

COFFIN ROCK

Written and directed by
RUPERT GLASSON

Starring
Robert Taylor
Lisa Chappell
Sam Parsonson

(2009, Australia)

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COFFIN ROCK LOG LINE

A perfect life. A drunken mistake. A terrifying transformation.
Be careful what you wish for...

COFFIN ROCK - One Line

A married woman desperate for a child sleeps with a young stranger whose claims on paternity turn out to be deadly.

COFFIN ROCK - Short Synopsis

In a desert fishing town, happily married Rob and Jess have been trying to have a baby for three long years and she is becoming desperate. In a drunken mistake, she sleeps with Evan, a young stranger come to town whose interest in her borders on the obsessive. The day she discovers she is pregnant, Jess' guilt turns to horror as Evan begins a terrifying transformation from stalker to psychopath, determined to prove paternity of the child and claim Jess for his own. In the vein of *Fatal Attraction* and *Cape Fear*, *Coffin Rock* is a story of infidelity, leading to harassment, terror and murder.

COFFIN ROCK - LONG SYNOPSIS

In a remote fishing town Jess and Rob have been trying for too long to get pregnant. Happy in every other way their relationship is strained by the lack of a child. For him it's hard; a manly, unofficial leader of the town it's a major blow to his ego. But for her it's terrible. Late thirties her clock is ticking loudly and the lack of a child is sending her more than a little nuts.

She finally convinces Rob to go to the city, to an IVF clinic, and give a sample. While Rob's in the back room the male receptionist, Evan, takes a shine to Jess. She doesn't even notice him but the next day he arrives in town with an obsession for Jess and a baby kangaroo that is more like his child than his pet.

He gets a job next door. He flirts with her, he gives her gifts and although she's committed to her husband, she enjoys the attention. She believes he's a sweet and innocent young man, but there's a dark force at work in Evan.

When the IVF results arrive in the mail Rob won't open them for fear they'll say he is infertile - he can't face it. An emotional fight ensues and Jess storms out angry. In this moment of weakness, fuelled by heartache and alcohol, she sleeps with Evan.

Torn with guilt, she flees from Evan back into the arms of her husband. Betrayed, Evan flies into a jealous rage and savagely beats to death his own beloved baby: the joey.

Two weeks later, Jess is pregnant. When Rob discovers his wife is going to have a baby he naturally believes he is the father and overjoyed, tells the whole town.

And so Evan comes calling for Jess. When she refuses to run away with him his transformation from stalker to psychopath takes flight. He runs a campaign of harassment, terror and murder that touches everyone in the town and eventually sees him on the run with Jess as his prisoner.

Pursued by the enraged and vengeful Rob, the three of them come to a final confrontation on a desolate cliff top. There, in an instant, Rob must decide if any of them are going to survive.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT:

Coffin Rock is a physical and psychological battle between a woman desperate to have a child with her husband, and an obsessive and dangerous man bent on asserting his paternal rights at any cost.

Like Cape Fear, the antagonist comes into a world that is already troubled. In Cape Fear it was infidelity, in Coffin Rock it is parenthood. Constructing a thriller around basic human issues like fidelity or parenthood adds weight to the story and forces an audience to question their own morality and in doing so creates that most elusive of movies - a meaningful and marketable thriller.

THE WORLD

A rough fishing town free of clichéd larrikins, a place of true dry humour and old friendships where secrets don't keep and affairs of any kind are grave and whispered news.

Shooting in South Australia, the wide open diamond light so common in Australian films is cut back to a brooding, almost monochromatic darkness reminiscent of the North Atlantic. The winter skies and dark blues and greens of the ocean bring a roughness to the world that underlines the masculinity of the place. Warmth is found in the love, the friendships and the fires burning in the hearths of homes.

COFFIN ROCK – THE PRODUCTION:

COFFIN ROCK, the directorial debut from Australian filmmaker Rupert Glasson, and from the Producer of Wolf Creek, under the ultrafilms banner. Produced with the assistance of Screen Australia and the South Australian Film Commission. Coffin Rock will be distributed in Australia by All Interactive Distribution, in Germany by Atlas Films and in the United Kingdom by High Fliers, with London-based Bankside Films handling International Sales.

Headlining the cast are Robert Taylor (Matrix, Vertical Limit, Ballykiss Angel), Lisa Chappell (McLeod's Daughters) and newcomer Sam Parsonson (Pacific, Love My Way).

Rounding out the ensemble cast are Geoff Morrell (Ned Kelly, Oscar and Lucinda, Marking Time) and Terry Camilleri (The Truman Show, Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure, Knowing).

Executive producers are Piers Tempest (Cochochi, Like Minds), with Phil Hunt and Compton Ross (London-based Head Gear Films).

The producers are David Lightfoot and Ayisha Davies.

KEY CAST BIOS:

ROBERT TAYLOR

Robert Taylor is one of Australia's busiest actors along with a burgeoning international film and television career. Robert has appeared as the lead opposite French star, Nadia Fares in the international feature Storm Warning, directed by Jamie Blanks (Urban Legend) for Dimension films in the USA. He also featured in Rogue, from one of Australia's hottest young directors - Greg McLean (Wolf Creek) and recently shot the lead in a television teaser for a major TV series proposed for ABC network in the USA.

Prior to this, he appeared as Kiron in the NBC telemovie Hercules in 2005, and worked with acclaimed American director, Peter Bogdanovich in The Mystery Of Natalie Wood (ABC network, USA). Robert has played the ongoing role of Vincent in the BBC series Ballykissangel, and had a lead role opposite Guy Pearce, and Rachael Griffiths in the feature film The Hard Word.

Robert is no stranger to international blockbusters, starring as Skip Taylor along side Chris O'Donnell in Vertical Limit (dir. Martin Campbell - Casino Royale, GoldenEye), and Agent Jones in The Matrix (dir. Larry & Andy Wachowski). In a career covering 20 years, he has also starred in many productions in Australia and the USA such as Ned Kelly; After The Rain; First Daughter; Tales of The South Seas; Muggers; Twisted Tales; The Feds; Stingers; Phage, and Nash's Vision (USA).

Robert will next be seen as the lead in the new feature from the Producer of Wolf Creek, Coffin Rock in 2009 (Bankside Films, UK).

He is a graduate of the prestigious West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA).

LISA CHAPPELL

Lisa's film, theatre and television experience spans the Tasman Sea as Lisa regularly works in New Zealand where she was born, as well as Australia, where she trained at The Actors Centre in Sydney. She is best known for her much-loved character Claire

McLeod in McLeod's Daughters, and has also appeared on television in Hercules, City Life, Small Claims 3 and Stingers. Lisa has two Logies to her name including 2002 for Best New Female Talent, and the Silver Logie in 2004.

Her theatre history includes many productions from New Zealand including Thirty Nine Steps for Auckland Theatre Company, The Homecoming for Potent Pause Productions, The Merchant of Venice, Chicago for Auckland Operatic, The Nice Show and The Sneeze for Independent Theatre Co., The Lover for Pumphouse Theatre, The Herbal Bed for Court Theatre, NZ and All My Sons for Auckland Theatre Co.. She has also directed Girl Talk and Up the Garden Path in New Zealand.

Lisa has also independently released her first music album; When Then Is Now which showcases her strong vocal and songwriting talents in the contemporary folk genre. The album was co-produced with Rick Price. In 2007 Lisa was cast in the short film Crossbow which was later selected for Sundance, Venice and the Sydney Film Festival. Most recently Lisa performed the lead role of Jess in the feature film Coffin Rock.

SAM PARSONSON

Rising star Sam Parsonson made his television television debut at the age of 17 on the Channel Seven Australian Drama Headland. Sam went on to appear in the critically acclaimed Australian Drama Series Love My Way for 2 seasons, along side some of Australia's finest actors including Claudia Karvan, Asher Keddie, Dan Wyllie and Brendan Cowell. His performance in the role 'Dylan' earned him a nomination for a Logie Award for Most Outstanding Young Talent in 2007.

His other television credits include All Saints and Double Trouble.

Sam has also accrued a list of theatre credits from a young age, including Summer Rain, Shakespeare Unleashed and Duologue from Titus and Andronicus for the Shakespeare Festival.

In 2008 Sam completed filming Stephen Speilberg's US miniseries The Pacific, due to air in 2009. The 10-part mini-series from the creators of "Band of Brothers" tells the intertwined stories of three Marines during America's battle with the Japanese in the Pacific during World War II.

In 2008 Sam took on his first lead role in a feature film, Coffin Rock, which is also due for release in 2009. This tense psychological thriller tells the story of a woman unable to conceive a child with her husband, and in a desperate mistake, sleeps with a young stranger whose claims on paternity turn out to be deadly.

TERRY CAMILLERI

Terry may be best known in the role as Napoleon in Bill & Ted's

Excellent Adventure. He began his professional acting career at twenty in Australia. Since then he has worked in Theatre, TV and Film. His first major film role was playing the lead role in Peter Weir's first film THE CARS THAT ATE PARIS as well as Peter's THE TRUMAN SHOW.

Some other noted Australian directors he has worked with are; Bruce Beresford - MONEY MOVERS, Phillip Noyce - BACKROADS and GOD KNOWS WHY BUT IT WORKS, Chris Noonan - CASS, Jim Sharman - THE NIGHT THE PROWLER. British director Richard Lester - SUPERMAN III.

Terry has lived in the US for twenty five years and has worked in films directed by Phil Alden Robinson - IN THE MOOD, Steven Herek - BILL & TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE, Stuart Rosenberg - LET'S GET HARRY, Martin Brest- GIGLI, Noah Stern - INVISIBLES and 7 SONGS, Michael Tierney - EVICTED (for which he received a Best Supporting Actor award from The Melbourne Underground Film Festival in Australia). Terry has appeared on such television series as HILL ST. BLUES, NYPD BLUE, JAG, 18 WHEELS OF JUSTICE, INFERNO, THE DISTRICT, BLUE HEELERS and CARLA CAMETTI PD and a recurring role on the long running series RENEGADE.

He recently worked with Alex Proyas in KNOWING and will be seen in the soon to be released COFFIN ROCK, directed by Rupert Glassen . A film he is most proud of.

GEOFF MORRELL

Geoff is one of Australia's most seasoned and respected actors. He has a history spanning 20 years in the business on films including Blackrock, Heavens Burning, Oscar and Lucinda, Looking for Alibrandi, Mirror, Ned Kelly, Right Here Right Now, Rogue, Lucky Miles, Ten Empty, The View from Greenhaven Drive and most recently Coffin Rock. His Television credits are vast and include the highly acclaimed Blue Murder, Murder Call, The Track, Grass Roots, My Husband My Killer, Changi, The Secret Life of Us, Farscape, Marking Time, Stingers, Blue Heelers, All Saints, Curtin, Bastard Boys, The Falls, Rogue Nation. Geoff was also the recipient of the 2000 AFI Award for Best Performance by a Actor in a Leading Role (TV Drama).

Production Company:

ultrafilms is dynamic Australian based production company with offices in Melbourne and Adelaide. Specializing mainly in the production of feature film with an emphasis on genre, it is also involved in short and documentary film.

Founded by its Principal, David Lightfoot in the 90s it and or David have been involved in approximately 50 feature films and long form drama. These include Rolf DeHeer's 'Bad Boy Bubby' and 'The Quiet Room', Richard Flanagan's 'The Sound Of One Hand Clapping', Paul Cox's 'Innocence' and 'Lust and Revenge', Sue Brook's 'Japanese Story and Greg McLeans' 'Wolf Creek and 'Rogue'. Since Ayisha Davies, David's Co-Producer joined the fold it's latest film is Rupert Glasson's psychological thriller, 'Coffin Rock'.

Ultrafilms has will next be producing Rupert Glasson's 'The Vault', Matt Wheeldon's 'Sleepwalker' and Rob George's 'Happy'.

FILMMAKER BIOS:

Producer – David Lightfoot

Australian film producer David Lightfoot is one of the most experienced and regarded production executives in the country. Credits include the action/thriller feature film 'Rogue' for The Weinstein Company and Roadshow Films (2007), and the hugely successful 2005 horror/thriller 'Wolf Creek', both written and directed by Greg McLean.

He's currently finished Production on the Screen Australia financed thriller 'Coffin Rock', with worldwide sales being handled by Bankside Films in London. In addition he is executive producing Michael Craft's psychological thriller 'Storage', in post production in Queensland.

He also worked on 'Bad Boy Bubby' (1994) as the Production Supervisor/ Associate Producer, was Producer of the mini-series, 'Three Forever' (1996), an Australian-Italian co-production, and Producer of the feature film 'Spank!' (1998). He was also Co-Producer and Line Producer of 'The Sound of One Hand Clapping' (1997); Consulting Producer on 'Innocence' (1999) and Line Producer on 'Japanese Story' (2003).

David Lightfoot commenced a traineeship at the South Australian Film Corporation in 1982. Since then, he has held numerous positions in the film industry, including numerous feature film credits in roles as varied as Location Manager, Production Manager and 1st Assistant Director before becoming a producer. He has worked on numerous occasions with international renowned directors including Rolf De Heer, Greg McLean and Paul Cox, has line produced many other productions as well, and has consulted on numerous occasions to the S.A. Film Corporation, Screenwest, NSW FTO, leading film study education institutions and completion guarantors.

He is also the founding director of the Shorts Film Festival, an Adelaide based National festival of short Australian films that awards the winning filmmaker with an all-expenses-paid trip to the Cannes Film Festival and offers the second biggest prize pool for a short film festival in Australia.

Producer – Ayisha Davies

Formerly a literary manager, Ayisha represented some of Australia's most promising and established creatives including David Lightfoot and the filmmakers of *SAW*.

Prior to '*Coffin Rock*', she was 2nd production manager on *Rogue*, produced James Wan's music video for Warner Music and Damian Walshe-Howling's short film '*The Bloody Sweat Hit*' which has been selected to screen at St Kilda International Film Festival, Miami Film Festival, Shorts Film Festival, London's RUSHES Soho, Flickerfest, Movie Extra and most recently sold to MTV Italy.

She has a background in production on Australian Television Drama and while heading the Literary Division of STI, represented, mentored, script and story-edited a number of projects including, collectively, AFI, AWG and Inside Film Award winners as well as filmmakers invited to and/or in competition at Cannes, Sundance, Tribeca, Flickerfest, St Kilda Film Festival, Tropfest and The Melbourne International Film Festival.

She was also the Director of Development at ZTudio, the production division of STI, and managed the Best Unproduced Screenplay Award as part of the annual *Inside Film Awards*, broadcast nationally with some of Australia's most celebrated talent and judges.

Under the ultrafilms banner with David Lightfoot, Ayisha is producing a slate of projects including Rupert Glasson's follow up feature and 's debut feature '*Sleepwalker*'. '*Coffin Rock*' is represented by International Sales Agent Bankside Films, London.

Writer and Director – Rupert Glasson

Rupert began his career as a graphic designer and art director in Australia and the UK. In 2003 he graduated from the director's course at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School where he was awarded the Screen Sound Award for Excellence in Directing. His short film *Teratoma* screened at many international festivals including Sundance 2004 where it was paired with the Grand Jury Prize winning *Primer*.

Since graduating he has directed music videos for Warners and Sony Music as well as numerous commercials and short films including *Real Thing* that won two Awards at Tropfest 2007. In addition to writing and directing he has worked as 1st AD, editor, and compositor on commercials and feature films.

This broad depth of experience was brought together in 2009 when he completed his first feature film as writer/director. Produced by Ayisha Davies and David Lightfoot (*Wolf Creek*) *Coffin Rock* is

a Screen Australia financed thriller shot on location in South Australia, with worldwide sales being handled by Bankside Films in London.

Rupert is currently in New York writing two films: A feelgood multi-plot drama about having and being parents, and the other, a violently funny bank heist.

COFFIN ROCK

KEY CAST

Rob	Rob Taylor
Jess	Lisa Chappell
Evan	Sam Parsonson
George	Geoff Morrell
Tony	Terry Camilleri
Megan	Jody Dry
Benny	Joseph Del Re

KEY CREW

Director	Rupert Glasson
Screenplay by	Rupert Glasson
Producer	David Lightfoot
Producer	Ayisha Davies
Executive Producers	Piers Tempest
Executive Producers	Phil Hunt & Compton Ross
Director of Photography	David Foreman A.C.S
Editor	Adrian Rostirolla
Production Designer	Tony Cronin
Music by	John Gray
Casting by	Brooke Howden