



LEAVING IS JUST THE BEGINNING

# LEAVE NOW

a film by  
STEPHEN FROST

*"...a chiaroscuro of emotion and electricity..."*

BURNT ORCHID FILMS PRESENTS A TRACY RUSSELL/STEPHEN FROST/ADRIAN BAIN PRODUCTION. A STEPHEN FROST FILM: "LEAVE NOW" DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: REBECCA GERKEN PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JOSEPH DANCE  
SYLVIE BOLIOLI JERRY ANDERSON KANE CANTELL LEAH LAWRY-JOHNS TRACY RUSSELL ISABELLA RUSSELL PIERI BARBARA MANSFIELD LEE MCQUEEN GUY SCANTLEBURY  
COSTUME DESIGNER: SAMMY JO ROBERTSON CASTING: AMANDA RUSSELL SOUND: ANDREW HEDGES MUSIC: STEPHEN FROST LIGHTING DESIGN: MICHAEL PAUL THOMPSON EDITED BY: STEPHEN FROST HEAD: AMANDA RUSSELL  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: TRACY RUSSELL STEPHEN FROST ADRIAN BAIN PRODUCER: TRACY RUSSELL WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY: STEPHEN FROST

BURNT ORCHID FILMS  
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# LEAVE NOW

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

A grief-stricken woman revisits an old seaside haunt where her meeting with an adolescent boy re-opens channels of communication with the past.

Are the ghosts real, or all in the mind? And if so, whose mind?

In LEAVE NOW, two separate worlds pass through each other, like sunlight through mist, where love is lost and found, and holding on means letting go.



## LONG SYNOPSIS

A grief-stricken woman, Rose Montefiore, revisits the seaside town where she first met her late husband. However, instead of finding the peace and quiet she seeks, Rose is disturbed by recurring problems with an electrical fault and has to call upon the services of local electrician, Titus, and his son, Robbie. When Rose saves Robbie's life after an accident she finds herself caught up in the lives of those around her, past and present, who need her help.

After she discovers a forgotten phonograph in the attic and listens to the distant voices recorded on an old wax cylinder, she begins to unlock a secret that lies deep within the house itself. Are the ghosts real, or all in the mind? And if so, whose mind? In LEAVE NOW, two separate worlds pass through each other, like sunlight through mist, where love is lost and found, and holding on means letting go.

‘A hauntingly beautiful film’ - Swindon Independent Film Festival 2018

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## LEAVE NOW

# CAST

### SYLVIE BOLIOLI (Rose)

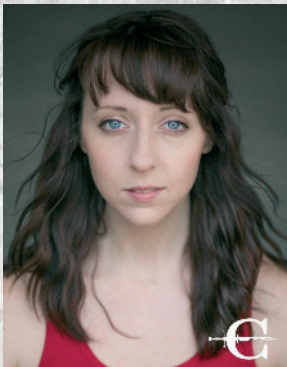


Sylvie was born December 20, 1964 in Menton (France) where she spent her childhood. She started her career in show business at an early age. She wrote, directed, produced and acted in her first play when she was only nine years old. She then joined the "Jeune Theatre du Soleil" where she toured the South of France performing Greek classics. After gaining an MBA in Management and Marketing, she went on to work in England as a magician's assistant whilst studying drama at RADA. She appeared on the British stage and subsequently on Mexican and European television.



### JERRY ANDERSON (Titus)

Jerry was born in Worcester, England on September 30th 1961. He worked as a Firefighter and later as a civil servant before becoming an actor for TV and film, as well as making many theatre appearances. He was notably second lead in 'Instant Death' alongside Lou Ferrigno. Jerry is also a writer of screenplays and comedy sketches.



### LEAH LAWRY-JOHNS (Laura)

Leah Lawry-Johns is an actress and casting director, known for The Factory (2016), Leave Now (2017) and The Flight of Iro and Casper (2015).



### KANE CANTELL (Robbie)

Kane was born in Greenwich, London, in 1997. He studied drama at East Kent College playing roles from Shakespeare to Bennett. As well as acting, Kane is a gifted singer and dancer, as well as sporting fanatic for sprinting, rugby, boxing and judo.

‘Lyrical beauty and original narrative’ - Brighton Rocks Film Festival 2018

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# LEAVE NOW PRODUCTION

STEPHEN FROST Director



Stephen was born in Suffolk, UK in 1959. He won Best Director at the Rob Knox Film Festival in 2009 for his first short film 'Is Anybody there?'

Stephen is also a composer and his films specifically use the soundtrack to tell his stories in uniquely atmospheric ways.

'Leave Now' has recently picked up Best Film and Best Screenplay at the Brighton Rocks Film Festival 2018.

TRACY RUSSELL Producer



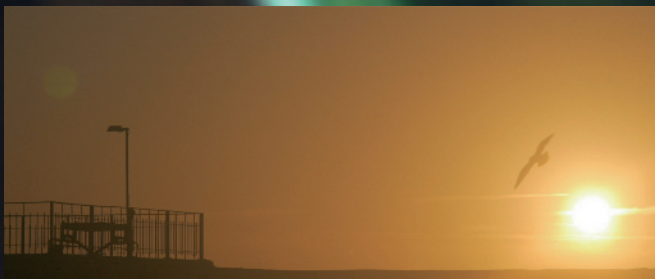
Tracy Russell was born in Chester, UK, in 1960. Tracy is a writer, actor, voice-over artist, and historical interpreter.

'Leave Now' is her first film production.

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# LEAVE NOW SCREENSHOTS



A measured and sensitive film about loss and redemption  
...stunning cinematography and music...  
'Leave Now' is a chiaroscuro of emotion and electricity with  
a great deal to discover within its quiet yet tumultuous exterior.

THE GREAT TREE 2018

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# LEAVE NOW

## DIRECTOR'S Q&A

*What was your inspiration for 'Leave Now'?*

I started with three characters - in fact three disembodied voices recorded in 1914 on an old phonograph. I stumbled across them on the web and became intrigued, not least because I had the strong impression that I was somehow listening to ghosts. And in a sense I was. Who were they? What became of them? What was their story? I wrote my script in order to find out.

*Can you say a bit more about the planning of the story - did you plan the narrative and plot points from beginning to end, or allow inspiration to do the revealing?*

I'm a devout believer in starting my scripts with 'character'. Character creates story, and story creates structure. I don't know what my script will be until I finish it. I know a lot of writers like to plot out their narrative before they start their script, and that's fine, but for me the danger is that in order to facilitate a pre-conceived plot the characters may have to behave in a way that doesn't ring true - in other words, out-of-character. Our bookshelves groan under the weight of self-help screenwriting manuals and they all seem to espouse what has become a sacred, immutable truth: 'know your ending'. But I believe it is more important to 'know your characters'; if you do, they will work out the ending for you.

*What films have inspired you or informed your own film-making journey?*

I remember being blown away by the spaghetti westerns of Sergio Leone. I watched one again recently, and in some ways it didn't quite hold up to our modern, sophisticated gaze, but his use of a unique visual texture and powerful music is still something I aspire to. They are great examples of films where the way you tell the story is more important than the story itself. Another influence is undoubtedly Nicolas Roeg - 'Walkabout' and 'Don't Look Now' both tap me on the shoulder from time to time during my own film-making process. The title of 'Leave Now' is a little private homage to the latter film.

*What advice would you give to an independent filmmaker about to embark on their first project?*

Preparation, preparation, preparation. Then get ready to discard it. Tell the story you want to tell, in the way you want to tell it. Seek out advice but be careful who you take it from: some people mean well but can say quite damaging things because good advice is hard to articulate clearly, or they are just telling you how they would do it, which is not the same as it being a better way; a small minority of people, I'm afraid, are out to undermine you in order to inflate their own careers or egos - avoid them; and many people are absolutely brilliant at giving advice with tremendous wisdom and generosity, so surround yourself with them and listen to what they have to say with a completely open mind. However, at the end of the day all the decisions are yours. Films are of course a collaborative endeavour, but it's your story, no one else's. Never compromise on the important things - you only have to get things right once. Work hard, save up, and put your money where your mouth is. You might have to wait - I didn't make my first film until I was nearly 50. Be lucky. And finally, remember that, to paraphrase President Kennedy, we choose to make films not because it is easy but because it is hard.