

## LOCAL FILM MAKER BRINGS HOLLYWOOD STAR TO SURREY FOR A CONTROVERSIAL DRAMA

Local actor and producer Toby Richards has produced a powerful film which explores how a father could find himself resorting to the most extreme action imaginable; taking the life of his own child.

Every ten days one child is killed at the hands of their parents in the UK alone and in the wake of numerous news stories about estranged fathers murdering their children, *"Father's Day"* follows the story of a man who finds himself on the verge of committing the most heinous crime possible.

The character of Joe has been in and out of prison for most of his life. Joe knows he's not a model father but he'd do anything for his boy and would protect him at all costs. His life is turned upside down by a letter. A court order arrives, banning him from any further contact with Max. Joe's world immediately crumbles and he reacts the only way he knows how – to lash out. Joe makes a fateful decision – if he can't have Max, then no-one can.

Surprising Max on his way home from school, Joe takes his son on an impromptu adventure. A seemingly innocent trip to the park and promises of treats appear to simply be a Dad bonding with his son. However, a creeping sense of unease undermines these apparently touching moments and when the police visit Joe's trashed apartment and discover discarded bullets, it becomes a race against time to avert a tragedy.

*"Father's Day does not seek to find answers to such tragic circumstances. Instead, it is an observation of the extreme nature of love and the selfish lengths some people will go to in order to shield themselves from pain and loss."* Remarks Toby who also plays the lead character of Joe opposite *"Pirates of the Caribbean"* star Kevin R McNally as the cop desperately trying to track him down before it's too late.

*"We were all excited to work with Kevin – especially Jaime who is a big fan of the Pirates of the Caribbean films. He is such a fantastic actor and a real gentleman and I'm so pleased he managed to*

*fit into our schedule before going to Broadway with Jude Law in "Hamlet". His contribution really adds to the weight of the film."*

Toby was raised in Surrey and used his local knowledge and contacts to make the film possible. *"We managed to shoot most of the film in Surrey with a lot of help from Pirbright Parish Council and local hotel Manor House in Newlands Corner Guildford. It was fantastic how the community came together to help us and how supportive everyone was. We wouldn't have been able to achieve half of what we did without their help and understanding."*

Toby and his team searched far and wide for the right boy to play Max, Joe's son, and eventually found him on their doorstep. At only 9 years old, Bracknell resident, Jaime Ryan has already been in show business for a number of years and jumped at the chance to take part in such an emotionally difficult project.

*"Jaime and I just clicked and by the time we came to shooting he was so comfortable in my company that it made our relationship as father and son even more believable,"* Toby remarks.

Toby had worked with director Will Gilbey on many previous projects including *"Rise of the Footsoldier"* and *"Doghouse"*. Will co-wrote the BAFTA nominated film *"Rollin' with the Nines"* which also won the Best Film Jury Prize at the Raindance Film Festival in 2005. Theirs is a successful and rewarding collaboration, so much so that they have set up a new media company, Eigerwand Media, with Will's brother and long time collaborator BAFTA nominee Julian Gilbey.

Will took the challenges of *"Father's Day"* in his stride: *"Trying to get under the skin of a man who is contemplating the unthinkable and trying to portray him fairly is a real challenge as a film-maker. It would be too easy to hate Joe, to cast him as the villain from the opening scene. I plan to take the harder route: to first make the audience identify with Joe and enjoy his, albeit strained, relationship with his son Max."*

Father's Day is a dark, gripping and emotional story that lulls the viewer into a false sense of security before pulling out the rug and revealing the lead character's deadly intentions. It closes with a tense, dramatic confrontation that will keep people thinking and talking about this film for some time.

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For more information on Father's Day and Eigerwand Media see [www.eigerwandmedia.com](http://www.eigerwandmedia.com).

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