

# The British are coming!

Brit directors with stellar debuts coming our way...



**NAME J BLAKESON**  
**DIRECTED THE DISAPPEARANCE**  
**OF ALICE CREED (MARCH 2010)**  
**COULD BE THE NEW DANNY BOYLE**

Before his cracking feature debut *The Disappearance Of Alice Creed*, Blakeson was a jobbing screenwriter, churning out scripts that mostly sat on shelves (though he did pen a draft of sequel *The Descent: Part 2*). Eyeing his shot at directing, Blakeson put pen to paper for *Creed* only after setting himself spartan limitations – three characters, predominantly one location, windows taped up so he could shoot night or day. “I’ve always loved films like *Panic Room*, which do a ‘situation to the limit,’” he tells *Buzz*. “You take one situation and beat the shit out of it.”

*Creed*’s ‘situation’ involves one abducted rich girl (Gemma Arterton) and her two captors – one meticulous (Eddie Marsan), the other mercurial (Martin Compston) – holding her for ransom. But by magnifying shifting power dynamics and ramping up some pressure-cooker tension while avoiding kidnap-flick clichés (tearful parents, ransom notes, drop-offs) and lobbing in some ferocious twists, Blakeson has concocted a thriller pumped with anxiety and ambiguity.

“I wanted to show that kidnapping is a humiliating, terrifying thing,” says the director, who subverts audience expectations after a shocking opening that sees a writhing, weeping Arterton bundled into a room, stripped naked and handcuffed to a bed. “Kidnappers become like parents,” Blakeson explains. “They have to do everything for their

victim – feed them, dress them, wash them, help them go to the toilet...”

After *Creed*’s world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival, Danny Boyle’s agent strolled up to Blakeson to tell him he thought the film was the best debut since *Shallow Grave*. High praise indeed, which marks Blakeson as one to watch in the next decade...

## And three more...



**NAME JORDAN SCOTT**  
**DIRECTED CRACKS**  
**(OUT NOW)**  
**COULD BE THE NEW**  
**SOFIA COPPOLA**

With a cast lead by Eva Green, Ridley’s talented daughter has crafted a *Lord Of The Flies*-style psycho-drama set in a ‘30s boarding school. “It’s my family’s line of work, so the idea to become a filmmaker came pretty early on,” says Scott.



**NAME TOM HARPER**  
**DIRECTED THE**  
**SCOUTING BOOK FOR**  
**BOYS (5 MARCH 2010)**  
**COULD BE THE NEW**

**SHANE MEADOWS**  
 After two acclaimed shorts (*Cherries*, *Cubs*), Harper graduates to features with his bold, tragic debut. Thomas Turgoose is the Norfolk teen who helps his bosom buddy (Holliday Grainger) run away from their caravan park.

**I WANTED TO SHOW THAT KIDNAPPING IS A HUMILIATING, TERRIFYING THING**  
**J BLAKESON**



**NAME LINDY HEYMANN**  
**DIRECTED KICKS**  
**(SPRING 2010)**  
**COULD BE THE NEW**  
**TODD SOLONDZ**

Heymann's debut follows two football-mad Liverpoolian lasses who take drastic action when they learn their Anfield idol is going to Real Madrid. Shifts into psycho-sexual thriller territory, but Heymann proves adept at handling the girls' weird friendship. **MM**

PLANET PHOTOS



**THE FIGHTER**

**ETA 26 NOVEMBER 2010**

**Wahlberg! Bale! O. Russell! Fight!**

A few issues ago, we enlightened you about this boxing biopic of underdog welterweight champion "Irish" Mickey Ward, hailed as a blue-collar class hero in his native Massachusetts. As we reported, David O. Russell had grabbed the reins from Darren Aronofsky, Mark Wahlberg got punch-drunk training to play Ward (when we met him recently, his injured hand was wrapped in a support) and Christian Bale stepped into boxing boots once filled by Brad Pitt as the man who moulds Ward into champ material.

But now we're frightened... It looks like Bale has re-emaciated his poor frame to play Ward's half-brother Dicky Eklund. He's looking *Machinist*-style gaunt, although Eklund did suffer a grim descent into drug addiction. So much to love and fear: Amy Adams trying to go "gritty" as Ward's bartender girlfriend; two legendary screamers – Bale and O. Russell – slugging it out on the same set... Wahlberg almost feels like an afterthought, though he looks suitably ripped in boxing trunks.

As for *Nailed*, O. Russell's planned black comedy with Jessica Biel and Jake Gyllenhaal, sources near the production insist that it has been shelved for good after having the financial rug pulled out from under its feet. Which means Biel's turn as a small-town waitress who turns rampant nymphomaniac thanks to a nail in her head can only exist in our fevered imaginations... **MM**

**WALBERG GOT PUNCH-DRUNK TRAINING TO PLAY THE BOXER**