



TRIBECA FILM in partnership with AMERICAN EXPRESS presents



Directed by Rob Heydon

Available nationwide on demand beginning November 21

Run Time: 104 Minutes

Rating: Not Rated

Press Materials can be downloaded at:

Distributor: Tribeca Film

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New York, NY 10011

**TRIBECA FILM:**

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**STARRING**

**ADAM SINCLAIR**

**KRISTIN KREUK**

**BILLY BOYD**

**CARLO ROTA**

**ASHLEY POVER**

**KERAM MALICKI-SANCHEZ**

**OLIVIA ANDRUP**

**DEAN MCDERMOTT**

**FEATURING SOUNDS FROM ORBITAL, TIESTO, PRIMAL SCREAM, DIGWEED,  
BONJAY, THE MAHONES, HAWKSLEY WORKMAN, AND COLDPLAY.**

**BASED ON THE NOVEL BY IRVINE WELSH**

## **SYNOPSIS**

From the mind of Irvine Welsh (TRAINSPOTTING) comes a pulse-pounding thriller set against the backdrop of Scotland's drug-fueled dance scene as one man tries to cut ties and kick old habits for the woman he loves.

## **ABOUT THE FILM**

### **Director Rob Heydon on the making of ECSTASY**

For me, the key themes in the film are love, devotion, trust, honour and transformation. *ecstasy* is a transformational love story from the love of ecstasy to the ecstasy of love. Not that the drugs do not work, but the lifestyle is not sustainable in the long term. I became involved with *ecstasy* when I was approached by Keith Wyatt the Canadian playwright who adapted *ecstasy* into a play. He wanted me to make a film based on a play. However the play did not work cinematically, so Keith put me in touch with Irvine Welsh and I optioned the book.

I first met Irvine in 2000 at the launch night of *Filth*, staged at Edinburgh Festival. We talked about *ecstasy* and I explained how I would like to focus on the third short story, *The Undefeated*, adapting key elements and expanding the story to make it work as a film. I mentioned the possibility of making it a transformational love story and Irvine liked the idea. I didn't know it then, but at some point in Irvine's life he has been all the characters from *Trainspotting*... now he's running marathons.

I set out to shoot *ecstasy* using a docu-drama style to make the story more realistic, to convey a sense of events unfolding before the eyes of audience. Using Cinema-Verite techniques (from the French New Wave) - hand held camera, on location sound and longer shots our goal was to have the audience 'see' *ecstasy*; to have them ride the contagious, compelling tactile experience; to have them feel how *ecstasy* tweaks the minds of those using it; and to have them fully experience the character's energy and electricity, so that they leave the theatre high on life.

### **Irvine Welsh on the making of ecstasy**

I think it's basically a love story. It's about that big leap of faith when you fall in love, you never really know at first what the other person is feeling, how deeply and how permanent or transitory these feelings are likely to be. This is massively complicated by MDMA, people go from a casual smile to very deep emotional intimacy in seconds. It complicates an already tricky situation. If anyone hasn't fallen in love stupidly and inappropriately they probably haven't taken *ecstasy* regularly.

I think the message is to know yourself and be true to yourself. Enjoy the highs, chemical or otherwise, but see them as being what they are. At the end of the day it's your own emotional reservoir and ability to romantically articulate your feelings that will determine your success or otherwise in love, not dropping a pill.

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **Adam Sinclair (Lloyd Buist)**

Adam Sinclair trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama before moving to London. In 2000 he made his first feature film appearance alongside Kiefer Sutherland and Robert Carlyle in *To End all Wars*. As well as being a familiar face in British TV, most memorably as Will O'Brien in *Mile High*, Adam has appeared in several UK/ Canadian Miniseries and international cinema releases including *Pain Killer Jane*, *National Lampoons: Van Wilder 2*, *The Summit* and the award winning *Day Of The Triffids*, with Dougray Scott, Eddie Izzard and Jolie Richardson.

### **Kristin Kreuk (Heather Thompson)**

Kristin Kreuk is a Canadian actress known for her portrayal of Lana Lang in the American television series *Smallville*. She was also a regular cast member on the Canadian teen drama *Edgemont*, and has starred in movies such as *Eurotrip* and *Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li*.

Born and raised in Vancouver, B.C., Kreuk began her acting career at school and had her first professional break when she was cast in *Edgemont* for Canadian TV. This was closely followed by winning the title role in the television movie of *Snow White* for ABC opposite Miranda Richardson. Since then she has starred in *Smallville*, performed a cameo in the film *Eurotrip* opposite Matt Damon, starred in the Sci Fi miniseries *Earthsea* opposite Isabella Rossellini, a Canadian feature *Partition* opposite Jimi Mistry, *Streetfighter: The Legend of Chun Li*, *Ben Hur* for BBC and NBC's hit show *Chuck*.

### **Billy Boyd (Woodsy)**

Billy Boyd is well known for Peregrin "Pippin" Took in Peter Jackson's epic film trilogy adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* (*The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*). Billy holds the distinction of starring as part of an extraordinary ensemble in two of the Academy Award Nominees for Best Picture in the same year (2004): *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (which won 11 Academy Awards, including the Best Picture prize) and Peter Weir's *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* (which won 2 Academy Awards).

His other film credits include *Stone of Destiny* directed by Charles Martin Smith, Gaby Dellal's *On a Clear Day*, Douglas Mackinnon's *Flying Scotsman*, the voice of Glen/Glenda in Don Mancini's *Seed of Chucky*, Genevieve Jolliffe's *An Urban Ghost Story* and Robert Cavanah and Iain Macdonald's *The Soldier's Leap*. He also appears in Lukas Erni's *Save Angel Hope* and an animated adaptation of the classic Shakespeare play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (in which he voices Puck). Also *Glenn* directed by Marc Goldstein, *Jusqu'a Toi (Every Jack has a Jill)* directed by Jennifer

Devoldere, *Carmel* directed by Lawrence Rock, *PIMP* directed by Robert Cavanah, *Moby Dick* directed by Mike Barker and *Witches of Oz* directed by Leigh Scott.

A native of Glasgow, Billy graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama His stage work includes *Much Ado About Nothing*; the Royal Lyceum productions of *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Britannia Rules*, *Therese Raquin* and *An Experienced Woman Gives Advice*; and the Traverse Theatre productions of *The Chic Nerds*, *Kill the Old*, *Torture their Young* and *The Spectulator*. He toured the UK in stage productions of *Trainspotting*, *Widows*, *Caledonia Dreaming* and *The Ballad of Crazy Paola*. He starred in David Greigs *San Diego*, which opened the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival. In 2006 he performed in *Home: Glasgow* which was the first ever show for the National Theatre of Scotland.

Billy has recently appeared in *Casualty* for BBC1 and appeared with Gregor Fisher in the BBC2 series *Empty* as well as Jack Osborne's *Adrenaline Junkie*.

### **Carlo Rota (Solo)**

Carlo Rota is a British-born Canadian actor, best known to Canadian audiences for his role on *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and to international audiences for starring on the acclaimed and multi-award winning series *24*. Additional credits include for television *Breaking Bad*, *Sanctuary*, *Stargate Universe*, *White Collar*, and for film *Boondock Saints*, *Saw V*, and *Othello*. Carlo recently completed filming Ken Follet's *World Without End* in Budapest.

### **Ashley Pover (The Big Man)**

In this, Pover's first film, he plays the part of the Big Man a narcissistic drug baron who rules the Glasgow and Edinburgh drug scene. If you'd like to ask the Big Man a question just visit [www.askthebigman.com](http://www.askthebigman.com)

### **Keram Malicki-Sanchez (Ally)**

Keram Malicki-Sanchez is a Canadian actor, singer, writer, new media guru, and music and film producer. As the son of a Polish father and Ecuadorian mother, the Toronto-born actor is fluent in English, French, Polish and Spanish. Malicki-Sanchez has been fortunate to work with directors Nick Cassavettes (*John Q*), Tony Kaye (*American X*), John Stockwell (*Crazy Beautiful*), and Peter Greenaway (*The Tulse Luper Suitcases*), among others. He is also currently playing a lead role in *Texas Chainsaw Massacre 3D*. In addition to acting, Malicki-Sanchez composes and produces ambient music contributing four songs to the *ecstasy* soundtrack working under the name Automated Gardens with long time musical collaborator Jason "DJ Shine" Spanu.

### **Olivia Andrup (Hazel)**

Also making her big screen debut, Olivia Andrup (aged 19) is a graduate from the Vancouver Academy of Dramatic Arts (VADA).

### **Dean McDermott (Hugh Thompson)**

Dean is a Canadian-American actor, familiar to audiences from his time playing playing Constable Turnbull on the TV series *Due South*. Dean is married to the American actress, Tori Spelling.

### **Stephen McHattie (Jim Buist)**

Stephen (and his cheekbones!) first came to attention in the 1970s for his roles in *Starsky and Hutch*, *Kojak* and playing the eponymous role of *James Dean* the 1976 mini-movie. He has appeared in more than 150 film and television shows over his distinguished career including he has been seen in *Star Trek – Deep Space Nine*, *Seinfeld* and the evil Gabriel in the TV series *Beauty and the Beast*.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### **Irvine Welsh (Author of *ecstasy: Three Tales of Chemical Romance*)**

Irvine Welsh was born in Edinburgh, left school when he was sixteen and spent some years in London before returning to Edinburgh where he worked for the city council in the housing department. He went on to study for an MBA at Heriot Watt University.

When *Trainspotting* was published in 1993 Irvine Welsh shot to fame. Despite unease from the critical establishment, Welsh's novel received as many good reviews as ones swathed in disgust and outrage - establishing a tradition that continues to this day. A stage adaptation of the novel was premiered at the Glasgow Mayfest in April 1994 and went on to be staged at the Edinburgh Festival and in London before touring the UK. In August 1995, Irvine Welsh gave up his day job.

Danny Boyle's film adaptation of *Trainspotting* was released in February 1996. More books have followed, *ecstasy* becoming the first paperback original to go straight in at No1 on the Sunday Times best-sellers list, a feat emulated by *Filth*, which became Welsh's highest selling book after *Trainspotting*. His first novel has now sold almost 1 million copies in the UK alone and is a worldwide phenomenon. Books such as *Glue*, *Porno* and recent *The Bedroom Secrets of the Master Chefs* have seen him increase his profile in America and Canada.

He has recently branched into film and is a partner in two film production companies. He joined Four Ways films, which was founded by Antonia Bird, Robert Carlyle and Mark Cousins and has recently set up Jawbone films with his screenwriting partner Dean Cavanagh, and Phil John and Jon Lewis Owen.

He lives mainly in Chicago, visiting his home city of Edinburgh regularly, usually to visit friends, family and Hibernian FC at Easter Road.

### **Rob Heydon (Director)**

Heydon is an award-winning Toronto born filmmaker of international acclaim whose credits span directing, writing, and producing. After directing and producing over 100 music videos and commercials, Heydon directed *Go Further* starring Woody Harrelson (Audience Award runner up prize at Toronto Film Festival). Heydon then went on to make *Rippin*, a documentary on professional snowboarders followed by the television series *Electric Playground*. Heydon's short film *The Magic* premiered at Taos Talking Pictures Film Festival. In 2004 he was selected to the first Producer's Network at the Cannes Film Festival. Fittingly, for these straitened times, Heydon has made *ecstasy* at a fraction of the cost of *Trainspotting*...

## CAST

<b>Lloyd Buist</b>	<b>ADAM SINCLAIR</b>
<b>Heather Thompson</b>	<b>KRISTIN KREUK</b>
<b>Woodsy</b>	<b>BILLY BOYD</b>
<b>Solo</b>	<b>CARLO ROTA</b>
<b>The Big Man</b>	<b>ASHLEY POVER</b>
<b>Ally</b>	<b>KERAM MALICKI-SANCHEZ</b>
<b>Hazel</b>	<b>OLIVIA ANDRUP</b>
<b>Hugh Thompson</b>	<b>DEAN MCDERMOTT</b>

## CREDITS

<b>Director</b>	<b>ROB HEYDON</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>JEREMIAH MUNCE</b>
<b>Cinematographer</b>	<b>BRAD HRUBOSKA</b>
<b>Screenplay by</b>	<b>ROB HEYDON &amp; BEN TUCKER</b>
<b>Based on the Novel by</b>	<b>IRVINE WELSH</b>
<b>Producer</b>	<b>ROB HEYDON</b>
<b>Executive Producers</b>	<b>JONI CUQUET</b>
	<b>MICHAEL HEYDON</b>
	<b>ASHLEY POVER</b>
<b>Co-Producers</b>	<b>ALLAN LEVINE</b>
<b>Music Composed by</b>	<b>CRAIG MCCONNELL</b>
<b>Production Designer</b>	<b>DEAN A. O'DELL</b>
<b>Art Direction</b>	<b>ERIC DEROS</b>