professionally.

Gilchrist beat out hundreds of actors for the lead role in the Fleck/Boden film *It's Kind Of A Funny Story*, opposite Viola Davis and Zach Galifianakis. He also spent three seasons on Showtime's critically acclaimed series "United States of Tara" created by Diablo Cody (*Juno*) and executive produced by Steven Spielberg, where critics lauded his performance as a teenager grappling with homosexuality.

Gilchrist starred in the independent films *Dark Summer*, *Katie Says Goodbye* and *The Stanford Prison Experiment*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. He also starred in one of the year's most talked about thrillers *It Follows*, which premiered at Cannes, TIFF and Sundance to astounding reviews. Keir can next be seen starring in the upcoming independent films *Len and Company* opposite Juno Temple and Rhys Ifans which recently premiered at TIFF.

LAURA INNES (Caroline)

Actress/director Laura Innes is best known for her portrayal of Dr. Kerry Weaver on NBC's "ER". As the longest serving cast member in the history of the show, Laura was nominated for 2 Emmy Awards for her performance, received 5 nominations from Viewers for Quality Television and won 3 SAG Awards as part of the "ER" ensemble. Since "ER", she starred on "The Event" for NBC and had a recurring role on *Awake* for the network.

She began her career as a director on "ER" and subsequently directed episodes of "The Affair", "How to Get Away with Murder", "Grey's Anatomy", "House" and Aaron Sorkin's "Studio 60". She also directed "The West Wing", for which she was nominated for an Emmy as Best Director of a Drama Series.

Laura began her career in the theater starring as "Stella " opposite John Malkovich in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater. She also starred in the world premiere production of David Mamet's "Edmund", *Two Shakesporean Actors* opposite Eric Stoltz at Lincoln Center, as Emily in "Our Town" opposite Campbell Scott at Seattle Repertory Theater and as Olga in "Three Sisters" at The La Jolla Playhouse. Among her other collaborators in the theater are Daniel Sullivan, Robert Falls, Gregory Mosher, Des McAnuff and Christopher Durang.

She will be seen next opposite Dakota Fanning in Oscar nominated director Ben Lewin's (*The Sessions*) new film *Please Stand By*.

NIK DODANI (Sanjay)

Nik Dodani is a Los Angeles-based actor and comedian, who stars opposite Marisa Tomei and Charlie Plummer in the forthcoming indie drama *Behold My Heart*. He recently guest starred on NBC's *The Player* and recurred on the Disney/Freeform comedy *Kevin From Work*. On stage, Nik has performed standup at The World Famous Comedy Store, The HaHa Cafe, and Netroots Nation, and his videos have been featured online on BuzzFeed, The Huffington Post, and Colorlines. He may look like he's 16, but he has the soul and knees of a middle-aged man.

LILI REINHART (Ashley)

Lili will next play the role of Betty Cooper in Greg Berlanti's CW pilot "Riverdale", based on the famed Archie comics. She can next be seen in Julia Hart's *Miss Stevens* alongside Lily Rabe, Timothee Chalamet and Rob Huebel and in the Kasra Farahani feature *The Waiting*, opposite James Caan, Logan Miller and Keir Gilchrist, both of which will premiere at the 2016 South by Southwest Film Festival. Lili was last seen opposite Brian Dennehy in the Amazon pilot, "Cocked", in which she plays Sam Trammell's daughter. Lili recurred on the Fox comedy series, "Surviving Jack", opposite Christopher Meloni and Rachael Harris. She has appeared on "Law & Order: SVU" as well as in the CBS Films feature, *The Kings of Summer*, which premiered at Sundance in 2013 to rave reviews.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

KASRA FARAHANI (Director)

A life long lover of images and story, Kasra Farahani was born in Iran, and raised in Los Angeles, California after his family fled the Islamic revolution of 1979. Always a visual artist and a builder of things, Kasra studied industrial design and worked in various fields of design before landing in the film world. After nearly a decade as a well regarded concept artist and art director in the feature film world, in 2013 Kasra made his writing/directing debut with his short film *Noon*. The film was optioned within 24 hours of its release by 20th Century Fox and Chernin Entertainment where it is currently in feature development.

In 2014 Kasra directed his first feature film *The Waiting*, starring James Caan, Keir Gilchrist and Logan Miller. The Film follows two teenage boys as they manipulate their elderly neighbor into believing that he is being haunted. Things end badly in this prescient story about casual cruelty and the erosion of empathy.

Having spent much of his career in the art departments of master filmmakers such as JJ Abrams, Steven Spielberg, Michael Mann, Tim Burton, James Cameron and David Fincher, and inspired by the mastery of these filmmakers, Kasra hopes to tell stories that combine the power and scope of visual worlds with the substantive drama that comes from the conflict of well realized characters.

MARK BIANCULLI and JEFF RICHARD (Screenwriters)

In addition to writing *The Waiting*, Mark Bianculli & Jeff Richard wrote the upcoming period thriller *Salem Village* for STX Entertainment, which appeared on the 2015 Black List, as well as *White Smoke* for Blumhouse Pictures / Lionsgate Entertainment.

Bianculli also wrote the pilot "Self-Promotion" for MTV and the upcoming feature *How to Rob a Bank*, and co-wrote the pilot "The Jury" for ABC.

Richard's upcoming projects include the sci-fi thriller *Convergence*.

GIRI THARAN (Producer)

Giri founded Ball & Chain Productions in 2013, with a focus on developing, financing and producing independent content for Television and Film. Since then he has financed and produced *The Waiting* starring James Caan which is premiering at SXSW in 2016 and more recently the romantic comedy *Permission* starring Rebecca Hall and Dan Stevens. In 2016 he has teamed up again with the director of *The Waiting*, Kasra Farahani, to produce the psychological thriller *Tilt*, currently in post production. Giri graduated from New York University Tisch School of the Arts.

TIM WHITE (Producer)

Tim is a founder and managing partner of Star Thrower Entertainment. He is currently producing Rob Reiner's LBJ starring Woody Harrelson, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Richard Jenkins and Executive Producing Taylor Sheridan's WIND RIVER with Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olson. He produced Kasra Farhani's THE WAITING which is having its world premiere at South by Southwest in March 2016. Tim also produced his brother and co-founder Trevor's first film JAMESY BOY which premiered in 2014. Star Thrower currently has many other film and television projects in various stages of development and production, including a television series at HBO.

TREVOR WHITE (Producer)

Trevor is a founder and managing partner of Star Thrower Entertainment. He co-wrote and directed JAMES BOY, starring James Woods, Mary-Louise Parker, Ving Rhames and Taissa Farmiga, which premiered in 2014, and he is currently prepping his next directorial effort. Trevor is currently producing Rob Reiner's LBJ starring Woody Harrelson, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Richard Jenkins and Executive Producing Taylor Sheridan's WIND RIVER with Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olson. He produced Kasra Farhani's THE WAITING, which will have its premiere at the 2016 SXSW Film Festival. Trevor currently has many other film and television projects in various stages of development and production, including a television series at HBO.

ALLAN MANDELBAUM (Producer)

As the Head of Production at Star Thrower Entertainment, Allan is an Executive Producer on the upcoming film, LBJ, directed by Rob Reiner and starring Woody Harrelson, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Richard Jenkins. He also produced THE WAITING, directed by Kasra Farahani, which will premiere at South by Southwest in March 2016. Prior to joining Star Thrower, Allan held development and production positions at Hugh Jackman's SEED Productions, Fox 2000 and Gavin Polone's Pariah Productions, as well as worked for the Endeavor Talent Agency. Over the past decade, he's played a role in developing several features including DRIVE, THE WOLVERINE, MARLEY & ME, A GOOD YEAR, and WATER FOR ELEPHANTS. Allan currently has many other film and television projects in various stages of development and production, including a television series at HBO.

ROSALIE SWEDLIN (Producer)

Rosalie is a producer and literary manager at Anonymous Content. She was previously a literary manager, producer, and partner at Industry Entertainment for twelve years after having served as a senior vice president at International Creative Management (ICM). Prior to that, Swedlin was an agent at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) from 1981 – 1991 and was named co-

head of the agency's motion picture department during that time. Projects currently in development include a mini-series based on the bestselling novel Cutting for Stone to be directed by Asif Kapadia. She is also developing a TV mini-series based on Caleb Carr's novel The Alienist, an updated TV mini-series based on the film *Fatal Attraction*, and a series based on the Rachel Kushner novel Telex From Cuba, to be adapted by Academy Award nominee Phyllis Nagy. Upcoming film projects include *The Wife*, a screenplay by Jane Anderson based on the novel of the same name by Meg Wolitzer in which Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce will star, *How to Rob a Bank* by Mark Bianculli (*The Waiting*) and *The Keeper*, a screenplay by acclaimed "Orphan Black" co-creator Graeme Manson. Swedlin also manages a distinguished list of film and TV writers & directors.

ELANA BARRY (Producer)

Elena is a producer and literary manager at Circle of Confusion. She was previously a literary manager at Anonymous Content for three years. Prior to that, Elana was a literary/packaging agent at William Morris for four years and was an agent at United Talent Agency (UTA) for seven and a half years.

CREDITS

Directed by Kasra Farahani

Written by Mark Bianculli & Jeff Richard

Produced by Rosalie Swedlin, Elana Barry

Produced by Giri Tharan

Produced by Trevor White, Tim White, Allan Mandelbaum

Executive Producers: Jeff Currier, Alfred Thomas Gundry IV

Co-Producers: Rick Rickertsen, Mary Solomon

Director of Photography: Alexander Alexandrov

Production Designer: Margaret Box

Editor: Kathy Gatto

Casting by: Nancy Naylor, CSA , Andy Henry, CSA

James Caan

Logan Miller

Keir Gilchrist

Laura Innes

Edwin Hodge

Bailey Noble, Lili Reinhart

Anne Dudek, Mindy Sterling

Tamlyn Tomita, William C. Mitchell

Original Music: Andrew Hewitt

Costume Designer: Skye Stewart-Short

Music Supervisor: Emilie Bogrand

A Star Thrower Entertainment, Ball & Chain Productions, and Anonymous Content Production

Unit Production Manager Kristina Kondrath

Associate Producer Billy Levin

First Assistant Director Nicholas P. Ybarra

Second Assistant Director Mike Campbell

CAST:

Harold Graine	James Caan
Ethan Fleming	Logan Miller
Sean Turner	Keir Gilchrist
Caroline Graine	Laura Innes
Officer Palmer	Edwin Hodge
Carly	Bailey Noble
Ashley	Lili Reinhart
Elise	Anne Dudek
Mae	Mindy Sterling
Judge	William C. Mitchell
Defense Attorney	Dean Cameron
Sanjay	Nik Dodani
Ted Spiegelman	Luke Spencer Roberts
Sean's Father	Ted King
Neighbor	Billy Khoury
Young Woman	Francesca Baer
Reporter #1	Elyse Dinh
Reporter #2	Mar Iserlis
Reporter #3	Hannah Pilkington
Reporter #4	Giri Tharan

Stunt Coordinator Jessica Harbeck

Stunts Jeff Chumas

Stunts Jeff Chumas

Script Supervisor Cristina Acocella

First Assistant Camera Eric Waldron

Second Assistant Camera Adam Gould

Steadicam Operators Andy Shuttleworth

Media Manager	Jeffrey Clark Twojay Dhillon, SOC Adam Gould
Leadman	Stephen Dudro
Set Dressers	Jack Lynch Zander Fieschko Jessie Chaffin Yuri Elvin Joseph Goodwin Olivia Quiroz Eric Wendel
Art Swings	Heidi Hathaway Ryan Patrick Bartley Nikhil Bhoplay Gray Morison
Art Department Production Assistants	Brent Ruzicka Rachel Morgan Elle McDevitt Mike Reft
Property Master	Carina Berlin
Assistant Costume Designer	Tiffany Barry
Wardrobe Assistant	Jillian Talley
Wardrobe Assistant	Kyndal McLyn
Make-Up Department Head	Myriam Arougheti
Key Make-Up Artist	Theresa Baca
Make-Up Artists	Jacklynn Evans Janice Kavanagh Trendee King Annette Lorant
Colorist to James Caan	Jason Dean
Production Sound Mixer	Stephen Halbert, C.A.S.
Boom Operators	Kevin Santiago

	George Tataje Saif Parker
Gaffer Best Boy Electric	Geoff Taylor R.J. Saraza
Key Grips Best Boy Grip G/E Swing	Doug Sampson Colten Currey Ian Thomas Philey Sanneh Antonio Marasco
Locations Scout	Jordan Schmidt
Special Effects Coordinator	Michael Petrucci
Production Accountant	Lesley Lopez
Second Second Assistant Director Key Production Assistant Production Assistants	Ronnie San Jose Andrew Patrick Lahaise Craig Littleton Sara Brown Austin Michaelis Karlynn Santos Riley Scott Caroline F. Ward Anthony McBride Mikaela Ost
Extras Casting	Billy Levin
Set Medic	C.A. Martin
Construction Foreman	Duane Russell
Catering By	Camille Napolitano

Post Production Supervisor	Randall James Bol
Assistant Editors	Martin Gatto Victoria Moreno
Re-recording Mixer Supervising Sound Editor FX Editor	Patrick Giraudi Branden Spencer Hector Gika Zack Howard
Foley Artist	Rick Owens Greg Mauer
ADR Mixer	Chris Navarro
Digital Intermediate by	Light Iron
DI Colorist DI Producer	Ian Vertovec Freddy Hernandez Katie York
Executive Producer DI Editors	Katie Fellion Matt Blackshear Manny Dubón
DI Finishing Artist DI Assists	Monique Eissing Danny Keefe Keenan Mock Paul Rehder Homer Reyes
DI Management	Michael Cioni Peter Cioni Amit Davé Chris Peariso
Engineering	Edgar Furse Ryan McKeague
Visual Effects by	Barnstorm VFX, Inc.
Visual Effects Supervisor Visual Effects Producer	Lawson Deming Cory Jamieson

Visual Effects Coordinator

Parker McCabe

VFX Artists

Nick Chamberlain

Justin Fox

Jordan Prieto

Shiloe Swisher

Belinda Chen

Christopher Vazquez

Teresa Leong

Jase Lindgren

Caitlin Knapp

Editorial Staff

Brian Lis

Matt Zunich

Main Titles by

Kyle Traynor

Jordan Hunter

Payroll Services Provided by

Production Payroll Services

Production Counsel

Reder & Feig, LLP

Cameras & Lenses Provided by

Slow Motion Film & Digital, Inc.

Production Grip & Lighting Equipment Provided
by

True Grip

North American Specialty Insurance

Production Insurance

Company

Animal Trainers

Michael Alexander

Julie Schultz

Otis J. Knighten

Jennifer Rios