



**THE TRUE STORY
OF HOWARD MARKS.**

HE WAS BRITAIN'S MOST WANTED MAN.
HE SPENT SEVEN YEARS IN AMERICA'S TOUGHEST PENITENTIARY.

YOU'LL LIKE HIM.

RHYS IFANS

IS

MR. NICE

CHLOË SEVIGNY DAVID THEWLIS

DIRECTED BY
BERNARD ROSE

PRODUCED BY
LUC ROEG

INDEPENDENT FILM
IN ASSOCIATION WITH PRESERVE WALES CREATIVE IP FUND AND LIPSYNE PRODUCTIONS LTD
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INDEPENDENT FILM PRODUCTION FUND OF THE KANZMANN PRODUCTIONS S.p.A.
SCREENPLAY BY BERNARD ROSE, STARRING RHYS IFANS, 'MR. NICE', CHLOË SEVIGNY, DAVID THEWLIS
CAST INCLUDES HOWARD MARKS, MICHAEL IRVING, ANTHONY DOD SMITH, PAUL DRETT, STEVE ODDONS, URGDA JAMES,
JAMES PERKINS, DAN SHEPHERD AND NORMAN MERRY. CINEMATOGRAPHY BY RAY KALBELA, DENISE O'DELL
PRODUCED BY LUC ROEG. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BERNARD ROSE





PRODUCTION NOTES

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PRODUCTION INFORMATION

TITLE: Mr Nice

DIRECTOR Bernard Rose

PRODUCER Luc Roeg

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS Michael Robinson & Andrew Orr

Tim Smith, Paul Brett & David Nash

Linda James, James Perkins, Dan Shepherd & Norman Merry

CO-PRODUCERS Mark Albela & Denise O'Dell

SCREENPLAY Bernard Rose

COMPOSER Philip Glass

PRODUCTION COMPANIES Independent, in association with Prescience, Wales Creative IP Fund, Lipsync Productions LLP and Kanzaman S.L

CAST

'Howard Marks' Rhys Ifans

'Judy Marks' Chloë Sevigny

'Jim McCann' David Thewlis

'Malik' Omid Djalili

'Ilze' Elsa Pataky

'Lovato' Luis Tosar

'Ernie Combs' Crispin Glover

'Mac' Christian McKay

SYNOPSIS

HOWARD MARKS is a legend. International drug trafficker, secret spy, natural born charmer.

His cheeky personality is evident very early on – tricking his way to avoiding ever playing rugby again and winning himself tough friends for protection from bullies. Because Howard Marks is also very intelligent, achieving straight 'A's in his exams and winning a place to study at Oxford University.

Throwing himself head-first into the active social scene, Howard is quickly initiated into the world of drugs where he realises he can make money dealing; all with the companionship of his girlfriend, ILZE. The death of a college friend from a heroin overdose forces him to go straight, however, and buckle down to study. He gets his degree and returns to Kenfig Hill to begin his career as a teacher, as does Ilze. Boredom sets in after he and Ilze are married and a party in London at a friend's apartment re-opens the world of drug trafficking to him – Howard cannot resist the temptation, especially the temptation embodied in a lithe young lady called JUDY.

His first opportunity to prove himself comes when he is asked to bring a carload of hash back from Germany. The almost calamitous journey ends surprisingly well – Howard wins both the respect of established traffickers and the love of Judy. The game is on.

Howard is recruited to organise the safe arrival of incoming hash from Pakistan, for which job he enlists the help of JIM MCCANN, die-hard Irish Republican Army boss. At the same time, Howard is recruited by MAC, a British Intelligence officer, to work for the loose network of informants that would eventually be named MI6. The job nearly fails but Howard eventually wins through – he has more money and excitement than he thought possible. But by being absent, he misses the birth of his first child.

Riding this success, Howard conceives a plan to break the American market – by smuggling in hash in the backs of speakers for a band on tour. The job turns bad though – LOVATO, American DEA agent, busts the deal. Howard tries to run but is caught and brought back to Britain. Only granted bail after revealing to the judge his involvement with British Intelligence, Howard sneakily skips bail to avoid prison.

The world thinks he's been kidnapped – he's famous.

He jumps back into work after lying low for a while, but first he steals a new alias: Mr Nice. A job importing drugs into America is successful – Howard, after narrowly avoiding losing everything, now has even more than he ever had. But he's arrested again and only gets off by committing grand perjury. He knows he should stop now, he does stop, but he can't resist one last job. The deal goes smoothly but his American buyers are caught and the trail leads straight back to him – he's arrested and has no way out. Finally found guilty, he is sentenced to 25 years in jail.

After seven years, he is granted parole for exemplary behaviour and is reunited with his family.



BERNARD ROSE

DIRECTOR, WRITER

Born in London in 1960, Bernard Rose directed the 1992 cult film "Candyman" (starring Virginia Madsen), achieving mainstream critical acclaim. Bernard's interest in, and ability to bring to life, well-known figures was then shown in "Immortal Beloved", a film about the life and death of Ludwig Van Beethoven starring Gary Oldman, and "Anna Karenina", Tolstoy's classic eponymous heroine, starring Sophie Marceau. "Ivans XTC" was a deft exploration of the highs and lows of a Hollywood super-agent: another maverick – just like Howard Marks. His most recent film is "The Kreutzer Sonata" starring Danny Huston, Elisabeth Röhm, Matthew Yang King and Anjelica Huston, a film on which Independent acted as sales agent.

His film credits include:

DIRECTOR	THE KREUTZER SONATA,
STARRING	Danny Huston, Elisabeth Röhm, Matthew Yang King and Anjelica Huston
DIRECTOR	IVANSXTC
STARRING	Danny Huston and Peter Weller
DIRECTOR	ANNA KARENINA
STARRING	Sophie Marceau, Sean Bean, Alfred Molina, Mia Kirshner and Danny Huston
DIRECTOR	IMMORTAL BELOVED
STARRING	Gary Oldman and Issabella Rossellini
DIRECTOR	CLIVE BARKER'S CANDYMAN
STARRING	Virginia Madsen and Xander Berkeley
DIRECTOR	CHICAGO JOE AND THE SHOWGIRL
STARRING	Kiefer Sutherland
DIRECTOR	PAPERHOUSE
STARRING	Glenne Headly

LUC ROEG

PRODUCER

Luc Roeg is CEO of production and sales outfit Independent. Luc has produced and executive produced several features including David Cronenberg's "Spider", Steve Barron's "Mike Bassett: England Manager", Oliver Parker's "Othello" and Nicolas Roeg's "Two Deaths". Prior to Independent, Luc was head of Independent Film Europe at the William Morris Agency, UK. Previously, he was one of the founders of Vivid Productions, where he produced Tom Waits' "Big Time" and Peter Medak's "Let Him Have It".

His film credits include:

PRODUCER	NEW TOWN KILLERS
STARRING	Dougray Scott, Alastair Mackenzie, James Pearson
DIRECTOR	Richard Jobson
PRODUCER	SPIDER
STARRING	Ralph Fiennes, Miranda Richardson, Gabriel Byrne, Lynn Redgrave
DIRECTOR	David Cronenberg
AWARDS	Multiple nominations including Cannes; 12 wins
PRODUCER	MIKE BASSETT: ENGLAND MANAGER
STARRING	Ricky Tomlinson, Amanda Redman, Phil Jupitus, Keith Allen
DIRECTOR	Steve Barron
PRODUCER	THE MATCHMAKER
STARRING	Janeane Garofalo, David O'Hara, Milo O'Shea, Saffron Burrows
DIRECTOR	Mark Joffe
PRODUCER	OTHELLO
STARRING	Laurence Fishburne, Irene Jacob, Kenneth Branagh, Michael Sheen
DIRECTOR	Oliver Parker
PRODUCER	TWO DEATHS
STARRING	Sonia Braga, Partick Malahide, Michael Gambon
DIRECTOR	Nicolas Roeg
PRODUCER	HEART OF DARKNESS
STARRING	Tim Roth, John Malkovich, James Fox, Peter Vaughan
DIRECTOR	Nicolas Roeg
PRODUCER	LET HIM HAVE IT
STARRING	Christopher Eccleston, Tom Courtenay, Eileen Atkins
DIRECTOR	Peter Medak

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

INDEPENDENT is a fully integrated international sales and film production company. Independent Film Sales was set up to represent the international rights for the company's own productions in addition to representing a select number of high quality third party films.

Independent Film Sales currently represent titles such as Duncan Jones's "Moon", Bernard Rose's "The Kreutzer Sonata", Richard Jobson's "New Town Killers", Nicolas Roeg's "Night Train", Noel Clarke's "Adulthood", David Mackenzie's "Hallam Foe", Marc Munden's "The Marc of Cain", Paul Andrew Williams' "London to Brighton", Ben and Gabe Turner's "In the Hands of the Gods", and Raul Ruiz's "Klimt".

Independent Film Productions is a production company that develops, produces and finances films. The company currently has a slate of projects in active development and is working with a range of creative and financial partners that include Steven Soderbergh and BBC Films. "New Town Killers", currently in post-production, is the first of Independent's own titles to go before the cameras.

Independent is run by Luc Roeg (CEO) and is backed by a London-based venture capital firm with a view towards sustained long term growth. The company has a team of highly motivated and professional staff with expertise in all areas of film production and sales. Independent has a significant presence at all major markets and festivals throughout the year.

Independent are committed to producing and selling original and innovative content to the world of cinema.

Acting as executive producer is Independent's Chief Financial Officer Michael Robinson. He has over ten years of investment banking experience, largely in the media sector, having worked for Hambros Bank, media specialist LongAcre Partners and latterly co-founding the London based media and technology advisory business Noventus Partners in early 2002 which he left in March 2005.

Working alongside Luc and Michael, also as executive producer, is Andrew Orr, who formerly handled Acquisitions and Business Affairs for The Works International, London from 2001-2005. At The Works, Andrew was involved in the Acquisition and Sales of over 40 titles including Michael Winterbottom's "24 Hour Party People", Ken Loach's "Sweet Sixteen", Gurinder Chadha's "Bend It Like Beckham", Niki Caro's "Whale Rider", Michael Winterbottom's "In This World", Pawel Pawlikowski's "My Summer of Love" and Dominic Savage's "Love + Hate".

More information on the company, its staff and its projects can be found on the website:
www.independentfilmcompany.com.

CAST

(subject to contractual agreements)

'HOWARD MARKS' - RHYS IFANS

Born in the same village as Howard Marks himself, Rhys is a BAFTA-winning, Emmy-nominated Welsh star with true international appeal.

Beginning his acting career in theater, his feature film debut came in 1995 with "Streetlife" about the rough, urban life of a couple in Wales and he has been working constantly ever since, acquiring over 30 credits in 13 years.

Rhys came to the attention of the international community in 1999 with his show-stealing performance in Roger Michell's "Notting Hill", which was a box office smash and won numerous awards and nominations. Rhys himself was nominated for a Best Actor in a Supporting Role BAFTA. Further exposure came with Ed Bye's irreverent comedy "Kevin & Perry Go Large". His star status was then cemented with his performance in "Little Nicky" opposite Adam Sandler. In 2004, he won the Best Actor BAFTA for his role in the TV movie "Not Only But Always".



Other productions include: "The Shipping News", "Vanity Fair", "Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties", "Hannibal Rising" and "Elizabeth: The Golden Age". Rhys will next be seen starring opposite Philip Seymour Hoffman, Bill Nighy, Jack Davenport and Kenneth Branagh in "The Boat That Rocked" for Working Title.

'JUDY MARKS' - CHLOË SEVIGNY

Nominated for both an Oscar and a Golden Globe, Chloë is one of the outstanding actresses of her generation.

Originally discovered by the fashion industry because of her unique style, being dubbed New York's new 'It Girl', she was quickly courted by the film industry. Since making her debut in 1995 in Larry Clark and Harmony Korine's Palme d'Or-nominated "Kids", she has worked prolifically, accumulating over 30 credits in under 15 years.

Remaining true to her indie roots, Chloe appeared in a string of critically acclaimed movies like Steve Buscemi's "Trees Lounge", Whit Stillman's "The Last Days of Disco", and Kimberly Peirce's "Boys Don't Cry", for which she received her Oscar and Golden Globe nominations for best supporting actress. Other credits include Lars Von Trier's "Dogville" and "Manderlay", Woody Allen's "Melinda and Melinda", Mary Harron's "American Psycho" and David Fincher's "Zodiac".

At present she can be seen in HBO's hit series "Big Love", playing the wife of a polygamist. She is also a successful designer with her own established clothing line released through the famous boutique Opening Ceremony.



'JIM McCANN' - DAVID THEWLIS

David is one of the finest character actors in Britain. Nominated for a BIFA as well as numerous other awards, he has also won the Best Actor prize at Cannes.

His first roles were for stage and television with his big screen debut coming in 1988 in Mike Leigh's "Road". Subsequent credits include Paul Greengrass's debut "Resurrected" as well as another Mike Leigh film, "Life Is Sweet". Appearances in the Oscar-nominated "Damage" and in an adaptation of Kafka's classic "The Trial" then followed before the collaboration with Mike Leigh was resurrected with "Naked", in which David played the lead role, achieving wide-spread critical acclaim and scooping the Best Actor Palme d'Or.

Numerous credits since have cemented his place at the forefront of British cinema: "The Big Lebowski", "Divorcing Jack", for which he received his BIFA nomination, "Goodby Charlie Bright", "Timeline", "The New World", "Kingdom of Heaven", "The Omen", "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" and, of course, the Harry Potter films.



MALIK' - OMID DJALILI

As well as being one of Britain's most successful comedians, Omid is also a regular in Hollywood comedies due to his unique combination of wit and Middle Eastern appearance.

Beginning his career in stand up comedy, Omid soon made the transition into television, appearing in numerous television series and appearing on many panel-shows. His popularity culminated in his own show, "The Omid Djalili Show", shown on BBC.

His big screen debut came in 1995 with Stephen Sommers' "The Mummy" and he has worked regularly ever since. Parts in "Notting Hill" and "Mad Cows" followed before significant supporting roles in "The World Is Not Enough", "Gladiator" and "Spy Game" brought him to the attention of international audiences.

Subsequent credits include "Anita and Me", "The Calcium Kid", "Modigliani", "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow", "Casanova", "Over the Hedge", "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" and "The Love Guru".





BUDGET

\$11 million

SCHEDULE

Principal Photography: January – March 2009

Delivery: December 2009

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