



OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Only Lovers Left Alive

A FILM BY
Jim Jarmusch

Synopsis

Set against the romantic desolation of Detroit and Tangier, an underground musician, deeply depressed by the direction of human activities, reunites with his resilient and enigmatic lover.

Their love story has already endured several centuries at least, but their debauched idyll is soon disrupted by her wild and uncontrollable younger sister.

Can these wise but fragile outsiders continue to survive as the modern world collapses around them?

Director's Statement

ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE is an unconventional love story between a man and a woman, Adam and Eve. (My script was partially inspired by the last book published by Mark Twain: *The Diaries of Adam and Eve* -- though no direct reference to the book is made other than the character's names.) These two lovers are archetypal outsiders, classic bohemians, extremely intelligent and sophisticated -- yet still in full possession of their animal instincts. They have traveled the world and experienced many remarkable things, always inhabiting the shadowed margins of society. And, like their own love story, their particular perspective on human history spans centuries -- because they happen to be vampires.

But this is not your usual vampire story. Set in the very distinct cities of Detroit and Tangier, and taking place almost entirely at night, Adam and Eve must have human

blood to survive. But they now live in the world of the 21st century where biting the neck of a stranger would be reckless and regressive -- for survival, they must be certain the blood that sustains them is pure and free of disease or contamination. And, almost like shadows, they have learned long ago to deftly avoid the attention of any authorities.

For our film, the vampire is a resonant metaphor -- a way to frame the deeper intentions of the story. This is a love story, but also the story of two exceptional outsiders who, given their unusual circumstances, have a vast overview of human and natural history, including stunning achievements and tragic and brutal failures. Adam and Eve are themselves metaphors for the present state of human life -- they are fragile and endangered, susceptible to natural forces, and to the shortsighted behavior of those in power.



Jim Jarmusch



Jim Jarmusch has long been considered a seminal figure in American independent cinema. His films are often noted for their transcendent minimalism and upturning of traditional genres such as the road movie, western, crime-film, and detective story. Born in Akron, Ohio Jarmusch lives and works in New York.



Filmography

FEATURE FILMS

PERMANENT VACATION, 1980

80 minutes, color

The Josef von Sternberg Prize, Mannheim, W. Germany, 1980

International Critics Prize, Figueira da Foz, Portugal, 1982

STRANGER THAN PARADISE, 1984

90 minutes, black & white

Camera D'Or, Cannes Film Festival, 1984

Golden Leopard, Locarno International Film Festival, 1984

Best Picture, National Society of Film Critics Award, 1984

Best Foreign Film, Japan, 1986

DOWN BY LAW, 1986

106 minutes, black & white

Amanda Award for Best Foreign Film, Norway, 1987

Bodil Award for Non-European Film, Denmark, 1987

Best Actor, Roberto Benigni, Italy, 1987

Best Actor, Roberto Benigni, Denmark, 1987

Best Foreign Film, Israel, 1987

MYSTERY TRAIN, 1989

110 minutes, color

Prize for Highest Artistic Achievement, Cannes Film Festival, 1989

NIGHT ON EARTH, 1991

128 minutes, color

Grand Award, Best Feature Film, Houston Intl. Film Festival, 1992

Best Cinematography, Independent Spirit Awards, 1993

DEAD MAN, 1995

121 minutes, black & white

Best Cinematography, New York Film Critics Circle Awards, 1996

Screen International Five Continents Award, European Film Awards, 1996

YEAR OF THE HORSE, 1997

107 minutes, color and black & white

GHOST DOG: THE WAY OF THE SAMURAI, 1999

116 minutes, color

Cesar Nomination, Best Foreign Film, 1999

Independent Spirit Award Nomination, Best Picture, 2000

COFFEE AND CIGARETTES, 2003

96 minutes, black & white

Official Selection, Venice International Film Festival, 2003

Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival, 2003

Official Selection, Tribeca Film Festival, 2003

Official Selection, Moscow Film Festival, 2004

Independent Spirit Award Nomination, Best Supporting Female (Cate Blanchett), 2005

BROKEN FLOWERS, 2005

106 minutes, color

Grand Prix, Cannes International Film Festival, 2005

Audience Award, Cambridge Film Festival 2005

Best Foreign Film Award, Cesky Lev 2006

Czech Lion, Best Foreign Language Film, 2006

Best Supporting Actor Award (Jeffrey Wright), San Diego Film Critics Society, 2006

Independent Spirit Award Nomination, Best Supporting Male (Jeffrey Wright), 2006

THE LIMITS OF CONTROL, 2009

116min, color

Official Selection, Karlovy Vary Film Festival, 2009

Official Selection, San Sebastian Film Festival, 2009

Official Selection, London International Film Festival, 2009

SHORT FILMS

INT. TRAILER. NIGHT., 2002

10 minutes, black & white

Principal Cast

TOM HIDDLESTON is best-known to filmgoers as the villain Loki in Kenneth Branagh's *THOR*, a role he reprised in the Marvel blockbuster hit *THE AVENGERS*, which set numerous box office records, including the biggest opening weekend in North America, tied the record for the fastest film to gross \$1 billion worldwide, and became the third highest-grossing film of all time.

Born in London, Hiddleston trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and rose to prominence through a number of theatre, television and, more recently, major film appearances. Recent roles include playing F. Scott Fitzgerald in Woody Allen's *MIDNIGHT IN PARIS*, Freddie Page in Terence Davies' *THE DEEP BLUE SEA* and Captain Nicholls in Steven Spielberg's *WAR HORSE*. Last year Hiddleston was nominated for a BAFTA for the Orange Wednesdays Rising Star Award and the Evening Standard Film Award as Best Actor for his role in *ARCHIPELAGO*. Hiddleston won the British Rising Star Award at The Richard Attenborough Regional Film Awards, and Best Male Newcomer for his role in *THOR* at the 2012 Empire Awards.

He was also named Glamour Magazine's 'Man of the Year' and 'World's Hottest Actor' by Total Film magazine.

Hiddleston was most recently seen on our screens portraying Prince Hal in *HENRY IV PARTS 1&2* and the title role in *HENRY V*, for which he won the Times Breakthrough Award at the 2013 South Bank Sky Arts Awards.

This year Hiddleston will be seen in a cameo role in the new film by Joanna Hogg, and this October he returns to his role as Loki in *THOR: THE DARK WORLD*, alongside an all-star cast including Chris Hemsworth and Natalie Portman.

Hiddleston's latest project will see him portray the notoriously dynamic war photographer Robert Capa in Paul Andrew Williams' *CLOSE ENOUGH*. The film will detail Capa's commitment to defeating the forces of fascism whilst also focusing on his intense romance with fellow photographer Gerda Taro, played by Hayley Atwell.

TILDA SWINTON, a native of Scotland, started making films with the English director Derek Jarman in 1985, with *CARAVAGGIO*. They made seven more films together, including *THE LAST OF ENGLAND*, *THE GARDEN*, *WAR REQUIEM*, *WITTGENSTEIN* and *EDWARD II* (for which she was named Best Actress at Venice in 1991). She gained international recognition in 1992 for her starring role in *ORLANDO*, directed by Sally Potter.

Swinton has established ongoing filmmaking relationships with Lynn Hershman-Leeson with whom she made *CONCEIVING ADA*, *TEKNOLUST* and *STRANGE CULTURE*, John Maybury (*MAN 2 MAN* and *LOVE IS THE DEVIL*), and Luca Guadagnino (*THE PROTAGONISTS*, *THE LOVE FACTORY*, and most recently the acclaimed *I AM LOVE*, which she co-produced).

Swinton has also appeared in Spike Jonze's *ADAPTATION*; David Mackenzie's *YOUNG ADAM*; Mike Mills' *THUMBSUCKER* and Francis Lawrence's *CONSTANTINE*; Béla

Tarr's *THE MAN* from London, Andrew Adamson's two blockbusters *THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA* tales; Erick Zonca's *JULIA*, which won her the Evening Standard's Best Actress award, and Tony Gilroy's *MICHAEL CLAYTON* - for which Swinton received BAFTA and Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actress in 2008. Swinton starred in Lynne Ramsay's *WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN*, which screened In Competition at Cannes 2011 and was received as a critical triumph. She followed up by appearing in Wes Anderson's *MOONRISE KINGDOM*. In 2013, she appeared in David Bowie's video for *THE STARS ARE OUT TONIGHT*, and her acclaimed performance art piece titled *THE MAYBE* at New York's Museum of Modern Art. Swinton will next be seen in Jong-hoo Bong's epic *SNOWPIERCER*, Terry Gilliam's *THE ZERO THEOREM*, and Wes Anderson's *THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL*.

ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE continues Swinton's body of work with director Jim Jarmusch, with whom she made *BROKEN FLOWERS* and *THE LIMITS OF CONTROL*.

MIA WASIKOWSKA has established herself as a rising star of the big screen. In 2013, Mia will star in Chan-wook Park's dramatic thriller *STOKER* opposite Nicole Kidman and Matthew Goode, Richard Ayoade's comedy *THE DOUBLE* opposite Jesse Eisenberg, and John Curran's *TRACKS*.

Wasikowska will also make her directorial debut with a segment of *THE TURNING*, a collection of short films based on stories by Australian writer Tim Winton. Her performance as 'Alice' in Tim Burton's *ALICE IN WONDERLAND* earned her an AFI Award for Best International Actress in 2010.

Her other feature credits include Lisa Cholodenko's *THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT*, Cary Fukunaga's *JANE EYRE*, Gus Van Sant's *RESTLESS*, John Hillcoat's *LAWLESS*, Rodrigo Garcia's *ALBERT NOBBS* and Scott Teems' *THAT EVENING SUN*, for which she received a 2010 Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Actress. Wasikowska also starred in the first season of the HBO series *In Treatment*, which earned her an AFI Award nomination for Best International Actress.

JOHN HURT C.B.E. is one of the UK's most prominent character actors, a consummate screen chameleon. In an international career spanning over thirty years, he has appeared in over a hundred films, as well as acclaimed theatre and television work. Twice-nominated for an Academy Award, his best known roles include Ridley Scott's *ALIEN*, David Lynch's *THE ELEPHANT MAN*, Stephen Frears' *THE HIT*, James McTeigue's *V FOR VENDETTA* and Steven Spielberg's *INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL*, and David Yates' *HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1* and 2. Hurt recently appeared as 'Control' in Tomas Alfredson's acclaimed *TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER SPY*, and will next be seen in Joon-ho Bong's epic *SNOWPIERCER*.

ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE continues the filmmaking relationship between Jim Jarmusch and Hurt, who also appeared in *DEAD MAN* and *THE LIMITS OF CONTROL*.





Principal Crew

PRODUCER

JEREMY THOMAS

DOM HEMINGWAY (2013)

KON TIKI (2012)

A DANGEROUS METHOD (2011)

SEXY BEAST (1999)

THE LAST EMPEROR (1987)

PRODUCER

REINHARD BRUNDIG

THE CONGRESS (2013)

LE HAVRE (2011)

WHALE RIDER (2002)

DEAD MAN (1995)

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

YORICK LE SAUX

ARBITRAGE (2012)

POTICHE (2010)

CARLOS (2010)

I AM LOVE (2009)

SWIMMING POOL (2002)

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

MARCO BITTNER ROSSER

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (2009)

V FOR VENDETTA (2005)

HELLBOY (2004)

COSTUME DESIGNER

BINA DAIGELER

BIUTIFUL (2010)

THE LIMITS OF CONTROL (2009)

CHE: PART I & II (2008)

VOLVER (2006)

ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER (1999)

EDITOR

AFFONSO GONÇALVES

BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD (2012)

WINTER'S BONE (2010)

DOOR IN THE FLOOR (2004)

MUSIC

JOZEF VAN WISSEM

*CONCERNING THE ENTRANCE
INTO ETERNITY* (2012)

THE MYSTERY OF HEAVEN (2012)

NIHIL OBSTAT (2013)



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