PREVENGE

(Acquisition Title, ICM Partners, XYZ Films and Kaleidoscope Film Distribution)

World Premiere (Venice) | North American Premiere (TIFF)
Written and Directed by Alice Lowe
Starring Alice Lowe, Gemma Whelan, Kate Dickie, Jo Hartley

“People think babies are sweet... But I’m bitter.”

Contact:
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A Western Edge Pictures Production for the Gennaker Group

Synopsis:
A pitch black, wryly British comedy from the mind of Alice Lowe (SIGHTSEERS, HOT FUZZ, PADDINGTON), PREVENGE follows Ruth, a pregnant woman on a killing spree that’s as funny as it is vicious. It’s her misanthropic unborn baby dictating Ruth’s actions, holding society responsible for the absence of a father. The child speaks to Ruth from the womb, coaching her to lure and ultimately kill her unsuspecting victims. Struggling with her conscience, loneliness, and a strange strain of prepartum madness, Ruth must ultimately choose between redemption and destruction at the moment of motherhood. PREVENGE marks the directorial debut from Lowe, who is a true triple threat, writing, directing, and acting in the film during her own real-life pregnancy.

TRT: 88 minutes
Country: United Kingdom
Language: English

ABOUT THE CAST
ALICE LOWE as RUTH

Known for her work as a UK television comedy actress, Alice made her move into film with her screenwriting debut Sightseers, directed by Ben Wheatley, in which she also starred as the hapless Tina. After premiering at Cannes, Sightseers went on to receive several accolades, Empire’s Best British Film, as well as acting and screenplay awards for Alice.

Prevenge is Alice’s directorial feature debut. She wrote, starred in, and directed it whilst 7-8 months pregnant with her first child, who also appears in the film.

Alice’s other work includes three series of her sketch show Alice’s Wunderland for BBC Radio 4, several short films, TV and film appearances such as Garth Marenghi’s Darkplace, Paddington, Hot Fuzz, Horrible Histories, etc. More recently she has starred in UK indie film hits such as Black Mountain Poets, Adult Life Skills and Locke. She often uses improvisation in her work.

GEMMA WHELAN as LEN

Gemma Whelan is an English stage and screen actress and comedian, known for playing the fierce warrior Yara Greyjoy in the HBO fantasy-drama series Game of Thrones.

In 2010, Whelan won the Funny Women Variety Award for stand-up comedy in 2010. On screen, she’s played supporting roles in several films and TV shows, including in the 2010 films Gulliver's Travels and The Wolfman. Whelan is also a professional dancer and a member of the London-based dance troupe the Beaux Belles.

KATE DICKIE as ELLA

Kate Dickie is a Scottish actress who has appeared in television series, stage plays and films. She is known for her portrayal of the security camera operative Jackie in her starring debut Red Road, directed by Andrea Arnold, for which she was given
several awards as best actress, among other things at the BAFTA Scotland Awards and the British Independent Film Awards in 2006. Dickie also supports the theatre company Solar Bear, which is known for it collaboration with deaf people. Dickie is perhaps best known for her role as Lysa Arryn on the HBO series Game of Thrones.

**JO HARTLEY as MIDWIFE**

Having resided at Oldham Theatre Workshop as a young actor, Jo Hartley later joined the Questors Theatre Group in Ealing, London. In 2002, she met award winning film director Shane Meadows who invited her to audition for *Dead Man's Shoes* which became Hartley's first feature film. She then starred as Cynth in the 2006 feature *This is England* and the subsequent TV series. She worked alongside Emily Blunt and Rupert Friend in the 2009 period drama *The Young Victoria*.

More recent credits include *Eddie the Eagle* and *Vera*. Future credits include *Access All Areas* and *Life on the Road*, the upcoming David Brent movie.

**KAYVAN NOVAK as TOM**

Tom Kayvan is best known for co-creating and starring in the comedy series *Fonejacker* from 2006 to 2007 with a one-off in 2012 (for which he won the BAFTA Television Award for Best Comedy (Programme or Series) in 2008). He is also known for co-creating and starring in the spin-off series *Facejacker* from 2010 to 2012 and for his role as Waj in the 2010 comedy film *Four Lions* for which he won the award for Best Comedy Performance in a British Film at the 2010 British Comedy Awards. Novak appeared as an intelligence officer alongside George Clooney and Matt Damon in the 2005 Academy Award-winning film *Syriana*.

**DAN RENTON SKINNER as MR ZABEK**

Daniel Renton Skinner is an English actor and comedy writer, largely known for his comedy character Angelos Epithemiou. He has appeared in numerous TV comedies, including *The Office* Christmas specials, *My Family*, *Yonderland*, *The Wrong Mans*, *Friday Night Dinner*, *The Kennedys* and *Coupling*. He was also a regular writer and performer on *Katy Brand’s Big Ass Show* for ITV2. He appeared
in two series of *The Armstrong and Miller Show* on the BBC and played Reggie's chauffeur in the remake of *Reggie Perrin*.

His 2010 UK tour, Angelos Epithemiou & Friends Christmas Show, proved so popular that additional dates were added. He then appeared as Angelos Epithemiou in BBC Radio 1’s Fun & Filth Cabaret, as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and on series 6 of Shooting Stars. In 2011 Skinner won the Best Comedy Breakthrough Artist at The British Comedy Awards for his work as Angelos. In 2012, he starred in his own show, The Angelos Epithemiou Show, on Channel 4.

He recently appeared in Ben Wheatley’s High Rise and the critically-acclaimed Notes on Blindness, a 2016 documentary feature about a man losing his sight.

**TOM DAVIS as DJ DAN**

A former scaffolder and market stall trader Davis first came to public attention as part of the channel 4 sketch show *The Morgana Show* in 2010. He is best known for his role in comedy shows such as *Lemon La Vida Loca* and *The Keith Lemon Sketch Show*. He appeared in the ITV2 sitcom *Plebs* and, in 2015, starred in the BBC Three crime-comedy *Murder in Successville*.

In 2013 he received plaudits for his writing debut *Common Ground*, a biographical look at his humble background in Croydon.

**MIKE WOZNIAK as JOSH**

Mike Wozniak is a British comedian, writer, actor and voice artist. Having first started in sketch comedy in 1998, he made the jump to stand up in 2007. He has performed at destinations all over the world including Australia, New Zealand and Ipswich. Following Wozniak’s debut solo show at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2008 he was nominated for the if.comedy best newcomer and won the Time Out New Act of the Year Award. He has played Brian in comedian Greg Davies’ sitcom *Man Down* since 2013. Mike co-wrote and starred in both series of BBC Radio 4’s
Small Scenes. Other writing credits include Stand Up For The Week, 8 Out of 10 Cats, and Newsjack.

**DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT**

As an actress I have experienced the limitations your physicality can impose on your career. Pregnancy being the most extreme example. But faced with the unlikely opportunity to make a feature film, while pregnant, I wondered if it was just a matter of perspective. Perhaps pregnancy could be portrayed as a superpower. A symbol of the female ability to radically transform.


So I created anti-heroine ‘Ruth’. A woman whose Fury has taken over. The Fates have dealt her an ill hand and she’s taking revenge. With her tiny assistant, her unborn child.

*People think babies are sweet. But I’m bitter...'*

Classically the goddesses of revenge are The Furies, forces sprung from their father’s blood, the castrated Uranus. It’s all a bit gory really. But then so is childbirth. I wanted to tell a story of danger and violence, what pregnancy at that time seemed to me to really represent. And this morphed into the idea of an unborn dictator baby. The ventriloquist’s puppet who whispers in her mother’s ear, telling her what to do.
Ruth as a pregnant woman was the conduit for exploring this notion. Manners dictate that a pregnant woman and her innocent unborn child are society’s responsibility. Everyone’s supposed to be kind to a pregnant woman. But unbeknownst to her hapless victims, Ruth is an avenger, judge and jury to society’s failings. She uses her pregnancy as subterfuge, a Trojan horse gaining entrance to the vulnerable heart of each of her victims. She takes each character to trial, and condemns them!

And now the comedy comes in. (It had to come eventually.) I forget to talk about comedy because it’s the world in which I’ve worked for my whole career. It’s everything else that is utterly new and terrifying.

With a scripted drama structure and naturalistic comic performances, I wanted to create an unexpected strange hybrid. A peculiar child! As a very personal project, I wanted to make an unusual film to truly represent tonally the rarity of its story. It’s my aim to generate female characters and stories that feel utterly new. Unfamiliar ground.

I wanted the film to be funny, but also scary, sad, awkward, frightening, tense, beautiful. All the things that pregnancy and life are!

My choices in the film’s palette were to avoid pastel and go noir, dark, with splashes of bright vivid colour. I also wanted sharpness of image to reflect Ruth’s unremittingly brutal view of the world.

I’ve always loved horror. My favourites are those that deal with the paranoia of crossing liminal stages: Carrie, Rosemary’s Baby, Don’t Look Now, The Shining. The psycho-drama of PREVENGE is my homage to those masters of horror. A transgressive supernatural threat that could also be taken as a metaphor for the disintegration of someone’s mind. In Ruth’s case: her baby. I was also influenced by Argento, De Palma and Kubrick in my choices of music and colour palette. I joked to the composers that I was making a ‘secret sci-fi’, in the sense that even though
the film is set in the modern world, I wanted it to feel like it was treading into new territory. An exploration: for me as much as for the audience.

Our guerrilla approach to filming and improvisation gives the feature a 70’s aesthetic, which we took to its furthest conclusion by using disco tracks and a score inspired by artists such as ELO and Demis Roussos.

In terms of makeup, the bump was real. The stunts were all the actors own. We generally filmed each of the deaths first, then returned to the dialogue n, with a great sense of relief that we’d got the ‘difficult bits’ in the can.

And so now here I am with a baby and a film. Both are a joy to me just for their existence alone. I almost feel the mother’s pride of ‘I don’t care what anyone else thinks. To me, she is beautiful.’ But of course, I do want everyone to love my baby as much as I do. Though that can’t ever be guaranteed. And that’s what’s so thrilling and terrifying about being a mother and a director.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR AND CREW

ALICE LOWE - DIRECTOR

Known for her work as a UK television comedy actress, Alice made her move into film with her screenwriting debut Sightseers, directed by Ben Wheatley, in which she also starred as the hapless Tina. After premiering at Cannes, Sightseers went on to receive several accolades, Empire’s Best British Film, as well as acting and screenplay awards for Alice.

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Marenghi’s Darkplace, Paddington, Hot Fuzz, Horrible Histories, etc. More recently she has starred in UK indie film hits such as Black Mountain Poets, Adult Life Skills and Locke. She often uses improvisation in her work.

**VAUGHAN SIVELL - PRODUCER**

Vaughan Sivell is a director, writer, producer and CEO of Western Edge Pictures, which he founded in 2008.

His first feature film, Third Star (Int Sales; Independent), which he wrote and produced, closed the Edinburgh Film Festival in 2010. The script was highly placed on the prestigious Brit-list, and in 2010 it was nominated for a BAFTA Cymru. That same year Vaughan produced his first play - the critically acclaimed Eigengrau which transferred to ‘Brits off Broadway’ after its sell out run at the Bush Theatre.

He has since established finance company The Gennaker Group, which produced The Canal (Dir. Ivan Kavanagh), a thriller-mystery co-production with the Irish Film Board and Ffilm Cymru Wales, and released his directorial debut Mr Calzaghe (2015, eOne), a documentary feature about the extraordinary life and career of Welsh-Italian bozer, Joe Calzaghe. He is currently Producing and Directing Pistorius (Intl. Sales Content Media) the story of the Paralympian and convicted murderer, set against the political backdrop of South Africa.

**RYAN EDDELSTON – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Ryan Eddleston is a BAFTA Cymru winning Director Of Photography, who specialises in feature films & documentaries, recent titles include Black Mountain Poets (Dir. Jamie Adams) and American Interior (Dir. Gruff Rhys). Ryan has broadcast credits on both national & international & commercial television, and screened at international film festivals, including SXSW 2016.

**MATTEO BINI – EDITOR**
Matteo Bini moved to London from Italy in 2011 for the MA in Editing at the prestigious National Film and Television School. He graduated in 2013 with a distinction and received the Christie Award for Most Promising Student.

In 2014 Bini co-directed and co-wrote the Italian feature film *I, Harlequin* produced by Officina della Comunicazione and Rai Cinema. The film premiered at the Rome Film Festival and was released nationwide in Italy in June 2015. Amongst Bini’s recent works as an editor are *Mr Calzaghe*, a feature documentary by Vaughan Sivell, *Girlfriend in a Coma*, and *The Great European Disaster Movie*, feature documentaries by Annalisa Piras for ARTE and BBC4 Storyville. For TV he worked on an episode of *Glue*, the E4 TV drama by Bafta-winning writer Jack Thorne, nominated at the Broadcast Awards for Best Multichannel Programme.

His short film credits include *Balcony*, winner of the Crystal Bear at the 2016 Berlinale Film Festival, *Change in the Weather*, premiered at the Clermont-Ferrand film festival, and *Morning*, winner of the Irish Film and Television Award 2013 and nominated for Best Short Film at the European Film Awards 2013.

Matteo is currently working on *Pistorius (Dir. Vaughan Sivell)*

**MARTIN PAVEY – SOUND**

Martin Pavey is an award winning Sound Designer and Composer whose past credits include *Sightseers*, *A Field in England*, *Duke of Burgundy*, *Kill List* and *High Rise*. His work spans film, TV, commercials and short film, with *Room 8* winning the BAFTA short film award in 2014.

**SARAH-JANE PEREZ – COSTUME DESIGN**

Sarah-Jane Perez is a BAFTA-nominated costume designer, she has been designing and styling costumes for film, television, commercials and music videos over the last 20 years.
She has been nominated for a BAFTA in Costume Design for her work on the BBC comedy *Whites* and the drama series *Con Passionate*. In 2009 her project, *Will’s Christmas List*, won best film at the children’s BAFTA Awards and she worked on the costume for The Manic Street Preachers music video *Show Me the Wonder* which went on to win Best Video at the Q awards.

**TOYDRUM – ORIGINAL SCORE**

Under the partnership called Toydrum, Pablo Clements and James Griffith have co-written, produced and recorded many tracks for the big screen, including *With You In My Head* for the *Twilight Saga: Eclipse*, *Every Single Prayer* featuring Gavin Clark for the film *The Caller*, the whole music score for *Odyssey in Rome*, a documentary on the life of Abel Ferrara, and the documentary *Lives of The Artists*, a documentary on extreme sports.

They have worked on a variety of projects: *Lawless* with Nick Cave and Warren Ellis, *Red Shoes*, a short film for Vivienne Westwood, *Pieces* a film directed by Jack Weatherly, who they have worked with before on a film called *The Score* for Euro 2012.

Toydrum released Distant Focus (2014) on their own label, Underscore Collective. They released Evangelist (2015) album, a project they worked on with the late Gavin Clark; several tracks went on to be featured in the Bafta-winning series *This Is England ’90*. Toydrum scored the film *London Fields* (Billy Bob Thornton Johnny Depp, Amber Heard and Jim Strugess) and the film *Detour* (Bel Powley, Tye Sheridan, Stephen Moyer).

Pablo Clements has also written as the other half of UNKLE since *War Stories* release in 2007 including *End Titles Redux* (2008),*End Titles Stories For Film* (2008), *Where Did The Night Fall* (2010) and *Where Did The Night Fall Another Night Out* (2011).
CREDITS

A Western Edge Production
For the Gennaker Group
PREVENGE

Written and directed by Alice Lowe

Ruth
Alice Lowe

Mr Zabek
Dan Renton Skinner

Midwife
Jo Hartley

DJ Dan
Tom Davis

Dan's Mum
Leila Hoffman

Ella
Kate Dickie

Tom
Kayvan Novak

Josh
Mike Wozniak

Zac
Tom Meeten

Len
Gemma Whelan

Baby
Della Moon Synnott

Producer
Vaughan Sivell

Producer
Jennifer Handorf

Producer
Will Kane

Executive Producer
Mike Rattenbury

Executive Producer
Vaughan Sivell

Executive Producer
Will Kane

Executive Producer
Franki Goodwin
Executive Producer
  Mike Shirley
Executive Producer
  Andrew Thomas

Director of Photography
  Ryan Eddleston
Editor
  Matteo Bini
Original Score by
  Toydrum
Sound Design
  Martin Pavey
Costume Design
  Sarah-Jane Perez

Other Cast

Yoga Instructor
  Grace Calder
  Jill
  Eileen Davies
Girl in Park
  Elen Rattenbury

Gin Drinker
  Jacqueline Wright
Catwoman
  Sara Dee

Crew

Assistant Editor
  Matteo Fadda
Assistant Editor
  Jon Crook

1st Assistant Director
  Dafydd Arwyn Jones
2nd Assistant Director
  Catrin Thomas
3rd Assistant Director
  Stuart Duffy

Production Designer
Blair Barnette  
**Art Director**
Melanie Light  
**Standby Props**
Tom Major  
**Assistant Art Director**
Amber Weedon  
**Art Department Assistant**
Claire Moore

**DIT**
Jordan Wallace

**1st Assistant Camera**
David O’Connor

**2nd Assistant Camera**
Ashley Adams

**Camera Trainee**
Robin Sparrow-Biggs

**EPK Producer**

**Focus Shift Films**
Daniel Harris
Nathan Miller

**Script Supervisor**
Sophie Maloney

**Gaffer**
Tessa Salt

**Sound Recordist**
Thomas Markwick

**Costume Assistant**
Anke Lambrechts

**Make Up Designer**
Jessica Cheetham

**Make Up Assistant**
Laura Waters

**Casting Director**
Danny Jackson

**Stunt Coordinator**
Russell MacLeod

**Stills Photographer**
Aron Klein
Security
IronHill Global Security Solutions
Ray Cole
Runner
Chris Phillips
Runner
Catrin Lewis
Runner
Catherine Chuk

DIT
Liran Barlev
DIT
Scott Norris

1st Assistant Camera
Raúl Menéndez
2nd Assistant Camera
Jonathan McLaughlin

Sound Recordist
Adam Chestnutt
Sound Recordist
Robbie Derrick
Sound Recordist
Victoria Whitehead

Costume Assistant
Kelly Ellis
Costume Assistant
Sarah Masters

Make Up Assistant
Catrin Evans
Make Up Assistant
Hannah Ortner

Runner
Tom Walden
Runner/Driver
Lee Arnold
Runner/Driver
London
Runner
Alison C Wroblewski
Catering
Christopher Lee Location Catering

For the Gennaker Group
  Mike Shirley
  Huw Bennett
  Danny Langley
  Laurence Filby
  Jonny Aucamp
  Keith Jones
  Rob Brophy
  Mark Slade
  Peter Shirley

For Western Edge Pictures
  Producer’s Assistant
    Elisabeth Watts
    Tom Betts

Head of Legal and Business Affairs for Western Edge Pictures/The Gennaker Group
  Mike Rattenbury
  VFX
    Colin Smith

Title Design
  Colin Smith

Music Supervisor
  Jen Moss
  Michael Cutayar

Protools Editor

  Toydrum is Pablo Clements and James Griffith

  Music Mixed by Bruno Ellingham

  Additional Musician on Original Score
    Mikey Rowe

  Video post production services provided by

    Colourist
    Paul Wright
    Production Liaison
    Greg Mothersdale
Camera, Lenses & Equipment
Procam
Mr Red Rental
Richmond Film Services

Extras
Megan Hester
Grace Calder
Louisa Boscawen
Sarah Waddell
Caz Coronel
Sarah Gavaghan
Luke Kidd
Jen Moss
Emilie Shaftesbuy
Rachel Loke
Aaron Kent
Max Ohrstrand
Erin Aguilar
Abols Iris
Will de Smith
David Puckridge
Frazer Price
Sara Dee
Sam Ashurst
Sam Bretherick
William Rattenbury
Tom Woolter
Ben Bruchner
Kieran Creedok
Medyr Llewelyn
Andrew Llewellyn

“Do What You Wanna Do”
Performed by T-Connection
(Words and music by Theophilus Coakley)
Published by EMI Music Publishing (WP) Ltd and Universal/MCA Music Ltd.
Licensed courtesy of Warner Music UK Ltd

“Vehicle”
Performed by Ides of March
(Words & Music by James Peterik)
“Symphony No. 6 in F, Op. 68 “Pastoral”
Performed by Sinfonia Varsovia, conducted by Yehudi Menuhin
(Written by Ludwig van Beethoven)
Licensed courtesy of Warner Music UK Ltd

“Eastern Serenity”
(Written by Steve Porter)
Licensed courtesy of W Songs

"Wouldn't It Be Good"
(Written by Kershaw)
Published by Imagem Music

“Studio 54”
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Sarah Morgan
Nicky Bentham
Sophie Mayer
Raising Films
Paul Holmes
Samantha Horley
Dan Martin
Sara Dee
Martin Klang
Jessie Irvin Rose
Miriam Handorf
Edgar Wright
Paul King
Mary Burke
Cathy King
Anna Tune
Independent Talent Group

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Cardiff
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Cardiff
Reptile Cymru
Cardiff
Gwidhw Café Bar
Cardiff
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London
The Arch Climbing Wall
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John Ruskin Street
London
Walworth Road
London
Clerkenwell Being
London
St Govans
Pembrokeshire
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