



HER WORLD TRANSFORM'D

MAXINE
PEAKE

CHARLES
DANCE

FREDDIE
FOX

TANYA
REYNOLDS

*Fanny Lye
Deliver'd*

A THOMAS CLAY FILM

Cast

MAXINE PEAKE (FANNY LYE), **CHARLES DANCE** (JOHN LYE),
FREDDIE FOX (THOMAS ASHBURY) **TANYA REYNOLDS**
(REBECCA HENSHAW), **ZAK ADAMS** (ARTHUR LYE), **PETER**
McDONALD (THE HIGH SHERIFF FOR THE COUNCIL OF STATE)

Crew

DIRECTOR / SCRIPT / MUSIC / EDITOR: **THOMAS CLAY**
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: **GIORGOS ARVANITIS**, *afc, gsc*
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: **NENAD PECUR**
COSTUME DESIGNER: **MICHAEL O'CONNOR**
HAIR AND MAKE-UP DESIGNER: **SANDRA O'BRIEN**
CASTING: **JEREMY ZIMMERMANN**, **GEMMA SYKES**

Production

PRODUCERS: **ZORANA PIGGOTT**, **ROBERT CANNAN**, **PHILIPPE**
BOBER, **MICHEL MERKT** AND **JOSEPH LANG** (*posth.*)
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: **THOMAS CLAY**, **LIZZIE FRANCKE**,
CELINE HADDAD, **RICHARD HOLMES**
IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH: **ESSENTIAL FILMS**, **ZDF/ARTE**
SUPPORTED BY: **FILM- UND MEDIENSTIFTUNG NRW**,
MEDIENBOARD BERLIN-BRANDENBURG AND IN ASSOCIATION
WITH **011 PRODUCTIONS**, **FILM | VÄST** AND **FILMGATE FILMS**
INTERNATIONAL SALES: **COPRODUCTION OFFICE**

Fanny Lye Deliver'd



A Thomas Clay Film

UK/GERMANY, 2019, 110 MIN, COLOUR

On a remote 17th century farm, the arrival of two mysterious
strangers transforms the life of Puritan huswife Fanny Lye.



Long Synopsis

1657. Fanny and John Lye and their young son Arthur live lives of Puritan stricture on a remote Shropshire farm in a valley beside a forest. Once a Captain in the English Civil War, now a firm believer in Oliver Cromwell's republic, John suffers a game leg and therefore it is Fanny who must carry out most duties around the farm, taken for granted by both husband and son.

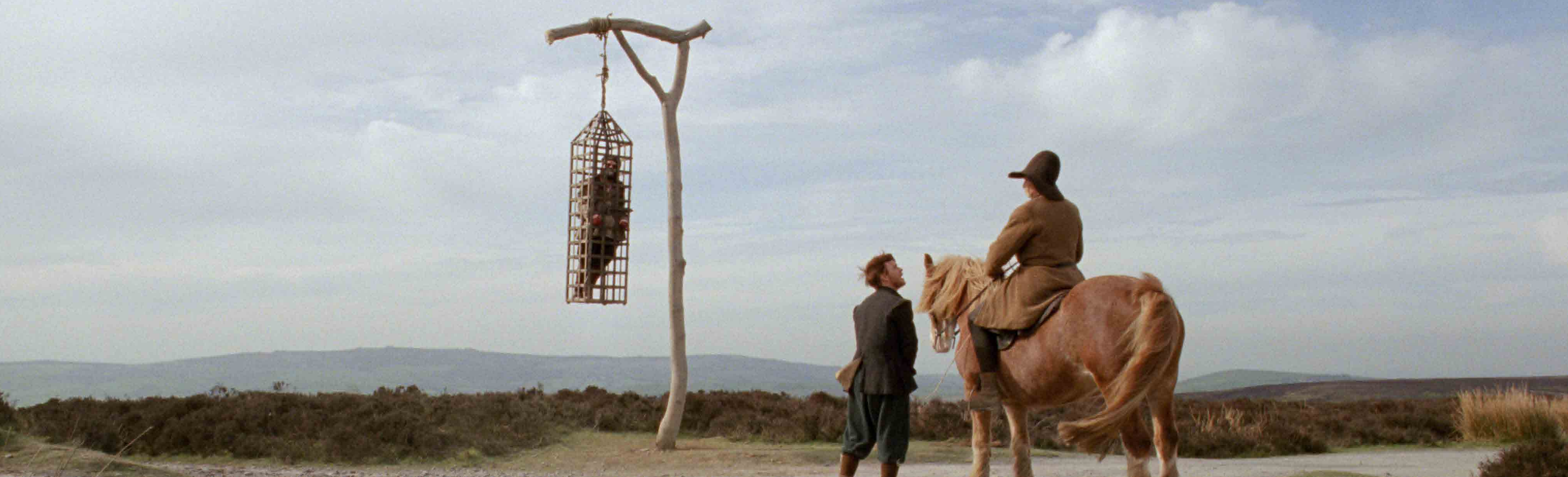
One morning, when the family are out at church, two uninvited visitors take refuge in their barn: the charismatic Thomas Ashbury and his young 'wife' Rebecca Henshaw, who come running from the forest naked as Adam and Eve. Thomas tells a story of robbery by vicious highwaymen. Although suspicious, John offers clothes and shelter for the night - which satisfies Fanny's compassionate nature.





Whilst the young couple are polite, almost obsequious at first, soon Thomas' carefree manner can't help but reveal itself: he makes seductive eyes at Fanny and then draws Arthur into a food fight, for which - despite Thomas' protestations - the house patriarch disciplines both wife and child. The next day, as Thomas and John coppice wood, Rebecca accidentally reveals to Fanny that she and Thomas are unmarried.

Soon after, three more strangers approach the farm: a Sheriff and his Deputy, accompanied by the local Constable, hunting members of a blasphemous 'Ranter' sect. From here, events quickly escalate in ways that will change all their lives forever.





Director's Statement

There are few events in recorded history as enduringly relevant as the English Revolution. On the surface, a struggle between two competing factions of the ruling class: the monarchy vs. the City of London, the City emerging triumphant. As pilgrims spread to the New World, the Puritan doctrine of "religion, liberty and property" became a cornerstone of the American psyche. But more than this, the 18 years from 1642-1660 saw the opening of Pandora's Box: a convulsion of societal breakdown, dissenting protestant influence from the Continent and cutting edge printing technology that set the common people of England free to dream, to write and self-distribute, to propose new religions and new modes of thought. This second front, between the newly founded Puritan establishment and radical groups such as the Ranters, Diggers, Levellers and Quakers, saw no grand battles or redrawing of maps but left its own vital legacy. Modern democracy, socialism and the movement for women's rights: all can be traced back to this brief and violent

time. Other ideas, such as the Ranter rejection of biblical sin – a particular focus of our film FANNY LYE DELIVER'D – remain as dangerous now as they were 360 years ago, the cry of "heresy" still for many a life-threatening charge.

In FANNY LYE DELIVER'D, I am exploring the English Revolution in microcosm. There are no Kings or Queens, no royal courts. Just common people with competing opinions and agendas – the Puritan, the Ranter, the burgeoning Quaker, the Royalist in disguise, accompanied by the 'mob' to whom he panders. And Fanny in the centre of all this, the common woman who must adapt and survive and forge her own path through all the violence and upheaval that revolution inevitably entails.

Alternatively, you might see it as a western – a 'Puritan Western' – or a thriller, take your pick. For me, it is all these things.

The film was always going to live or die by its four central performances, and I was blessed to work with such a talented and dedicated cast, willing to endure weeks in the mud of Shropshire as we chased the light and the changes in the wind.

Aesthetically, Giorgos, Neno, Michael and myself were especially inspired by HEAVEN'S GATE, DAYS OF HEAVEN and ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST. Working from the starting point that the film was contained almost entirely within one location and with a cast of eight, the production concept was to impose no other limitation, to imagine it was the 1970s and we were working on a classic studio picture. The farm built from the ground up with authentic materials, in just the right location, the earth landscaped to our design, to provide the optimum angles for every key sequence and shot. The costumes hand-dyed and handstitched. Practical mist effects throughout, completing the sense of enclosure. Crane and dolly wherever possible. 35mm, of course. To complete the picture, a traditional, theme-heavy score, albeit using only instruments that existed in the 17th century – strings accompanied by cornetts, sackbuts, serpents and the like.

In this manner, as the months turned into years, my dream for the film gradually became a reality.



Production Story

DEVELOPMENT/ PRE-PRODUCTION:

Thomas spent two years researching and writing the script for *FANNY LYE DELIVER'D* in collaboration with producer Joseph Lang, who tragically passed away in 2013 at the age of 33. The team of script consultants included the late William Lamont, the visionary historian who with his colleague Christopher Hill put 17th century radicalism on the map in the 1970s, and Princeton-based Ranter specialist Nigel Smith, who provided key insights into the language and culture of the period.

In the later development stages, Thomas drew an imaginary map of his ideal location: a native deciduous forest to the north, a hill to the east, a valley to the south, no immovable anachronisms in sight. With the aid of OS maps, Thomas and his wife Annuai scouted the West Midlands over several months to make this map a reality. In the end it boiled down to three possible locations that

were assessed by period construction experts who also served as consultants on the screenplay. With the location identified and secured, production designer Nenad Pecur soon joined the production. The team began to further research the specifics of the design and construction, the intention being to use as many authentic techniques in the building of the set as possible. Construction began in December 2015 and continued right up until the start of the shoot in February of the following year. During this period, costume designer Michael O'Connor came on board, bringing with him an incredible flair and eye for detail. Having worked with Director of Photography Giorgos Arvantis on *THE GREAT ECSTASY OF ROBERT CARMICHAEL*, Thomas always had him in mind for *FANNY LYE*.

CASTING:

Maxine Peake had been involved with the project for almost a





year before filming began, with Charles Dance and Freddie Fox joining closer to the shoot. Tanya Reynolds, Zak Adams and the rest of the cast were found through an extensive casting process. "Tanya sent in a spectacular tape that came out of nowhere and bowled us all over - and Freddie immediately won me over with his take on Thomas. With Maxine and Charles on board, Fanny and John Lye were in incredibly safe hands. As a chamber piece, chemistry between the cast was critical and I'm so glad they gelled so well," explains Thomas.

FANNY LYE DELIVER'D was Tanya's first professional on-camera experience.

SHOOT:

The shoot lasted ten weeks, in the depths of winter, with the weather, light and wind direction dictating terms for much of that time. The production regularly had days that went from sun to snow to rain to howling gales in the space of a few hours with the temperatures regularly being below freezing. Sets were flooded, sometimes washed down the river and damaged by storms.

About the demanding shoot Thomas says: "Scenes were often split over days, sometimes weeks. My decision to use smoke machines in almost every shot added to the fun. These were challenging



conditions for any actor and they all rallied round, bringing their characters to life with performances that I'm convinced will stand the test of time."

MUSIC:

After a considerable search for a composer, Thomas ultimately wrote some demos and convinced the team that the best solution would be to compose the music himself. The music was written over the course of a year, and co-orchestrated with conductor Anthony Weeden (ARRIVAL, THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING), before recording on authentic instruments (Cornett, Sackbuts, Recorders, Serpent, Dulcian, Renaissance Cittern, Hurdy Gurdy and Natural Trumpets, alongside strings and period percussion) in Lyndhurst Hall at Air Studios with music engineer Geoff Foster (INCEPTION, THE DARK KNIGHT). Period specialist choir I Fagiolini, led by Robert Hollingworth, and soprano soloist Grace Davidson, brought a further dimension to the score.



Building a 17th Century Farm

To maximize visual possibilities, it was always Thomas' goal to build the farm as a 360 degree indoor-outdoor set. The team researched a number of set-building options before deciding to build an authentic farm using traditional construction methods. A planning permission was secured and the team started the landscaping and building process working with local builders and specialist craftsmen. Finally, skilled film painters aged the buildings.











Behind the Scenes









Thomas Clay

DIRECTOR

FANNY LYE DELIVER'D is Thomas' third feature film.

His debut feature, THE GREAT ECSTASY OF ROBERT CARMICHAEL, screened as part of Semaine de la Critique at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival. His second feature, SOI COWBOY, shot on location in Thailand, premiered in the Cannes Film Festival Official Selection in 2008. Both films have sold theatrically in many countries around the world.

The first retrospective of Thomas Clay's work was held at the Mar Del Plata International Film Festival.

FILMOGRAPHY

FANNY LYE DELIVER'D (2019)
SOI COWBOY (2008)
THE GREAT ECSTASY OF ROBERT CARMICHAEL (2005)
MOTION (2001)

Giorgos Arvanitis

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

FANNY LYE DELIVER'D is Giorgos' second collaboration with writer/director Thomas Clay, having worked together on Thomas' debut feature THE GREAT ECSTASY OF ROBERT CARMICHAEL.

Giorgos has worked with some of the greatest European directors such as Theo Angelopoulos (including his Palme d'Or winner ETERNITY AND A DAY), Costa-Gavras, Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, Agnieszka Holland and Marco Bellocchio. His films THE TRAVELING PLAYERS, with Angelopoulos, and A MA SOEUR!, with Catherine Breillat, were recently named two of the greatest European films of all time in a critics' poll by the Guardian.

Giorgos is a member of the Association Française des directeurs de la photographie Cinématographique.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

ADULTS IN THE ROOM (Dir. Costa-Gavras, 2019)
UNE VIELLE MAÎTRESSE (Dir. Catherine Breillat, 2007)
KEDMA (Dir. Amos Gitai, 2002)
THE LAST LETTER (Dir. Frederick Wiseman, 2002)
FAT GIRL (Dir. Catherine Breillat, 2001)
ROMANCE (Dir. Catherine Breillat, 1999)
TRAIN OF LIFE (Dir. Radu Mihaileanu, 1998)
ETERNITY AND A DAY (Dir. Theo Angelopoulos, 1998) - Palme d'Or
TOTAL ECLIPSE (Dir. Agnieszka Holland, 1995)
ULYSSES' GAZE (Dir. Theo Angelopoulos, 1995)
I'M THINKING OF YOU (Dir. Jean-Pierre & Luc Dardenne, 1992)
LANDSCAPE IN THE MIST (Dir. Theo Angelopoulos, 1988)
THE TRAVELLING PLAYERS (Dir. Theo Angelopoulos, 1975)



Maxine Peake

FANNY LYE

Maxine has enjoyed a range of colourful roles in film including PETERLOO, FUNNY COW and THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING. One of Britain's best loved actresses, Maxine has had a prolific run of top quality television dramas in recent years including BLACK MIRROR, SILK, SHAMELESS and THREE GIRLS.

Maxine's career in theatre is equally impressive. She has performed at some of the most prestigious theatres in the country, including the National Theatre and Royal Court. Maxine took the title role in HAMLET at the Manchester Royal Exchange in a radical reimagining of William Shakespeare's play, which opened to rave reviews and was relayed to cinemas around the country. Other theatre credits include Samuel Beckett's HAPPY DAYS at the Royal Exchange Theatre and most recently THE NICO PROJECT in which she stars as the Velvet Underground singer Nico.



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

FANNY LYE DELIVER'D (2019)

PETERLOO (2018)

FUNNY COW (2017)

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING (2014)

SILK (2011-14, TV Series)

SHAMELESS (2004-2007, TV Series)

Charles Dance

JOHN LYE

With an acting career spanning over forty years, Charles Dance is one of the most prolific British actors. A master of imposing and villainous characters, Charles' recent credits include Tywin Lannister in *GAME OF THRONES* and the steely Commander Alastair Denniston in Oscar-winning *THE IMITATION GAME*.

Other feature film and television credits include *SWIMMING POOL*, *ALIEN 3*, *LAST ACTION HERO*, *HILARY AND JACKIE*, *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*, *THE WOMAN IN WHITE* and *THE LITTLE DRUMMER GIRL*.

Charles made his debut as a writer/director with *LADIES IN LAVANDER*, which starred Judi Dench and Maggie Smith.



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

THE KING'S MAN (2020)
THE CROWN (2019, TV Series)
FANNY LYE DELIVER'D (2019)
GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS (2019)
GHOSTBUSTERS (2016)
UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS (2016)
VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN (2015)
GAME OF THRONES (2011-15, TV Series)
THE IMITATION GAME (2014)
GOSFORD PARK (2001)
LAST ACTION HERO (1993)
WHITE MISCHIEF (1987)

Freddie Fox

THOMAS ASHBURY

Freddie trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, graduating in 2010. He has since starred in a number of films including **BLACK 47**, **KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD**, **PRIDE** and **THE RIOT CLUB**.

Freddie has also built an impressive career in theatre where his credits include Kenneth Branagh's **ROMEO and JULIET**, and Tom Stoppard's **TRAVESTIES**.



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

FANNY LYE DELIVER'D (2019)

BLACK 47 (2018)

KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD (2017)

VICTOR FRANKENSTEINS (2015)

THE RIOT CLUB (2014)

PRIDE (2013)

THE THREE MUSKETEERS (2011)

Tanya Reynolds

REBECCA HENSHAW

Tanya is a recent graduate from The Oxford School of Drama. She is best known for playing the role of Lilly in the Netflix series *SEX EDUCATION*, as well as Sky One television series *DELICIOUS*, and will soon be seen in Working Title's *EMMA*. *FANNY LYE DELIVER'D* is Tanya's debut feature film and her first professional on-camera experience.



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

FANNY LYE DELIVER'D (2019)
SEX EDUCATION (2019, TV Series)
DELICIOUS (2016-2019, TV Series)





Production

PULL BACK CAMERA

RURAL ENTERPRISE CENTRE
STAFFORD DRIVE
BATTLEFIELD ENTERPRISE PARK
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