


# ANDY SERKIS THOMAS BRODIE-SANGSTER AISLING LOFTUS

DIRECTED BY IAN FITZGIBBON

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international  
film festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2011

When time is precious  
living can't wait



# DEATH OF A SUPERHERO

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY ANTHONY McCARTEN

BAVARIA FILM INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS A PRODUCTION OF BAVARIA PICTURES AND GRAND PICTURES IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH PICTURE CIRCLE, CINEMENDO, CINEPOSTPRODUCTION AND BAVARIA FILM  
STARRING ANDY SERKIS THOMAS BRODIE-SANGSTER AISLING LOFTUS MICHAEL McELHATTON SHARON HORGAN JESSICA SCHWARZ SCREENPLAY ANTHONY McCARTEN PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARK GERAGHTY COSTUME DESIGNER KATHY STRACHAN  
HEAD OF FILM LOUISE MYLER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MARIUS RUHLAND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CHRISTOPH VON SCHÖNBURG EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BEN ROSENKIND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ROS HUBBARD EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LOUISE KIELY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SIEGFRIED WAGNER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER VERA ZARUBKINA EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALESSANDRO CIOFFI EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PHILIP HANN  
PRODUCED BY THE GILBERT MÖHLER PAUL MYLER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AISLING McELMEEL LUKAS BATHYÁNY TILO SEIFFERT CO-PRODUCERS MARK PORSCHÉ MICHAEL COLDEWEY CHRISTIAN SOMMER PRODUCED BY MATTHIAS ESCHÉ JAN S. KAISER  
ANTHONY McCARTEN PAUL DONOVAN PRODUCED BY ASTRID KAHMKE PHILIPP KREUZER MICHAEL GARLAND EDITOR TONY CRANSTOUN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TOM FAHRMANN DIRECTED BY IAN FITZGIBBON

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# SYNOPSIS



Donald is a different kind of superhero. In real life he is sick and feels like a peeled potato. But the 15-year-old has an outstanding talent to animate with pen and ink a dark world in which an invincible superhero battles a deadly nemesis and his sexy sidekick. But while Donald's cartoon hero is unbreakable and unable to love, he himself is utterly breakable and bound for love.

In a rollercoaster ride he learns of life through his unorthodox psychologist Adrian King, discovers love with the rebellious Shelly and makes peace with his parents while his time is running out. And so, on the edge of the Irish Sea and on the edge of life, Donald finds himself in the heart of love: an ordinary superhero who proves the important thing it's not how you leave this life but how you live it.

With its innovative mix of live action and animation, *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO* tells a blisteringly modern love story that is tender, comic and truthful. Directed by Ian FitzGibbon (*Perrier's Bounty*), this English language feature is based on the homonymous novel by internationally acclaimed author Anthony McCarten, who also wrote the screenplay. It stars Andy Serkis (*Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*), Thomas Brodie-Sangster (*Love Actually*, *Nowhere Boy*, *Bright Star*), Jessica Schwarz (*Perfume*, *Buddenbrooks*, *The Door*), among others.

# THE PRODUCTION STORY



In May 2007 film producer Astrid Kahmke of Bavaria Pictures discovered the novel *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO* by Anthony McCarten, which had been short-listed for the German Youth Literature Prize and had been a critical success internationally. It told the story of Donald, a precocious fifteen-year-old who is seriously ill with leukemia but desperate to find his first true love before time runs out. First published in 2006, this coming-of-age tale is a stylish mix of screenplay, comic book and straightforward narrative, and it gripped Kahmke from the opening page. She contacted and met with McCarten and only a few days later she received the first draft of the screenplay, *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO* and started working with him.

By this time Philipp Kreuzer, Kahmke's colleague at Bavaria Pictures, was also caught up in the project. The realisation of the comic sequences in the novel initially troubled Astrid Kahmke. But like Philipp Kreuzer she believed that the animation would give the film a unique tone as well as revealing the inner workings of the central character. "The animation allows for another emotional layer for the character of Donald but it also gives a different, edgier aspect to the film," says Kreuzer. "However it was important that the animation didn't take over the movie or overwhelm it. The animation brings to life Donald's interior world."

With German distribution (NFP marketing & distribution) and world sales (Bavaria Film International) attached very early, a key financing impulse came from the German regional funding in Bavaria (FFF Bayern) shortly followed by the German Federal Film Board (FFA) and the Bayerischer Bankenfonds (BBF). When plans to shoot in New Zealand – where the original book was located – foundered, Philipp Kreuzer contacted Michael Garland of the Irish production company, Grand Pictures in the autumn of 2009.

Garland immediately set to work on attracting and generating Irish finance. "The Irish Film Board and its CEO Simon Perry indicated that if the screenplay was rewritten for Ireland and an Irish director attached they would come on board with finance," he says. That director was Ian FitzGibbon, a filmmaker that Garland had previously worked with on a number of projects.

In January 2010 Garland sent FitzGibbon the screenplay. FitzGibbon "was instantly struck" and went to meet the people at Bavaria Pictures in Munich.

Bavaria Pictures was familiar with FitzGibbon's previous work. "They had seen a couple of my films," he says. "Following that initial meeting in Munich I met them again at the film festival in Berlin with the Irish Film

Board's Simon Perry. Simon was keen on the idea but he wanted to know what my vision of it was. I always wanted to relocate it to Ireland in a very specific world, which was south county Dublin – the story ranged from Dalkey to Booterstown and doesn't really go any further than that. It's a world I'm very familiar with."

In February 2010 the filmmakers met the Irish Film Board in Berlin where it was decided to relocate the story to Dublin with Ian as director.

For Ian FitzGibbon the story of *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO* was always a love story: a tale of a young life lived intensely, emotionally and exceptionally. "I was not interested in making a 'cancer movie', that had no appeal for me," he says. "I always said that this film should be moving, not depressing. I was interested in a love story with time running out." The animation element of *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO* was also new ground for FitzGibbon. But he was intrigued by the possibilities this offered to explore Donald's character. "I was into the idea where the world of his imagination starts to impinge on the real world. I became quite focused on how the animation could express very personal and private things for Donald. So the animation became another layer of the character essentially and you got to explore his fears and fantasies through this animated world."

Within five months finance for the German-Irish co-production was in place with investors including the Irish Film Board, the Irish Government Section 481, German Fund money and private investment.

Principal photography commenced on *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO* on October 5, 2010. It was a 27-day shoot with 25 days in Dublin and two in Munich, followed by post-production and animation work at Trixter Studios in Munich.

"This is one of the most personal things I have ever done," says FitzGibbon. "It is also probably the most emotional piece of work I have ever been involved with because of the subject matter."





# THE CASTING STORY

For director Ian FitzGibbon, there was never any doubt about who would play the charismatic lead in *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO*. At his audition 20 year-old Brodie-Sangster (*Love Actually*, *Nowhere Boy*) knocked the socks off the filmmaker with his performance: "He's a terrific actor and had very good instincts about the character and his situation, which was unexpected from someone as young as Thomas."

## THOMAS BRODIE-SANGSTER

Brodie-Sangster himself was instantly captivated by the screenplay for *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO*. "I usually struggle reading scripts," he says. "The one I read before *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO* took me five hours to finish, but this script took me just two hours. The lines leapt off the page and I just kept turning them. I really wanted to know what happened to Donald even before I knew I had the part. By the end of reading the script I was nearly crying and that's unusual for me. But it's sad in a very positive, life-affirming way. For me *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO* is about how to best live life and what to get out of life."

For the actor the transformation was pivotal. "They shaved my head first and then the eyebrows came off

about a week later," he says. It was the key to getting inside the troubled mind of Donald: a young man living with a death sentence but charged with a lust for life and a need for love. He finds both in different ways with his classmate Shelly and through his relationship with his psychiatrist, Adrian King. As Donald, Brodie-Sangster did more than simply look the part: as Michael Garland and the rest recognised at that first screen test – he was it.

Brodie-Sangster had to bottle all the conflicting emotions within Donald and yet make the teenager credible and human. Brodie-Sangster worked on his Irish accent and on fine-tuning the tell-tale tics and mannerisms of a teenager.



## ANDY SERKIS

Andy Serkis (*Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *The Hobbit*) plays Adrian King: the unconventional but brilliant psychiatrist. “We sent Andy a draft of the screenplay,” says FitzGibbon. “He was in the middle of shooting another movie but he called his agent and told him that he really wanted to make *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO*. He also knew about Thomas and wanted to work with him.”

After reading the screenplay for the first time, Serkis thought it was “incredibly passionate, moving and beautifully crafted. The core relationships, particularly the one between Adrian and Donald, were very challenging because you have this man who is supposedly logical and objective being drawn into a situation that opens him up. Adrian himself has become completely

emotionally blocked and I was really fascinated by the notion of this boy, who is facing death, enhancing the lives of those around him.”

Adrian King, who lives in a crumbling Georgian house with a boat in the garden is a man adrift in life. A brilliant psychiatrist once upon a time and a talented artist, he trades on past glories: a shrink who himself needs a couch session. “He’s saying all the things that he would normally say in a therapy session but they don’t resonate for him any more. That is until he comes into contact with Donald,” says Serkis. “Adrian has become a recluse. He rarely goes out, he listens to opera and reads his books. I suppose the common link between him and Donald is an appreciation of art, the thing that moves them both emotionally.”

## AISLING LOFTUS

The other key relationship and the love story at the heart of the film is that between Donald and Shelly, his classmate and ultimately his soul mate. Both teenagers are cut from the same cloth: outsiders with a quirky intelligence and a healthy suspicion of authority. “Shelly is not the run-of-the-mill girl with the stilettos and the fake tan who goes out every Friday night to the club or wherever,” says FitzGibbon. “She has her own take on things and she is slightly rebellious. Coming from a troubled background, she is guarded initially but has

great spirit in her. Shelly is someone who has something original to say.”

Shelly is played by Aisling Loftus (*Dive*, *Oranges and Sunshine*), a young English actress. “I had seen her in a film called *Dive* and I thought that she was stunning,” says FitzGibbon. “When she came to read for the part for Shelly, Aisling was terrific and the chemistry between her and Thomas was really good.”

# THE ANIMATION

Ian FitzGibbon, a director with no prior experience in animation, was stepping into uncharted waters with *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO*.

Donald's drawings, violent and graphic images of sex and death, bring us inside the mind of a troubled teenager, a young man with a vivid imagination whose own life is ebbing away. The drawings tell us of his hopes and nightmares. To recreate this universe, the filmmakers recruited the German animation company, Trixter (*Heavy Metal 2000*, *X-Men*, *Captain America*), with whom Philipp Kreuzer had previously worked.

The result is classic artwork: 2D cell animation, rarely used anymore and far removed from the slickness of computer-generated productions. In drawing the indestructible Superhero, the diabolical villain "The Glove" and the sexy-evil "Nursey Worsey", Trixter referenced an extra developed handdrawn style combined with elements of graffiti. It is a primitive style, rough and unfinished and somewhat similar to the drawings of a teenage boy with a vivid imagination and a raw talent.

Alessandro Cioffi (*Ninja Assassin*, *Percy Jackson*, *Iron Man 2*), visual effects and animation supervisor at Trixter, whose background in fine art allied to his expertise in



computer graphics and film technique, was the ideal candidate for *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO*. Cioffi worked very closely with Ian FitzGibbon on perfecting the right tone for the animation sequences, telling Donald's story in bursts of animation, pushing the boundaries of the art as they developed more and more dramatic scenarios for the characters that hurtle around inside Donald's head. "We gave our animation an European sensibility and a very personal touch of Donald," says Cioffi. "He uses markers, brushes – all types of drawing implements. He's not copying anyone but just using his tools and

learning by doing. The animation looks a bit dirty and unaccomplished, unfinished so to speak, as he's not a refined artist. It's not quite manga although the technique is the same."

Occasionally both worlds collide – the real life of Donald's Dublin and the comic book inside his head. For the animators slipping between the two worlds had to be subtly orchestrated.

After months of work, editing and revising, the finished animation came to life. For Ian FitzGibbon the animation is not so much the icing on the cake as the key ingredient that makes the cake different. "The animation is the final piece of the puzzle," he says. "The animation changes the film totally in a way. It adds a whole layer of energy, colour and action. But ultimately the animation only serves the story and that's why it works."

# BIOGRAPHIES



Acclaimed young actor Thomas Brodie-Sangster first came to the attention of the public in Richard Curtis' feature film *Love Actually*, in the role of Sam. He then went on to play the role of Simon alongside Emma Thompson in *Nanny McPhee*, again for Working Title. Recently he has starred in Sam Taylor-Wood's BAFTA-nominated feature *Nowhere Boy*, in the role of the young Paul McCartney.

Further film credits include young Tristan in *Tristan and Isolde*, Romulus Augustus in *The Last Legion*, Lucignolo in *Pinocchio* and Samuel Brawne in Jane Campion's

Cannes Competition entry and Oscar-nominated feature *Bright Star*. He has most recently starred in Marc Munden's new film *Some Dogs Bite* and he will also appear in Agnes Merlet's new feature *The Last Furlong*.

Thomas's extensive television credits include *Lewis*, *Doctor Who*, *Entrusted*, *Featherboy*, *Hitler: The Rise of Evil* (in which he played the young Hitler), *Bobbie's Girl*, *Stig*, *Station Jim* and *The Miracle of the Cards*. He also provides the voice of Ferb in Disney's popular animated series *Phineas and Ferb*.



# ANDY SERKIS DR ADRIAN KING

Andy Serkis is an award-winning actor who has earned acclaim from both critics and audiences for his work in a range of memorable roles. He gained legions of fans around the globe for his performance as Gollum in the Academy Award®-winning *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Serkis won an Empire Award for his role, in addition to sharing in several Outstanding Ensemble Cast Awards, including a Screen Actors Guild Award®. Reuniting with Peter Jackson, he played two roles in the director's epic retelling of *King Kong*, taking performance capture to another level as the title character of Kong, and also appearing as Lumpy, the ship's cook. He is currently in production on *The Hobbit* for Jackson, reprising the role of Gollum as well as adding directorial responsibilities to his duties by serving as second-unit director on the film.

Serkis starred alongside James Franco, Freida Pinto and John Lithgow in *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, a prequel to the iconic film *Planet of the Apes*. Serkis plays Caesar, the chimp who leads the uprising among the apes. Serkis also co-stars in the highly anticipated film *The Adventures of Tintin* from directors Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson in the role of Captain Haddock and lends his voice to the Sony Pictures Animation/Aardman Animations film *Arthur Christmas*.

Most recently, Serkis appeared in the dark comedy *Burke and Hare*, playing the role of title character William Hare. The film tells the story of two 19<sup>th</sup> century grave robbers who find a lucrative business in providing cadavers for an Edinburgh medical school. Serkis received critical

acclaim and accolades for his portrayal of punk-rock legend Ian Dury in the film *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll* for director Mat Whitecross. The role earned Serkis a BAFTA nomination for Best Actor.

On the small screen, Serkis appeared in the BBC mini-series *Little Dorrit*, based on Charles Dickens' classic tale which garnered him a 2009 Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor. He also starred in as Nobel Prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein in the BBC/HBO production of *Einstein and Eddington*.

Serkis previously earned Golden Globe and BAFTA TV Award nominations for his performance as Ian Brady in HBO's *Longford*. He also garnered acclaim for the role of Bill Sikes in the PBS presentation of *Oliver Twist*. British television audiences also know him for a wide range of roles in telefilms, miniseries and series.

Serkis' recent feature film credits include Christopher Nolan's acclaimed drama *The Prestige*; the comedy *13 Going on 30*, with Jennifer Garner; and the indie films *The Cottage*, *Extraordinary Rendition* and *Sugarhouse*. He also lent his voice to the animated feature *Flushed Away*. He earlier co-starred in Michael Winterbottom's

*24 Hour Party People* and Mike Leigh's *Topsy-Turvy*. Serkis includes among his additional film credits such independent releases as *Deathwatch*, *The Escapist*, *Shiner*, *Pandaemonium*, *The Jolly Boys' Last Stand*, *Five Seconds to Spare*, *Sweetie Barrett*, *Among Giants*, *Mojo*, *Career Girls*, *Loop*, *Stella Does Tricks* and *The Near Room*.

An accomplished stage actor, Serkis has received acclaim for his work on the stages of London and across the United Kingdom. He starred as Iago in *Othello*, at the Royal Exchange Theatre; played the Emcee in *Cabaret*; and originated the role of Potts in Jez Butterworth's *Mojo*, at the Royal Court Theatre. His stage work also includes productions of *King Lear*, *Hush* and *Decadence*. In 2003, he made his directorial debut with the play *The Double Bass* at London's Southwark Playhouse.

As a director, Serkis also helmed the award-winning *Heavenly Sword™* for PLAYSTATION®3 and *Enslaved: Odyssey to the West* for Namco Bandai Games. In addition, he wrote and directed a short film called *Snake*, starring his wife, Lorraine Ashbourne, and Rupert Graves.





# AISLING LOFTUS SHELLY

Aisling Loftus is an English actress trained at The Television Workshop. Her film credits to date include *Oranges and Sunshine*, *Jade* and most recently the starring role of Shelly in *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO*.

Aisling has many TV roles to her credit including *Page Eight*, *Case Histories*, *Thorne: Sleepyhead*, *Five Daughters*, *The Fattest Man in Britain*, *Dive*, *Casualty*, *The Bill*, *Peak Practice* and *Public Enemies* among others.

Recently she finished filming a leading part in *The Borrowers*. Theatre productions in which she has been involved include *Spur of the Moment*, *We Happy Few* and *He's Talking*.

In 2008 Aisling was described as a 'Star of Tomorrow' in Screen International magazine. The film *Jade*, in which she starred, won a Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2009.



# IAN FITZGIBBON DIRECTOR

Ian FitzGibbon was born in Dublin and raised in Brussels, Belgium. He is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin where he took a degree in French and Spanish. He trained as an actor at the world famous Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. Ian has a long and extensive acting career principally on English television where his credits range from *Prime Suspect* to *Father Ted*.

FitzGibbon began to direct 10 years ago. *Between Dreams*, one of his first short films was selected for competition at the Venice Film Festival. He then went on to write and direct *Paths To Freedom*, a multi award-winning television series for RTE. His first feature, the

critically acclaimed *A Film With Me In It* had its North American premiere at TIFF 2008.

It was nominated for numerous Irish film awards and it went on to win the special jury prize for best international film at the Istanbul International Film Festival. *Perrier's Bounty* his second feature, starring Brendan Gleeson, Cillian Murphy and Jim Broadbent, received its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival in 2010 prior to its UK and US release. *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO* is his third feature. He is currently shooting *Threesome*, a new comedy series for Big Talk/Comedy Central in London.

# ANTHONY McCARTEN WRITER

Born in 1961 in New Plymouth, Anthony McCarten's novels have been translated into 14 languages. His first novel, *Spinnners* (Picador, 2000), was voted one of the top ten novels of that year by Esquire magazine. His third novel, *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO*, won the 2008 Austrian Youth Literature Prize and was a finalist for the 2008 German Youth Literature Prize. In 2005, McCarten adapted his second novel, *The English Harem*, for the screen. It was broadcast on ITV in December 2005 starring Martine McCutcheon and Art Malik. Novelist and three times Booker finalist, Timothy Mo, named *The English Harem* his Novel Of The Year. His fourth novel, *Show Of Hands*, was published in Europe, and in the US by Simon and Schuster in 2009.

McCarten received early international success with his play *Ladies Night*. Translated into twelve languages, it remains New Zealand's most commercially successful play of all time, and in addition to eight sell-out national

tours of Britain it continues to play worldwide. In 2001 it won France's premiere theatre award for comedy, the Molière Prize.

McCarten is also a film director whose first feature film, *Via Satellite*, which he adapted from his own stage play, was invited to several film festivals including London, Cannes, Toronto, Melbourne, Hawaii and Seattle. His follow-up feature, *Show of Hands* (2008), premiered at the Montreal International Film Festival, was an official selection for the Shanghai Film Festival 2009 and was nominated for Best Picture and Best Director at the New Zealand Film Awards.

His screenplay, *The Theory Of Everything*, based on the life of Prof. Stephen Hawking and his first wife, Jane Hawking, is under development in Hollywood. He is currently writing two librettos for Vienna's largest musical theatre.

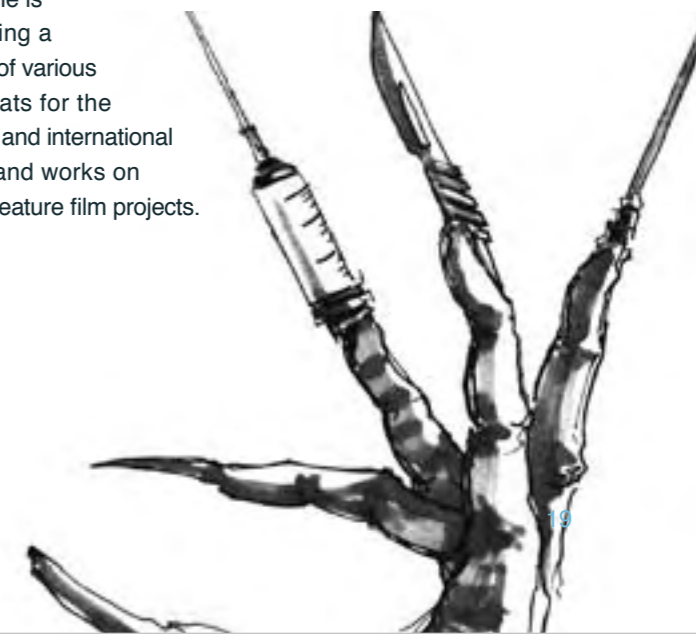
# ASTRID KAHMKE PRODUCER

Astrid Kahmke originally studied German Literature and Drama in Munich and Culture and Media Management in Hamburg and spent a few years working for several Theatre companies and stage directors in Germany and Austria. Additionally she managed theatre and music festivals as Carl Orff in Andechs in 1994 and 1995.

Since 1996 she has worked for the Bavaria Film Group as dramatic adviser for numerous feature films, TV series and TV movies, and as a script consultant and associate producer. Since 2008 she has worked as producer for both the feature film and television division of Bavaria Film.

Her first movie realised as producer – a TV comedy for private broadcaster ProSieben (*Machen wir's auf Fin-nisch*) – was invited to the Hamburg Filmfest and won the TV Producer Award in 2008.

In 2008 she started developing *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO*, which will have its world premiere at the 36<sup>th</sup> Toronto International Film Festival, Special Presentations, and is planned to be released in German cinemas in 2012. She is developing a number of various TV formats for the German and international market and works on several feature film projects.



# PHILIPP KREUZER PRODUCER

Philipp Kreuzer is a lawyer and has a Masters in audio-visual production and management (MBS MEGA 1999). He has worked as lawyer for entertainment law firms in Germany and the USA prior to entering feature film production and film finance. After working for the Lottery Franchise The Film Consortium Ltd. in London he became Head of Production and Business Affairs of MFP Munich Film Partners GmbH, a production company backed by one of the major private equity investment funds and producing, amongst others, a slate of feature films with major US-studios. From 2001 until 2004 he was project manager at Eurimages, the pan-European film and cinema support fund of the Council of Europe,

where he was responsible for a large number of European feature film co-productions co-financed by the fund. In February 2005 he joined Bavaria Film GmbH as Head of Film and TV financing and in 2006 also became Head of Co-Production and deputy managing director of Bavaria Film's feature film production company Bavaria Pictures GmbH.

In these roles Philipp handled the financing and co-production of several feature films and European TV-Event Productions, some of which he developed and produced/co-produced (*Short Cut to Hollywood*, *Rotterdam-Reykjavik*, *Innocent Saturday*, *The Solitude of Prime Numbers*, *DEATH OF A SUPERHERO*, *Mozzarella Stories*). In late 2008 he was also appointed managing director of Bavaria's Rome-based production and distribution company Bavaria Media Italia s.r.l.. Joining the international activities between production and sales, as of 2009 he was appointed Vice President International and Co-Production of Bavaria Media GmbH.



# MICHAEL GARLAND PRODUCER

Michael Garland entered the film industry as Financial Controller for Palace Productions, the Palace Group's film production division working on such projects as Neil Jordan's *The Company of Wolves* and *The Crying Game*, and Michael Caton-Jones' *Scandal*.

In 1995 he produced *This is the Sea* starring Richard Harris and Gabriel Byrne for Overseas Film Group. Prior to establishing Grand Pictures with Paul Donovan, he also produced *Accelerator*, which was screened at Cannes and Montreal. During this time he also Executive Produced Johnny Gogan's *The Last Bus Home*.

Grand Pictures was established in early 2000 and has produced the award-winning TV series *Paths to Freedom* and *Fergus's Wedding* with Michael as Producer. *Spin the Bottle* produced by Michael, based on the cult hero of *Paths to Freedom*, was a domestic box office hit, won a number of IFTAs and also best feature at the Boston Irish Film Festival.

In 2006 Michael co-produced *Puffball*, directed by Nicolas Roeg and starring Miranda Richardson, Kelly Reilly and Donald Sutherland. Michael acted as executive producer on *School Run*, Grand Pictures TV3 drama produced in summer 2008. Michael then produced the family feature film *The Race*, an Irish/German co-production starring Colm Meaney and Susan Lynch. He also acted as Executive Producer on *Wide Open Spaces*, written by Arthur Mathews and directed by Tom Hall and starring Ardal O'Hanlon and Ewen Bremner. Most recently, Michael executive produced *Val Falvey* and *Trivia* for RTE, the Irish national broadcaster.

He is currently developing a slate of projects, including Jean Pasley's *King of The Pipers*, *The Dead Spit of Kelly* based on the short story by Flann O'Brien, and *Winterwood* based on the novel of the same name by Patrick McCabe.

# CAST & CREW

Dr Adrian King  
Donald Clarke  
Shelly  
James Clarke  
Renata Clarke  
Tanya

Andy Serkis  
Thomas Brodie-Sangster  
Aisling Loftus  
Michael McElhatton  
Sharon Horgan  
Jessica Schwarz

Directed by  
Screenplay  
Director of Photography  
Editor  
Production Design  
Costume Design  
Make Up  
Original Music  
Casting  
Vfx/Animation Supervisor  
Associate Producers  
Executive Producers

Ian FitzGibbon  
Anthony McCarten  
Tom Fährmann  
Tony Cranstoun  
Mark Geraghty  
Kathy Strachan  
Louise Myler  
Marius Ruhland  
Ros Hubbard, Louise Kiely, Siegfried Wagner  
Alessandro Cioffi  
Ailish McElmeel, Lukas Batthyány, Tilo Seiffert  
Matthias Esche, Jan S. Kaiser,  
Anthony McCarten, Paul Donovan  
Mark Porsche, Michael Coldewey, Christian Sommer  
Astrid Kahmke, Philipp Kreuzer, Michael Garland

Co-Producers  
Produced by



*DEATH OF A SUPERHERO* is a German-Irish Co-Production between Bavaria Pictures and Grand Pictures, in Co-Production with Picture Circle, Cinemendo/Trixter and CinePostproduction in collaboration with Bavaria Film. Funded by FilmFernsehFonds Bayern, German Federal Film Board, Bayerischer Bankenfonds, German Federal Film Fund, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and Bord Scannán na hÉireann/The Irish Film Board, developed and produced with the support of the Media Programme of the European Community and supported by the Ministry of Culture Hamburg and investment incentives for the Irish film industry provided by the government of Ireland.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

Germany, Ireland 2011  
97 min, partly animated, shot on Alexa HD ProRes (digital) 1:1.85, DCP and 35 mm, Dolby 5.1



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