

verve
PICTURES

Released 14 October 2022
Running time 72 minutes
Certificate TBC



@allisvanityfilm
#AllIsVanity



For all publicity enquiries, please contact
chris@chrislawrance.com

A woman with blonde hair is looking into a mirror in a vanity room. The scene is dimly lit with warm, orange-toned lighting. The word "SYNOPSIS" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the image.

SYNOPSIS

Logline

A series of surreal events unfold after the disappearance of a makeup artist during a fashion shoot.

Short Synopsis

An eccentric photographer, his eager assistant, a jaded make-up artist and a bored model gather for a fashion shoot in a London warehouse. But when one of their number disappears, events take a turn for the surreal.

Long Synopsis

Premiering to critical acclaim at the 2021 London Film Festival, Marcos Mereles' tongue-in-cheek, genre-defying first feature explores the egos and idiosyncrasies of a fashion shoot gone wrong.

An eccentric photographer (Sid Phoenix), his eager assistant (James Aroussi) and a jaded make-up artist (Rosie Steel) are waiting for a model (Isabelle Bonfrer) to arrive. They've never used this London warehouse location before, but it's not like anything out of the ordinary. Yet when one of their number disappears overnight, events take a turn for the surreal. With stylish cinematography and strong performances from a cast of rising stars, *All is Vanity* marks out writer-director Marcos Mereles as one to watch.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

All is Vanity is a project where genre boundaries are blended, this allowed me to have certain freedom that otherwise wouldn't have worked if I would have relied on the elements of a specific genre. My approach was to look after the needs of the story, and this meant introducing narrative elements that lead to a structure that answered the plot points in the story and the character's intentions. By tying up together all the stages in the story, I made sure that the genre-transition (or mixture) would be more fluent, and this also gives a connection between all the elements in the somewhat surreal and unexpected world of the film.

All is Vanity explores the exhausting desire to achieve something meaningful and being 'stuck' in a desire that sometimes cannot be fulfilled, this is told from the perspective of individuals in the creative industries of film and fashion. During production there were many challenges to face, such as directing actors to portray two characters with opposite personalities, and narratively speaking, making the most out of a single location, switching back and forth between the stages of the film, and also filming in a language that's not my own. Having already some experience in making short films in languages other than my native Spanish, such as Italian, Dutch and Russian, has helped me overcome the barrier of making *All is Vanity*, my first feature and English language film.

All is Vanity was written to create a diverse range of responses from audiences. I aspire that, as a story where limits are not completely set, it would make people wonder about how far things can go for the characters, since it could be a larger universe that blends mystery, drama, suspense, fantasy, comedy, magic realism and much more.

Marcos Mereles



CAST

Sid Phoenix - The Photographer

On screen he has appeared alongside Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant in *Florence Foster Jenkins* (dir. Stephen Frears); Ben Foster and Jesse Plemons in *The Program* (dir. Stephen Frears); and Alice Lowe, Laura Fraser and Nicholas Pinnock in *Dark Encounter* (dir. Carl Strathie) He won a New York Film Award for his portrayal of World War I poet Siegfried Sassoon in *The Burying Party*. He has appeared on stage in roles as varied as Nick Carraway in *The Great Gatsby*, Dionysus in *The Bacchae*, and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in London's West End. He is attached to several upcoming projects, including *The Prayer Wheel* from Citadel Pictures, *The Evil in Me* from Strathie Films, and *Phonos 1* from Flamingo House.

Yaseen Aroussi - The Intern

All is Vanity is Yaseen's feature film acting debut.

Previous credits include: Stephen Frears' *Quiz* (ITV, 2020), and in theatre, as Ben in *Days of Significance* by Roy Williams at Arcola Theatre. He is a member of the National Youth Theatre and is currently at the Fontainebleau School of Acting, the sister school of The Guildhall School of Music & Drama, studying under the guidance of Christian Burgess.

Isabelle Bonfrer - The Model

Isabelle is a Meisner-trained actress currently appearing as Cordelia in The CW's *Pandora*. Her credits include Courtney Love in ITV's *Autopsy* and Jake Kuhn's *A Little Lost*.



Rosie Steel - The Makeup Artist

After graduating in musical theatre studies, she made the switch from stage to screen, where she's landed roles in Peter Blach's feature *Seagull* alongside Jessica Hynes, and Benjamin Rider's *Suburban Coffin* - a role for which she received a Best Supporting Actress nomination at the Maverick Movie Awards. Rosie has recently completed filming on series 2 of Gage Oxley's *A Series of Light*, which appears on Amazon Prime later in the year, and Chris Hallas's comedy short *Four Minute Warning*, in which she stars alongside Olivier Award Winner, Sam Tutty.

Christopher Sherwood - The Director

Christopher's film credits include *Our Little Heaven* (Grand Jury Prize Winner at the Barcelona International Film Festival and Grand Jury Prize Winner at London Film Awards) and the short film *Mr. Alan on Saturday* (official selection at Portland Film Festival). TV credits include *Kamikaze* (HBO Nordic, 2021), *Liar 2* (ITV), *Tripped* (E4), *Conspiracy* (Channel 5). And in theatre, he was part of *Border Control* (Vault Festival, Nominated Best New Production), *Different from the Others* (The White Bear, Nominated Best New Play, Offie Awards), *Billy Bud* (Royal Opera House, Winner Best New Opera, Olivier Awards), *For A Life* (Theatre 54, Shetler Studios, New York - Nominated Best Actor), *Little Revolution* (The Almeida), *Where Will We Live?* (Southwark Playhouse).



FILMMAKERS

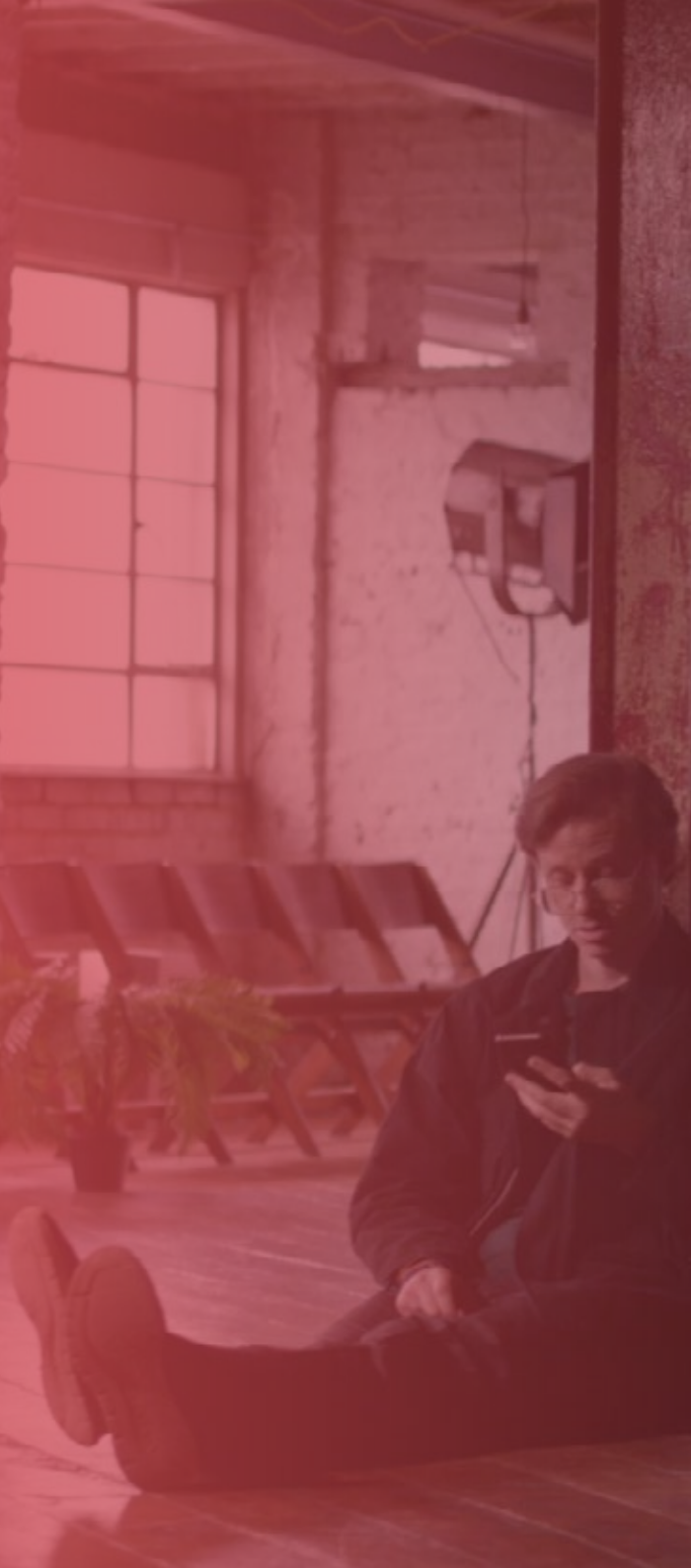
Marcos Mereles - Writer, Producer & Director

Argentine born, London based award-winning filmmaker.

Between 2016 - 2019, he made a series of shorts in Argentina, Italy, Russia and the Netherlands. His work has been selected in competition at Oscar qualifying festivals such as Cleveland ('FilmSlam Award' nominee) and Nashville ('Graveyard Shift Short Award' nominee), and festivals like Fantasia, Manchester (winner of 'Best Experimental'), FilmBath, Imagine Film Festival (Netherlands, nominated for the 'Silver Méliès Award' for Best European Fantasy Short), Cyprus (European Film Award-qualifying festival, International Competition), Capri Hollywood ('Capri Short Cut Award' nominee) and many others. *All is Vanity* (UK, 2021) is his first feature film.

Murat Ersahin - Cinematographer

Born in Turkey. Murat is a London-based cinematographer with an extensive experience in the camera department. Working in the different areas, such as AC, Focus Puller and gaffer, his credits include feature films, advertisement and music videos. Working in renowned productions in Turkey as well as in the UK, including the BIFA nominated *County Lines* (dir. Henry Blake). And as a director of photography he has worked in narrative projects and music videos, collaborating with artists such as Noizy, Dutchavelli, Gzuz, Dappy, Ay Em, Carnage, Tolani, Varrosi and many others. *All is Vanity* is his first feature film as Cinematographer.



Damian Tetelbaum - Editor

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Since 2011 he has edited three fiction feature films, six feature documentaries, four documentary TV series and a dozen of short films, including *Catalina y el Sol* and *Hotel City Plaza*, both by Anna Paula Hönig (official selection at Berlinale and Clermont Ferrand), and *Tigre* by Silvina Schnicer and Ulises Porra (official selection at San Sebastian and TIFF) He's developing his feature film debut with the FFA (Germany) and pre-producing a short film to be shot in France with the support of CNC.

Tristan Seewer - Composer

Music composer working for different types of media including music for films, documentaries, theatre, and dance performance. His compositions have been played by many ensembles and orchestras in the world, including the Budapest Film Orchestra in Hungary and the orchestra of the University of Music of Geneva in Switzerland. Other works have been performed in Portugal and Los Angeles (USA) in collaboration with Immediate Music. *All is Vanity* is Tristan's first feature film as Composer.

Phoebe Shu-Ching Chan - Costume Designer

Phoebe is a trained costume designer currently studying MA Performance Design and Practice at Central Saint Martin. Previous credits include the short films *Block A-10* (dir. Mario Manas, 2019) and *The Wake* (dir. George Graham, 2018). *All is Vanity* is her first time designing for a feature film.

Written, Produced and Directed by
Marcos Mereles

Cast
Sid Phoenix as The Photographer
Yaseen Aroussi as The Intern
Isabelle Bonfrer as The Model
Rosie Steel as The Make-up Artist
Christopher Sherwood as The
Director

Supporting Cast
David Sayers
Sam Halpenny
Jonathan Harden

Co-Producer
Nelson Mereles

Director of Photography
Murat Ersahin

Editor
Damian Tetelbaum

Costume Designer
Phoebe Shu-Ching Chan

Music
Tristan Seewer

First Assitant Director
Marta de Nitto Personé

Hair & Makeup
Karolina Pociute

1st AC
Alan Johnson

2nd AC
Timothy Bambina

Gaffer
Timothy Pinheiro

Spark
Harun Mumcoglu

Sound Recordist
Ozkan Cosgun & Joao Correia

Set Dresser
Tergelsaran Myagmarsuren

Cabinet Prop Maker
Janet Caddick

First Assistant Editor
Cecilia Astelarra

Assistant Editor
Alba Avila Jacome

Colourist
Damian Tetelbaum

VFX Artist
Ignacio La Rosa

Main and End Titles
BY-PIEL

Sound Supervising Editor
Mercedes Gaviria

Sound Re-Recording Mixer
Marcos Canosa

Foley Artist
Francisco Pedemonte

Sound Effects Editor
Juan Giobio

Dialogue Editors
Mercerdes Gaviria
Marcos Canosa