

You'll Wish You Never
Brought Your Baby
Home

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Avi Federgreen
Indiecan Entertainment Inc.
info@indiecanent.com
416 898 3456
www.indiecanent.com

Valhalla Productions and Phoenix Films Presents

A Film by
Darrell Roodt

The Lullaby

(formerly Siembamba)



Starring:

Reine Swart
Deànré Reiners
Thandi Puren
Brandon Auret
Dorothy-ann Gould

Genre: Horror

Duration: 87 Minutes

Language: English

Rated: 16 (PG)

Plot

Returning to her hometown, Eden Rock, and overwhelmed by the birth of her first child, Chloe van Heerden (19) tries to come to terms with motherhood. Her mother, Ruby (35), is a little overbearing but cares deeply. She worries that Chloe won't talk about the baby's father.

The incessant crying of the baby and the growing sense of guilt and paranoia sends Chloe into a dark depression. With a heightened urge to protect her son, Chloe sees danger in every situation. Distraught she pays a visit to family psychologist Dr. Timothy Reed (40s) who diagnoses her intrusive thoughts and feelings of anxiousness to a case of the Baby Blues.

Chloe also finds solace in the arms of her childhood

friend, Adam Hess (20), who makes no secret of the fact that he thinks her leaving town was a big mistake.

The thoughts grow worse and more violent.

Chloe starts to hear voices and the humming of a childhood lullaby. She sees flashes of a strange entity around her child. Convinced that the entity is real, Chloe does everything in her power to protect her son. Her decline reaches fever pitch, and everybody seems to be moving against her.

The world around Chloe implodes and it becomes clear that she and her child are in imminent danger. But from what? Is Chloe haunted by evil or is it just the baby blues?

SIEMBAMA FOLKLORE

During the Anglo-Boer war, women and children were confined to concentration camps, at the mercy of the English troops. Rape was a prevalent part of life for these women, who would sometimes fall pregnant with unwanted bastard children, doomed to a shameful life in the camps.

For a conservative Calvinistic woman, rape was worse than death and they were shamed into silence. These women turned to a midwife, who would take their bastard babies into the woods, singing them to sleep. She would then twist their necks, instantly killing them, and discard their bodies.

To this day Afrikaans mothers can be heard singing the eerie lullaby, blissfully unaware of it's mythical origins.

Siembamba Lullaby

Afrikaans weergawe	English version
<i>"Siembamba mama se kindjie,</i>	<i>"Siembamba mama's child</i>
<i>Siembamba mama se kindjie</i>	<i>Siembamba mama's child</i>
<i>draai sy nek om</i>	<i>twist his neck</i>
<i>gooi hom in die sloot</i>	<i>throw him in the ditch</i>
<i>trap op sy kop, dan is hy dood. "</i>	<i>step on his head, then he is dead"</i>

FILMING LOCATION: Kaapschehoop

This eerie town serves as the perfect exterior location for the filming of Siembamba, with its dizzying forests and rich history. It is located in the midst of the Sappi Forrest, where countless rock formations lie. The 1800's was an exciting time for the town, as many come from all around to dig for gold, which is where the hope in Kaapschehoop comes from. The first name for the town was Duiwelskantoor, or Devil's Office. As if the name wasn't sinister enough, thick fog often rolls over the land, making it hard to see. Cattle often accidentally walked off the edge of the cliff there, to fall to their deaths.

CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES

Chloe van Heerden:

This fragile girl has just given birth to her first child, Liam. She has returned to her home town after running away following a fight with her mother about her father leaving them. From the start, she struggles to bond with her son, which places a lot of tension on her relationship with own her mother. She doesn't talk about who Liam's father is, and brushes it off to her psychiatrist. Chloe is soft on the eyes, but she doesn't take care of herself; she's a mess. She has a strong personality yet succumbs to her mother's wilful nature.

Ruby van Heerden:

A beautiful single mother, finds herself stressed out with happenings surrounding her daughter's return. She is slightly over protective, and has a controlling nature which stems from her fear of abandonment. With her husband walking out on her and Chloe, Ruby's focus was solely on her daughter. She unintentionally makes Chloe feel uncomfortable as a new mother. Ruby's only other refuge is Dr. Reed, the psychiatrist she has known for many years, whom she is very familiar with.

Dr Timothy Reed:

Although a highly qualified professional, has never left this town where he grew up himself. He's a man of solitude, and considers himself above the small-town folk around him. He collects butterflies, and has them displayed all around his office. It's beautiful, but oddly sinister, like himself. Timothy is Ruby's ally and psychologist whom she has been visiting for years. He has a comforting nature about him, but underneath may lie obsessions. Dr. Reed is a shelter for both Chloe and Ruby to air out their grievances. How safe this space is however, is questionable. He doesn't seem to understand the degree of her depression, or perhaps he understands exactly.

Adam Hess:

Adam seems like a kind, well-mannered and safe boy. The kind of boy a mother like Ruby would love as her daughter's companion. For years he has loved Chloe, but she was not interested. He feels victim to her abandonment, and takes Chloe's leaving town personally, too personally. He'll talk about leaving this small town, but has never made a move to do so. Instead he stays in a cabin by himself just outside of town, where the woods begin.

PRODUCERS

André Frauenstein / Co-Producer

With an excess of 16 years of film and production experience, André Frauenstein is the Chairperson of Phoenix Group of Companies. During this period he has worked as a Product Placement Specialist with leading producers, actors and directors such as Neil Blomkamp (District 9, Elysium), Regardt van den Bergh (Faith Like Potatoes, Hansie: A True Story), and Darrell Roodt (Sarafina!, Yesterday, Little One, & Cry, The Beloved Country) Under Andre's guidance Valhalla Productions and Phoenix Films have produced 6 feature films since 2015.

Samuel Frauenstein / Co-Producer

A career spanning more than 15 years in entertainment marketing and branding makes Samuel Frauenstein the guru which heads Phoenix Group of Companies as CEO. In the past he has held numerous media director positions, including heading up partnerships for the Viacom Group, where his focus was growing MTV, VH1 and Nickelodeon.



Left: Samuel Frauenstein Right: André Frauenstein



Darrell James Roodt / Director

Darrell truly is one of South Africa's most treasured directors. His film *Sarafina!* (Whoopi Goldberg, Leleti Khumalo) was screened at the 1992 *Cannes Film Festival*. *Little One* (Lindiwe Ndlovu, Vuyelwa Msimang) was nominated at the 85th Academy Awards for *Best Foreign Language Film*. *Yesterday* (Leleti Khumalo, Lihle Mvelase) was nominated for an Academy Award for *Best Foreign Language Film*. *Cry, the Beloved Country* (James Earl Jones, Richard Harris) was nominated for Outstanding Motion Picture at the 1996 Image Awards. Since teaming up with Phoenix Films, he has directed *Treurgrond*, *Trouvoete*, *Mignon* "Mossie Van Wyk, Skorokoro and Siembamba, released recently in October 2017



Tarryn-Tanille Prinsloo / Writer

In 2013 Tarryn-Tanille Prinsloo graduated Cum Laude with her BA Honours in Drama at the University of Pretoria. She is currently enrolled as a Masters student furthering her research in the specific domain of Screendance and Laban Movement Analysis. In 2015 she was invited to partake in a certification program course hosted by the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies in New York. Once qualified as a certified movement analyst (CMA) she would be one of only three CMA's in the country with this qualification.

Tarryn-Tanille has been a fulltime screenwriter at Phoenix Films since 2014. *Treurgrond* was Tarryn-Tanille's first feature film, and remains one Phoenix Films' most pertinent features. *Trouvoete*, *Mignon* "Mossie" van Wyk, *Skorokoro* and *Siembamba* (released recently in October 2017) followed soon after.

Justus de Jager / Director of Photography

Justus began creating images in his youth; selling his paintings in the neighbourhood. His love for creating pictures lead him to Cinematography, and he has since left his footprint in the local film industry with numerous feature films, commercials and other short-form productions.

Having trained on 35mm film he carries a strong work ethic over to all the formats and productions he works on today. In his nearly 12 years of working in this field, he has directed photography on *Zama Zama*, *Lien se Langstaar* *Skoene*, *As Jy Sing*, *Suurlemoen!*, *Vrou Soek Boer*, *Hear Me Move* and *Eintlik Nogal Baie*.

Mary-Sue Morris / Make-Up and Wardrobe

As a designer of costume, make-up and hair, Mary-Sue has over 15 years' experience in commercials, music videos, infomercials, fashion and print, but discovered her true passion in film.

She has worked on numerous local films in either the Makeup or Wardrobe department, sometimes even both, including *Pad Na Jou Hart*, *Suurlemoen*, *Leading Lady*, *Trouvoete*, *Mignon 'Mossie' van Wyk*, and *Jou Romeo* as well as doing special effects make-up on *Treurgrond*, *Ballade vir 'n Enkeling*, *Land of Milk and Money* and *Chemo Club*. Mary-Sue was also the Head of Costume/Make-Up and Hair on the international film *Land of the Sharks*.

Luarnae Roos / Head of Art Department

Luarnae is a freelance Art Director and the owner of Senepe Studios. She has worked on both local and international film sets and is known for working as Head of Art Department on Eintlik Nogal Baie, Hell Trip and Dis Koue Kos, Skat.

She also worked in the Make-Up Department on Ballade vir 'n Enkeling. She was nominated for Best Production Design on Dis Koue Kos, Skat at the KykNet Silverskermfees in 2016.

Leon Gerber / Editor

Leon Gerber has worked in almost every department in the South African film industry. His involvement ranged from unit manager to boom swinger to first assistant director where he has worked under directors such as Chris dos Santos, Regardt van den Berg and Andre Odendaal.

His first post-production experience of note was doing the visual effects and additional editing for Darrell Roodt on the feature, *Alles Wat Mal Is*. Soon after he cut, graded and did the visual effects for *Snake Park* and the *Talk SA* TV series. During this time he also cut trailers and teasers for feature films such as *Durban Poison* and *Ballade van Robbie de Wee*. His first feature film as sole editor was *Trouvoete*, after which he continued as editor for *Skorokoro*, *Mignon 'Mossie' van Wyk* and *Siembamba*.

Alun Richards / Sound

Alun is an award-winning composer and sound designer, with various respected accolades under his belt, including from Cannes Lions, Grand Prix, D&AD, Silver Pencil, Clio, LIAA, Loeries and Music Craft Awards. He often works under several titles simultaneously, including composer, re-recording mixer, supervising sound editor, sound effects editor and dialogue editor, among others. Notable titles, of which there are many, include *Asinamali*, *Wonder Boy for President*, *Skorokoro*, *Black Sails*, *Blitzpatrollie*, *Bakgat!*, and *In Pursuit of Africa's Maneaters*, to name only a few.



CAST

Reine Swart as Chloe van Heerden

Reine Swart got starred in her first feature film, Die Pro in 2015. Thereafter, she starred in films such as Detour(2017) which is an international feature film. She has also played in various TV series, such as, Dominion (2015), Syfy's Z Nation (2017). Reine stars in The Empty Man (2018).



Thandi Puren as Ruby van Heerden

Thandi is a dedicated mother of two girls. She is selective about the work she accepts, but once she takes on a character, she plays the character's role with exceptional resourcefulness.

Thandi's most recent work was on the dark South African series, The Sober Companion. She also has a substantial amount of experience in theatre work. This body of theatre work includes, The Sound of Music, Masterclass, Requiem and Closer. Some of her feature films include, In Light of Is and Dead Easy,



Brandon Hugo Auret as Dr.reed

After receiving his bachelors degree in art form Pretoria Tech in 1994, Brandon's career has been filled with hard work. He was part of South Africa's most iconic soap opera, Isidingo. He also has experience in theatre with shows such as Boys Next Door, The Rivonia Trails, Kalushi and Hungary.

Some of his local feature films include, Hansie, Last Broken Darkness and Durban Poison. Brandon's international films include Alien Outpost and the very famous film District 9 and Chappie.



CAST



Dorothy Ann Gould

Dorothy Ann Gould is one of South Africa's premier actresses and teachers. She has a lot of experience in theater having performed in over 300 theatre productions. She appeared in numerous television series since 1976. Dorothy won the "Best Actress in a Multi Camera Series" in 2000, for her role in *Isidingo*.

Her international films and series include *Rouch*, *Runaway*, *Unfriended* and *Hooted and the Lady*. Dorothy can be considered a philanthropist of sorts, because of her involvement and endeavors to help people in struggling communities, in a teaching capacity.



Deànré Reiners as Adam

Deànré Reiners found his love for the arts at the early age of four. Ever since his first steps on stage Deànré has been working hard and pushing himself in the entertainment industry.

Deànré started his professional career as an actor in 2013, when he was casted for a part in *Binnerlanders*. In 2015, he worked on a few films, including *Dis Koue Kos*, *Skat*, international project *Baobab Boys* and *Mignon 'Mossie' van Wyk*.



Phoenix Group of Companies



Valhalla Productions
South Africa
André Frauenstein
T: 011 512 0155
andre@phoenixfilms.co.za

Phoenix Films
South Africa
Samuel Frauenstein
T: 011 512 0155
samuel@phoenixfilms.co.za

Phoenix group of Companies is a multifaceted organisation, made up of Valhalla Productions; which produces award-winning films and Phoenix films, which started out as a product integration company, and grew into a fully-fledged production house that proficiently markets those films.

Product integration is a large part of what we do. At Phoenix Films the aim is not to merely place products but to ensure that products and brands are seamlessly integrated into the film's narrative. The purpose of product integration is to stitch the brand into the film. Phoenix films pay detailed attention to the brand objectives, budget and exposure requirements put forward by the particular company when integrating the brand's name, logo, message and/or products into scenes and shots from the particular film.

At Phoenix Films, products and brands are integrated and activated through involvement with the associated sponsorships and extended advertising after the movie's release.



Phoenix Films **features and accolades**

TREURGROND (2015)

2015

Afrikaans Fiilm

Film of the year

Darrell Roodt: Director of the year

Tarryn-Tanille Prinsloo: Writer of the year

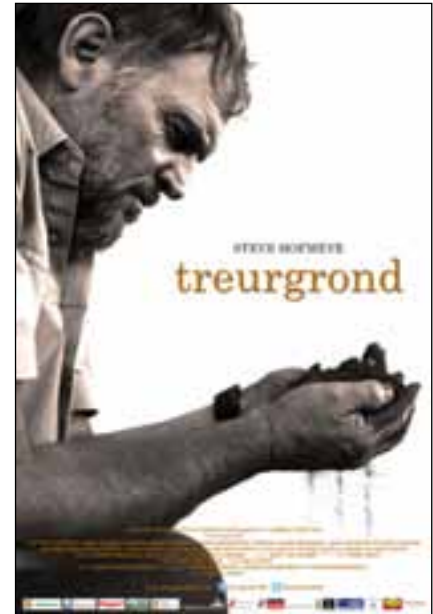
Showcased at the Silwerskerm Film Festival

TAU South Africa

Producer, **Andre Fraunstein**, receives an accolade

Writer, **Tarryn-Tanillie Prinsloo**, receives an accolade

2015/2016 Screened twice at Belgium Parliament



2016

SAFTA Awards

Jana Strydom: Nominated for Best Lead Actress

Sharleen Surtie Richards: Nominated for Best Supporting Actress

Huisgenoot Tempo

Treurgrond nominated Best Film of the Year

Richard Harris International Film Festival

Treurgrond won Best Feature Film

2017

RapidLion Film Festival

Steve Hofmeyr: Nominated for Best Lead Actor

Jana Stydom: Nominated for Best Lead Actress

Darrell Roodt: Nominated for Best Director

Pierre Smith: Nominated for Best Cinematography

Distrbution: Times Media Films

Cinema: 42 Screens

Phoenix Films features and accolades

TROUVOETE (2015)

2015

Afrikaans Fiilm

Film of the year

Darrell Roodt: Director of the year

Tarryn-Tanille Prinsloo: Writer of the year

Distribution: Crystal Brook DVD

Cinema: 42 Screens



SKOROKORO (2016)

2016

100 000 DVD units sold

2017

SAFTA

Skorokoro nominated Best Made for Television

Distribution: Crystal Brook DVD

Flourishing Films

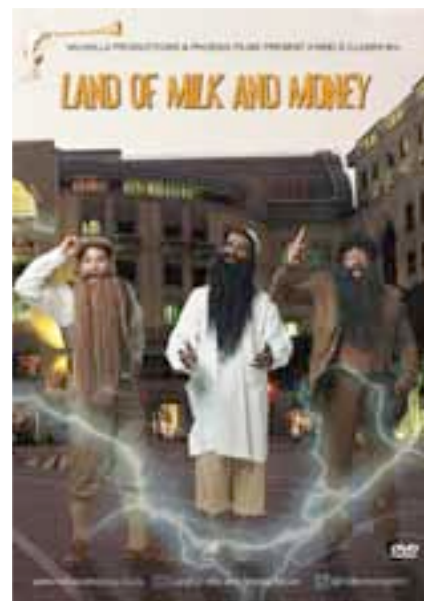


Phoenix Films **features and accolades**

LAND OF MILK AND MONEY (2016)

Distribution: Crystal Brook DVD

Flourishing Films



Mignon “Mossie” van Wyk (2015)

2015

Afrikaans Film

Deànré Reiners- Best Actor

Darrell Roodt: Director of the year

Tarryn-Tanille Prinsloo: Writer of the year

2016

World Premieres Film Festival Philippines:

Invited to Film Festival

Nominated for Intercontinental Award

Indie Karoo Film Festival

Invited to the Festival

Deànré Reiners: Received a special mention

Box Office Release(17 July 2016)

Rahway International Film Festival

Mignon Mossie van Wyk: Won Best Cinematography



Phoenix Films

features and accolades

Mignon "Mossie" van Wyk (2015)

2017

RapidLion Film Festival

Darrell Roodt: Nominated for Best Director

"Hello Adriaan": Nominated for Best Song

Richard Harris International Film Festival

Best Feature Film

Distribution: Crystal Brook DVD

Free Dolphin International

Cinema: 42 Screens





The characters and incidents portrayed and the names here in are fictitious and any similarity to the name, character or history of any actual person living or dead is entirely coincidental and unintentional.

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Siembamba Movie



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