



## DRONE STRIKE

1 killing, 2 victims, 4000 miles

A Short Film by Chris Richmond & Mike Sedgwick

**NEWFILMMAKERS**  
los angeles

Enter the **AT&T Center** at 1139 S. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA  
90015

## **Tagline**

1 killing, 2 victims, 4000 miles.

## **Logline**

A day in the life of a devoted father and serving RAF drone pilot - juggling the normality of his domestic life with the warped reality of firing Hellfire missiles 4000 miles away in Afghanistan - and how one fateful decision shatters his conviction.

## **Medium Synopsis**

A day in the life of a devoted family man and serving RAF drone pilot. Flying a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) over Afghanistan from a base in Lincolnshire means Will Brydon (Mark Bazeley) gets to live at home, and even drop his son off at school on his way to work - but in return he has to deal with the warped reality of firing Hellfire missiles 4000 miles away for a day job. *Drone Strike* tells the story of how one fateful decision shatters his conviction, and the effects of that decision on a family in Helmand Province.

## **Long Synopsis**

Will Brydon (Mark Bazeley) is a devoted family man and accomplished RAF pilot, who now flies drones over Afghanistan from an airbase in Lincolnshire. He gets to have time with his wife and two kids, and he knows he is supporting his comrades in Helmand by targeting fanatical insurgents with surgical precision.

Koshan is also a father of two, scratching out a living as a delivery driver in war-torn Helmand province, Afghanistan, keeping his head down and doing whatever it takes to stay afloat.

Today, Will drops his son off at school as usual – and then things start to deteriorate. *Drone Strike* tells the story of how one fateful decision shatters his conviction, and the effects of that decision on Koshan's family in Helmand Province.

*Drone Strike* is written and directed by Chris Richmond and written and produced by Mike Sedgwick. It was filmed on location in the UK and Morocco.

## The Background

The increasing use of drones (aka UAVs) has made low-risk, cost effective aerial combat a very attractive reality to Western governments. But the drone crews fly their attack and support missions without the usual military processes of separation from family, defined tour of duty etc. This unusual situation of being a '9-5 soldier' brings its own unique psychological stresses.

## The Production

*Drone Strike* was shot in Autumn 2012 in the UK and Ouarzazate, Morocco. UK Locations included Bentwaters Parks air base in Suffolk, in and around Lincoln plus a studio shoot at SLV studios in London.

The film was shot by Franklin Dow, an experienced DOP of drama and commercials. The Moroccan (Afghan) scenes were shot on a SONY F3 and the UK scenes using the ARRI ALEXA.

## FAQs

### Why did you make this film?

**Chris:** We think drones are a fascinating subject, and one of the big moral questions of our time. They save our forces' lives while killing hundreds of innocent civilians; they make the wars we have to fight cheaper and safer, but they're also routinely used in countries that we're not at war against. So it's a rich context for a very human tragedy.

### What was the biggest challenge?

**Chris:** Well, the story demanded that we film in Southern Morocco as well as the UK, so fairly high amongst my challenges would have to be an English first time film director working with Arabic-speaking cast, to deliver a Pashto script...!

### How did you raise the funding?

**Mike:** We managed to scrape together the funds for pre-production and production by setting aside some profits from commercial work over a year or so. But we couldn't stretch it to cover post-production, so we opted for a crowd-funding campaign on Indiegogo. This presented a steep learning curve, and was certainly challenging and very time-consuming, but did also help us develop a community around the project.

## The Cast

Will Brydon  
Koshan  
Sergeant Craig  
Wing Commander Ellis  
Catherine Brydon  
Mirwais  
Yakta  
Sergeant De Vries  
Sergeant Anderson  
Jack Brydon  
Elisabeth Brydon  
Hasti  
Abdul  
Nasrin

Mark Bazeley  
Hamid Botbaldin  
Andrew Lee Potts  
Pip Torrens  
Lesley Harcourt  
Ait Hammou Haytam  
Mimmis Rabia  
Steven Miller  
Olivia Onyehara  
Sidney Johnston  
Cara Jenkins  
Nezali Nazha  
Goutou Hicham  
Akioui Saadia

### Mark Bazeley

Since starting his career on stage with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the English Touring Theatre (Chekhov's *The Seagull*) Mark Bazeley has become a renowned screen actor. Amongst his impressive achievements he has appeared in high profile films such as 'The Bourne Ultimatum' and 'The Queen', as well as a spectrum of quality TV dramas, such as 'Mistresses', 'The Special Relationship' (playing Alistair Campbell to Michael Sheen's Tony Blair for a second time) and 'Spooks'. The ideal Will Brydon.



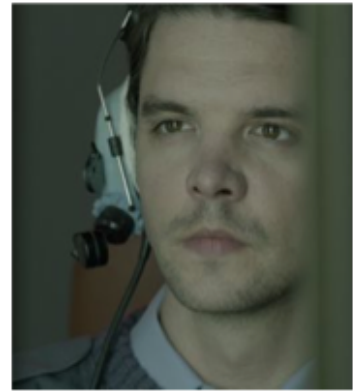
### Hamid Botbaldin

Hamid Botbaldin is an experienced Moroccan actor who has worked across a broad range of genres in domestic and international projects alike. Hollywood films he has appeared in include 'Kingdom of Heaven', 'The Passion of Christ', 'Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time' and 'The Ten Commandments'.



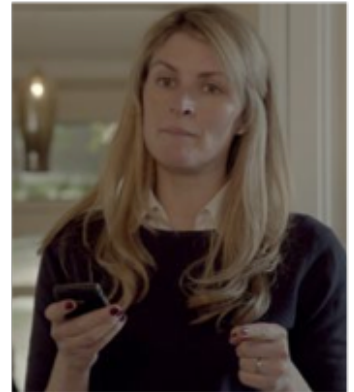
## **Andrew Lee Potts**

Andrew Lee Potts studied at Leeds Performing Arts School and started out in musical theatre, and is now a TV actor with an enviable CV. He was a key part of projects such as 'Primeval', 'Ideal', 'Band of Brothers', the film of Stephen King's '1408', and 'Return to house of Haunted Hill'. He has also written and directed several short films: 'Blood on Benefits', 'Insight!' and 'Little Larry'.



## **Lesley Harcourt**

Lesley Harcourt is an experienced British actress working in both theatre and TV. She's best known for her performance as Princess Diana in 'William & Catherine: A Royal Romance', and long-running parts in 'Taggart' and 'Doctors'.



## **The Filmmakers**

### **Scout Films**

Scout Films is a new production company, set up as the film arm of award-winning creative production company Atticus Finch.

### **Director**

Chris Richmond first entered the film industry as an extra ('Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace', 'Judge Dredd', 'First Knight', 'Sense and Sensibility'). Having found his vocation he started working in production at Premier Films, a London based feature film animation company. He honed his skills thoroughly before setting up Atticus Finch Ltd, an award-winning creative production company specialising in brands, animation and emerging media. Scout Films has been created as a sister company to produce high quality drama, documentaries and features. Drone Strike is Chris Richmond's debut as a drama director and screenwriter.

### **Producer**

Mike Sedgwick started his career in the industry as a freelance video cameraman and editor, before becoming a partner at Atticus Finch Ltd. As well as producing and directing award-winning broadcast and brand content for major clients including

Vodafone, SkyArts, Lexus, Tomy, & NHS he heads AF's scriptwriting department.

### **Co-Producer**

Oliver Ronicle has worked in the film industry for nearly 20 years - including production, feature sales and ten years as a Director of post-production at Universal Studios. He went on to become Managing Director of a large Soho Post-production facility. In the last few years Oliver has developed several independent film projects, as well as his high profile business role in post-production sales and marketing.

### **Director of Photography**

Franklin began his career as a camera trainee in 2000. In 2005 he graduated from AIB with first class honours in Cinematography, also winning two Kodak Student Commercial Awards. He has since built a broad portfolio of work, from Drama and Verite Documentary to Commercials and Fashion.

His work has screened at numerous film festivals, including Sundance, LFF, SXSW, FujiFilm Shorts and Camerimage, collecting various awards along the way including Best Cinematography.

Last year Franklin shot his debut feature film, 'L'Histoire de nos Petites Morts', which has just been completed and awaits its festival premiere this year.

### **Art Director**

Francesca Massariol's career began in theatre as a set designer for the Magdalen Opera Group in Covent Garden, after completing her studies in design for performance at the renowned Venice Academy of Art in Italy, and Central St. Martins, London.

Applying the experience gained in theatre Francesca has successfully transitioned into art direction within the film industry.

Her extensive list of credits across short films, music videos and commercials features collaborations with directors including Bryan Barber, Chris Richmond and Amy Johnson, and production companies such as New Treatment, Red Bee Media, Scout Films, Brave Sparks and Stamp productions.

### **Music Composer**

Lee Baker is a successful music writer and producer, with a prolific career in television and film, writing for almost every major production company and channel, while continuously developing cutting edge sounds for movie trailers and adverts. He is currently working on a documentary series for BBC Worldwide, while other credits include the rebranding of ITV2 and 'This Morning', BBC's award winning 'Arena' documentaries, the John Hannah vehicle 'New Street Law', and entertainment shows such as 'John Bishop's Britain' and 'Adam and Joe Go Tokyo'. As an artist producer Lee has had a Top Ten album with the band *James*, while continuing to write with a diversity of developing artists.

Click [here](#) to see the full list of cast or [here](#) to download the full credits.

## Film Information

Completion Date: July 2013  
Running Time: 20:49 minutes Colour  
English and Pashto  
Filmed on: Sony F3 and ARRI ALEXA  
Screening Format: DCP  
Sound Format: 5.1  
Aspect Ratio: 2.39:1  
Genre: Drama  
Country of production: United Kingdom  
Filming Locations: UK and Morocco

## Awards

Year	Film Festival	Premiere	Status
2013	<a href="#">Rhode Island International Film Festival</a>	World Premiere	Grand Jury Prize for Best Short
2013	<a href="#">Miami Short Film Festival</a>		Best Narrative Nomination
2013	<a href="#">The Accolade Competition</a>		Award of Merit
2013	<a href="#">Bahamas International Film Festival</a>	Bahamas Premiere	Official Selection
2014	<a href="#">NewFilmmakers LA</a>	West Coast Premiere	Official Selection
2014	<a href="#">London Short Film Festival</a>	European Premiere	Official Selection

## Reviews

***"Incredibly moving"***

Leza Milligan, Reprieve

***"Very powerful"***

Lucy Miller, The National Student

***"I hope the film finds a wide audience"***

Tom Mills, New Left Project

***“A well executed short that addresses a difficult subject in a poignant, provocative and often chilling manner”***

Alex Moss, Film Juice

***\*\*\*\*\* “A film with a message so powerful and distressing it is sure to stay with you”***

Priyanka Mogul, The London Film Review

([www.thelondonfilmreview.com/film-review/short-film-review-drone-strike/](http://www.thelondonfilmreview.com/film-review/short-film-review-drone-strike/))

***\*\*\*\*\* “Powerfully brings home the horror of modern warfare.”***

John Parrot, The Film Review

([www.thefilmreview.com/reviews/independent/drone-strike-review.html](http://www.thefilmreview.com/reviews/independent/drone-strike-review.html))

## **Contacts**

Publicist: Rachel Devenport  
Email: [Rachel@devenportpr.com](mailto:Rachel@devenportpr.com)  
Mob: +44 (0) 7825 282 302

Producer: Mike Sedgwick  
Email: [mike@scoutfilms.net](mailto:mike@scoutfilms.net)  
Mob: +44 (0) 7966 424 978

Director: Chris Richmond  
Email: [chris@scoutfilms.net](mailto:chris@scoutfilms.net)  
Mob: +44 (0) 7947 355 779

Website: <http://drone-strike.com/>  
Facebook: Drone Strike Film  
Twitter: @Drone\_Strike