

Lauren Ashley Carter to star in Once Bitten...

Manchester-based Duck66 Films are delighted to announce that the lead role in their next horror short *Once Bitten...* will be played by Lauren Ashley Carter.

Once Bitten... tells the story of a book publisher, Martha Swales, who has problems with the plumbing in her hotel bathroom one stormy night. Unfortunately the plumber who turns up might just be a vampire!

Once Bitten is written by Kevin T Rogers and will be directed by Pete Tomkies from Duck66 Films.

Pete said: "we are all so excited to be working with Lauren on this project. She is perfect for the role of Martha and has brought so many ideas to develop the role."

"I became aware that Lauren was in Manchester when I saw her at a Q&A following a Grimmfest screening of *Jug Face* earlier this year so took a chance and got in touch. Lauren has been so enthusiastic about the project from that first contact and I can't wait to start filming with her".

Although *Once Bitten...* takes place in New York it will be filmed on a purpose built set at A4 Studios in Altrincham. Pete explained: "Kevin sent me the script for *Once Bitten...* last year but I had been struggling to find a suitable location for filming. I was exploring the idea of shooting on a set when I was put in touch with John Lockwood at A4. John has been so supportive and found us a space to build Martha's hotel room."

Pete is also looking forward to working with cinematographer Mat Johns on *Once Bitten...* "I have admired Mat's work as a film maker for many years and was lucky enough to work with him recently on a music film I co-directed for Christopher John Chaplin. Mat's use of light is simply fabulous so I know *Once Bitten...* is going to look beautiful!"

Principal photography on *Once Bitten...* will take place at the end of July.

To keep up with news on the film follow @OnceBittenFilm on Twitter or Facebook.

Notes to editors:

1. Actress and producer Lauren Ashley Carter has starred in *The Woman* (2011), *Premium Rush* (2012), *Jug Face* (2013), *Pod* (2015), *Darling* (2016) and most recently *Imitation Girl* (2017). She is currently living in Manchester working on her first novel.
2. Director Pete Tomkies began making films on 8mm when he was 10 years old and has been shooting film, video and still photographs ever since. His previous horror short *TEAM*

(2015) achieved 23 official selections and 2 semi-finalist awards around the world including festivals in the USA, Canada, Brazil, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Scotland and England.

2. Once Bitten... will be writer Kevin T Rogers' second filmed script – his first was a micro-short comedy for Sir Norman Wisdom (his last screen appearance) which was featured as part of the Cannes-nominated compendium-short Espresso. Kevin has had several of his short stories featured in the horror zine Knock, Knock (Frisson Comics) and has just published his first novel, the comic/fantasy Carol Starr & the Dump of Discarded Characters.

3. Cinematographer Mat Johns studied Film and Television at Salford University in the UK, and for the past ten years has been writing, directing, shooting and editing short films both on a freelance and independent basis. 'A Father's Day', Mat's latest film, is his most ambitious to date and was made with the support of Creative England's iShorts, a short film initiative delivered as part of the BFI NET.WORK.

4. A4 Studios is a not-for-profit organisation that has been founded by a group of Artists and Entrepreneurs who recognised a need for good quality affordable studio spaces within the locality of Trafford. Their aim is to provide affordable spaces for creatives of all abilities, whilst improving accessibility to the arts for the wider community. The gallery and the majority of the studios have full disabled access, providing facilities otherwise unavailable to this demographic <http://a4studios.co.uk/>

5. Aelia Laelia is an experimental music film directed by John Katsoulieri and Pete Tomkies for Christopher John Chaplin and Fabrique Records. Aelia Laelia is currently being submitted to film festivals around the world.

6. The ... after Once Bitten... are part of the title of the film ☺

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