



Gerard Butler stars in this gripping and suspenseful thriller, based on the true, unsolved mystery of the disappearance of the Flannan Island keepers

Defiant Screen Entertainment is proud to present **THE VANISHING**, starring fan favourite Gerard Butler (*Hunter Killer*, *Den Of Thieves*) and Peter Mullan (*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, *TVs Ozark*).

Inspired by the true unsolved mystery, director Kristoffer Nyholm tells the story of the disappearance of three lighthouse keepers on an uninhabited island 20 miles from the rugged Scottish coast. As James (Gerard Butler), Thomas (Peter Mullan) and Donald (Connor Swindells) arrive for their 6-week shift and settle into their normal quiet routine, something unexpected and life-changing occurs. They stumble upon something that isn't theirs to keep. What follows is a tense battle for survival, fed by isolation, paranoia and greed, leading three honest men down a path to destruction.

For Nyholm, acclaimed director of the hit TV series *Taboo*, the main attraction lay in the story's simplicity and the psychological drama held within. He says: "These lighthouse keepers go from being normal people to protectors, to killers and murderers. It is quite a dark piece, like a story from my youth. The basic idea was very stimulating – three men working in a lighthouse – and yet we're making a big drama that unfolds in this small space."

It was exactly that complexity that appealed to Butler. "The script is such an elevated piece of writing and it's such an unusual story. It drew me in very quickly and I never knew where it was going to go." In fact, Butler says that his character goes to a place where not many actors get a chance to go. "He disintegrates in front of your eyes. You're left with a shell of a man, yet he sees this happening and he comments on his own descent into madness," says Butler. "I've never read anything like it before and I've never seen anything like it before. It's a psychological thriller that is exceptionally emotional. You get to know these three men on such a deep level, and then this tragedy evolves. It becomes very moving while at the same time it is both brutal and terrifying. It scares you but you'll be in tears for half of the movie," adds Butler.

Writer Joe Bone meanwhile insists, that they simply wanted to say something poignant about trust and the frailty of the human condition. "We believe that **THE VANISHING** has all the shock and awe life can offer, wrapped up in a film that we hope will cling to its audience well after the reel stops turning."

"Failing all that," adds Bone, "we'll be remembered for the scene where someone's eye pops out!"

THE VANISHING inspired by a true, unsolved legend,
launches on Blu-ray, DVD & Digital – Wednesday May 15, 2019

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