

**ANGEL FILMS PRÆSENTERER**

# *The Double*

Directed by Richard Ayoade  
Based on a novel by Fjodor Dostojevskij



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# *The Double*

## **Dansk synopsis**

Jesse Eisenberg spiller Simon, en frygtsom, isoleret mand, der er overset på arbejdspladsen, foragtet af sin mor, og ignoreret af hans drømmekvinde (Mia Wasikowska). Jesse Eisenberg spiller James som både er Simons nøjagtige fysiske dobbeltgænger og hans modstykke - selvsikker, karismatisk og dygtig med kvinder. Til Simons rædsel, begynder James langsomt at overtage hans liv.

Britiske instruktør Richard Ayoade vender tilbage med denne mørke og komiske fortolkning af Dostojevskijs roman, og byder på en tour-de-force af dobbelt ydeevne fra Jesse Eisenberg og Mia Wasikowska, sammen med en stærk rollebesætning såsom Wallace Shawn, Noah Taylor og Cathy Moriarty.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Robin C Fox and Amina Dasmal operate their Alcove Entertainment on the basis that the creative talent leads the process – always. Their partnership with Harmony Korine as producers on 2009's *Trash Humpers* came about because, as Fox has it, “we hunted him down, and told him that whatever film he wanted to make, we'd do it!”

In 2007, Fox and Dasmal met Harmony's brother, Avi Korine, who was working on a script adaptation of Fyodor Dostoevsky's novella *The Double*. It struck the producers that this story of a solitary, troubled man whose life is upended by his over-confident alter-ego might appeal to another name on their creative wish-list – the British writer, director and performer Richard Ayoade, then yet to make his debut as a feature director.

“We'd been stalking Richard,” Fox ruefully recalls, “using every method we could think of to get him interested in something... but it was difficult, because he's got taste! With this script, we thought at last we might have something on which he might not go so cold and quiet. We saw that it would suit his sensibility – both his sense of humor, and his understanding of the subject matter.” They also saw, however, that the project would need time to evolve: “Richard wasn't just going to come in and shoot someone else's script.” But, says Dasmal, “if we feel excited, we go at the pace the talent needs. It's about supporting the process, if you want the best. Of course there are days when you want to be shooting rather than waiting – but it's incredibly fulfilling when you do read that next draft.” It helped that co-producers Film4 also “believed in Richard's ability to deliver what was in his imagination”, Dasmal says. “They're in a different category and rightly so. They were genuinely brilliant to work with.”

The result of letting Ayoade pursue his vision to the hilt is a film that resists obvious commercialism, and genre categorization. Fox points out that concern for the supposed demands of the market is reduced by “spending time around people who talk about market conditions, and seeing the abject failures that spawn from that!” Dasmal notes that the producers use themselves as a guide: “This is a film we want to watch, so there's an audience out there.” If the world in which *The Double* takes place is an unfamiliar one – claustrophobic; jittery; at once futuristic and redolent of a non-specific, dusty past – its emotions are accessible. “Loneliness and feeling undervalued are universal,” says Fox “as is romance”. “The love story is very beautiful,” Dasmal adds. “Richard really surprised us with how he captured it.” Ayoade also impressed with his confidence in making his imagined environment into a real space. “He can go into a room,” says Fox, “and completely capture what he's trying to create.”

Australian rising star Mia Wasikowska (*Jane Eyre*; *Stoker*; *The Kids are All Right*), who plays Hannah, was interested in Ayoade having seen his feature debut *Submarine*, which she describes as “brilliant”. Her interest in his second directorial outing was further stimulated by her friendship with Harmony Korine, who encouraged her to look out for his brother’s script when it came her way. Working with Ayoade was, she says, “really amazing. I haven’t had an experience that’s been this fulfilling in all areas. His direction is so clear, and he has a really sensitive way of dealing with actors and getting the best out of us.” Moreover, Ayoade’s treatment of the material, and the clarity of his vision of the atmosphere of the piece, surprised her. “He’s elevated the material in a way that I didn’t really expect – he had a really unique way of seeing things,” she says. “It’s not completely specified what kind of world we live in here, and Richard’s brought such a strong vision to it.” The ambiguity of the story’s time and place, she feels, reflects a story that says different things to different people. “There are so many ways of seeing the idea of someone who’s exactly the same as you. It’s subjective – so everyone who sees the film will have a different view of what it means.”

That’s a sentiment echoed by Ayoade’s lead actor: Golden Globe, BAFTA and Academy Award nominee Jesse Eisenberg. Working on *The Double* was “the most interesting experience I’ve ever had”, says the star of *Zombieland*, *The Social Network* and *Now You See Me*. “The stuff Richard was doing was amazing. Every room, every scene was located in this ambiguous place and time. And he never wanted anything to be standard. Often, an actor comes with his own strange ideas, and the director takes them and shapes them into a normal movie scene. Richard takes actors’ strange inclinations... and pushes them *farther*. It’s an approach that brings rewards. Something about the way he works makes it impossible not to engage completely. That applied to all of the actors, even those who came in for one day.”

The actor’s own interest in working with Ayoade stemmed from his own uncharacteristic response to *Submarine*, which was sent to him as background before *The Double* had a completed script. “I don’t watch movies,” Eisenberg laughs, “so I just put it in to watch the first five minutes. Not only did I watch the whole thing - I watched it two times in a row. I thought it was the greatest thing I had ever seen. Every moment was full of emotional richness, and funny, and real – it was just unique. Then I met him and realized why. He has this unique sensibility, this aesthetic that is totally his own.”

*The Double* also presented Eisenberg with a challenge: that of playing two characters in one film. “I thought it was a really interesting acting opportunity,” he says. “Richard’s goal was not to create a traditional comic dichotomy between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ characters, but something much more psychologically complicated.” Shy, dysfunctional, resentful Simon and his cocksure mirror image James are, says Eisenberg, “not so much different people as different manifestations of the same psyche. So for me it was about coming up with different gestures and voices to convey the visceral experience of each character. Once I figured out the emotional tone of Simon, James came more quickly.”

Simon isn't traditionally hapless and well-meaning, he's emotionally fraught and inept; and James isn't evil and malicious, he's charming and capable. Simon's emotional response is histrionic, so he lives in a dystopian world. James lives in the same world, but for him it's utopian."

An actor who lives his parts vividly, Eisenberg noted his own variable feelings embodying each character. "If my day ended with playing Simon, I would go home miserable," he recalls. "It was a relief to play James, because Simon was so self-hating and miserable. I definitely took on their traits. I was full of ideas playing James, but playing Simon, I was so shut down; and I would want to do the scene over and over again..."

An additional trauma for Eisenberg, who never sees his own films, was having to watch parts of his own performance in order to piece together scenes in which both characters appeared. Despite his Richard Ayoade fandom, he says this is as close as he will come to watching *The Double*. "I was in a Woody Allen movie [*To Rome With Love*]," he points out, "and it's the only one out of his forty-plus movies that I'll never see!" Experience doesn't help with his aversion to seeing himself on screen ("it becomes worse"), and nor is it assuaged by acclaim or awards ("I just think I'm being tricked").

Richard Ayoade is happy to be among the tricksters. "He was great," the director says of Eisenberg, "and just sort of perfect – there was no-one else we offered it to. There aren't many actors who could play both parts, and have that precision. He's technically brilliant, but also spontaneous and instinctive – great actors can do both." And great stories, Ayoade believes, can easily support the co-existence of humor and melancholy. "I'm not sure there's such a strong division between what's uncomfortable and what's funny," he says. "The novella is about someone who's going mad, but at the same time it's funny; it's pompous; it's silly. A lot of things I like have that tone."

Producer Robin C. Fox says Ayoade is "incredibly good at referencing", and sure enough the director name checks a vast number of film texts that helped to inspire *The Double's* extraordinary visual and emotional tone, among them Jean-Luc Godard's *Alphaville*, David Lynch's *Eraserhead* (both of which he describes as "very funny), Orson Welles' *The Trial* and Federico Fellini's *Toby Dammit*. He further notes a sense of Scandinavian kinship (he is half-Norwegian) with the melancholy, deadpan-comic worlds created by Sweden's Roy Andersson and Finland's Aki Kaurismaki. Within British cinema, he notes, *The Double* has fewer clear antecedents. "There are so few British films that aren't in a realist tradition. British films have tended to be more about social problems than existential ones. The best ones are parochial, specific – and made on low budgets. Fantasy has sets that require building!"

*The Double's* environments are cramped, intense evocations of Simon's inner reality, rather than the elaborate stuff of the sci-fi spectacular; but the film's physical world was nonetheless a challenge to construct. "To not locate things geographically or temporally," Ayoade says, "is infuriatingly difficult. We spent five months just on the sound. For most films, it's a simple process of recording things with fidelity to the realistic. For this, it was the opposite: everything had to happen in a not-real space." Cinematographer Erik Wilson, who previously worked on *Submarine*, also had to shelve concerns about naturalism. "Submarine was all natural light, but this was lit so differently," explains Ayoade. "It just shows you how good Erik is." Direction, too, had to be "more controlled", because of the use of special effects and motion capture.

Ayoade's air of mild bafflement about what he's made extends to the willing participation of his varied and eminent supporting cast, the international mix includes British veteran James Fox, and Hollywood stars Cathy Moriarty and Wallace Shawn. "It seemed unbelievable they might do it," Ayoade marvels. "I don't really understand it myself. London is attractive to Americans..." *Submarine* provided Ayoade with almost a complete set of returning cast members – Yasmin Paige, Noah Taylor have substantial roles in *The Double*, while Craig Roberts, Sally Hawkins and Paddy Considine all appear in cameos – but, he claims, not much ballast. "It's surprising how little you learn!" Perhaps channeling his inner Simon just a little - or relying on his very British realism - he notes that "You never feel like you're doing it right. You're just slowly trying to work it out."

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **Simon / James – Jesse Eisenberg**

Jesse Eisenberg is a playwright and actor, currently starring alongside Vanessa Redgrave in his play, “The Revisionist”. Last year, he wrote and starred in the play “Asuncion” at the Cherry Lane Theatre, for which he was nominated for a Drama League Award.

Films include *The Social Network* for which he received an Academy Award nomination, *Zombieland*, *Adventureland* for which he received a BAFTA nomination, *The Squid and the Whale* for which he received an Independent Spirit Nomination and *Roger Dodger*.

Recent films include *Now You See Me*, *The Double* and *Night Moves*.

He is a frequent contributor to McSweeney’s, where he writes the column Bream Gives Me Hiccups and his humor essays have appeared in The New York Times, Harper’s and The New Yorker.

### **Hannah - Mia Wasikowska**

In a short time Mia Wasikowska has established herself as a rising star of the big screen. A trained ballerina turned actress, Wasikowska has been challenging herself as a performer since the age of 9. She made her debut in the US in Rodrigo Garcia’s HBO series *In Treatment* which received a Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Drama Series in 2009.

In 2009, Wasikowska starred in Edward Zwick’s *Defiance* alongside Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber and Jamie Bell and in Mira Nair’s *Amelia* starring Hilary Swank and Richard Gere. Wasikowska also appeared in Scott Teems’ independent picture *That Evening Sun* which earned her an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress. In 2010 she played Alice in Tim Burton’s *Alice in Wonderland* co-starring Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway, Michael Sheen and Alan Rickman. She also co-starred in Lisa Cholodenko’s Academy Award nominated film *The Kids Are All Right*. In 2011, Wasikowska secured the lead role in Cary Fukunaga’s critically acclaimed film *Jane Eyre*, sharing the screen with Michael Fassbender, and also appeared in Gus Van Sant’s film *Restless* which made the official selection of the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. In 2012, Wasikowska starred in the Weinstein feature, *Lawless* alongside Shea LaBeouf, Tom Hardy and Jessica Chastain and appeared in Chan-wook Park’s *Stoker*. In 2013 Wasikowska will star opposite Jesse Eisenberg in Richard Ayoade’s *The Double* and she will also make her directorial debut an adaptation of Tim Winton’s best-selling short story collection *The Turning*.

### **Mr. Papadopoulos - Wallace Shawn**

Wallace Shawn is an actor and playwright and has appeared in over 50 films. His playwriting credits include *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, *The Fever*, *Grasses of a Thousand Colors* and *The Designated Mourner*. Acting credits include: Film: Woody Allen's *Manhattan*, *Radio Days*, *Shadows and Fog*, *Melinda & Melinda*, *The Curse of the Jade Scorpion*. Also, *Vanya on 42nd Street*, *My Dinner With André*, *Clueless*, *Admission*, *A Late Quartet*, *The Princess Bride*, *The Bostonians*, *Personal Velocity*, *The Haunted Mansion*, *My Favorite Martian*, *The Hotel New Hampshire*. Shawn voiced the character of 'Rex' in the *Toy Story* animated feature films. Television: 'Gossip Girl', 'The Good Wife', 'Eureka', 'The L Word', 'Murphy Brown', 'The Cosby Show' and 'Taxi'. Special appearances in *Clueless*, "Civil Wars," "Crossing Jordan," "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" and PBS's "How To Be a Perfect Person in Three Days."

### **Melanie - Yasmin Paige**

Yasmin is well known for her role as Jordana in *Submarine*; she won critical acclaim for her performance and was nominated for a number of awards. Other film roles include *Tooth* for (which she won the Best Actress Award at The Annual Children's Entertainment Awards 2004), *Wondrous Oblivion*, *True True Lie* and *I Could Never Be Your Woman*. She is known to TV audiences for the BBC series 'Pramface' (series 3 is shooting at the moment). As a child Yasmin was well known for her role as Maria in 'The Sarah Jane Adventures' and as Michaela in 'Secret Life' which gained her a nomination at the Monte Carlo Television Festival 2008. Yasmin will soon be seen in Richard Ayoade's *The Double*. Yasmin was chosen by Screen International as one of their 2010 'Stars of Tomorrow'.

### **Harris - Noah Taylor**

Noah Taylor is one of Australia's most accomplished film actors and has worked with some of the world's finest directors and actors. His credits include *The Year my Voice Broke*, *Flirting* (both directed by John Duigan), *Nostradamus Kid* (director Bob Ellis), *Almost Famous* (director Cameron Crowe), *Tomb Raider*, *Shine*, *Max*, *The Life Aquatic* (director Wes Anderson), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (director Tim Burton), *New World* (director Terrence Malick) and *Lecture 21* (director Alessandro Baricco). Other feature credits include *Submarine*, *Red Dog and Red*, *White and Blue*.

Noah was most recently seen in 'Game of Thrones' playing the nasty Locke. He will soon be seen in *Mindscape* and *The Double*. Noah has been nominated for many awards, and is a four-time winner of the Film Critic's Circle of Australia Best Actor Award. Noah is very active musically, both on his own and in numerous collaborations. He also regularly paints and enjoys drawing.



## **The Colonel – James Fox**

James Fox's extensive film career includes: *A Long Way from Home*, *EFFIE*, *W.E.*, *Clean Skin*, *The Kid*, Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes*, Tim Burton's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Mystic Masseur*, *Up at the Villa*, *Sexy Beast*, *Mickey Blue Eyes*, *Anna Karenina*, *Remains of the Day*, *Patriot Games*, *The Russia House*, *Absolute Beginners*, *A Passage to India*, *Greystoke*, *Performance*, *Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines* and *The Loneliness Of The Long Distance Runner*.

Television credits include: 'Unknown Heart', '1864', 'The Great Train Robbery – A Coppers Tale', 'Utopia', 'Merlin', 'Law & Order', 'Midsummer Murders', 'Red Riding', 'Margaret', 'Lewis', 'New Tricks', 'Harley Street', 'Waking The Dead', 'Freezing', 'Absolute Power', 'Miss Marple', 'Colditz', 'Poirot', 'Trial and Retribution', 'The Lost World', 'Private View', 'The Old Curiosity Shop', 'Gulliver's Travels' and many, many more.

## **Kiki – Cathy Moriarty**

Cathy Moriarty's first film credit was [Martin Scorsese's \*Raging Bull\*](#) in 1980; she played [Vikki LaMotta](#), the wife of [Robert De Niro's](#) lead character. Her performance earned her a nomination for the [Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress](#). In the 1980's she starred in the cult movie *Neighbors*, and had a huge number of supporting roles in films including *Kindergarten Cop* and *Soapdish*. In the 1990's roles included an appearance as the villain Carrigan Crittenden in film *Casper* and as Rose Donlan, wife of [Harvey Keitel's](#) corrupt cop in 1997's *Cop Land*. Moriarty reunited with De Niro for 2002's *Analyze That*, in which she played female [Mafia boss](#) Patti LoPresti.

Recent work includes *Sebastien* with Eric Roberts, *Rob the Mob* with Andy Garcia and Michael Pitt, *The Double* and a number of appearances in 'Law and Order'.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### Director / Co-Writer – Richard Ayoade

Richard Ayoade is a Perrier Award winning writer and director. In 2004 Ayoade co-created and directed Channel 4's spoof horror comedy series 'Garth Marenghi's Darkplace', in which he also appeared. This was followed with a sequel series 'Man to Man with Dean Lerner' which Richard directed and co-wrote and was broadcast on primetime Channel 4. He has performed in 'The Mighty Boosh' (as well as script editing) and the Emmy Award Winning 'IT Crowd'. After signing up with Warp Films to direct promos, Ayoade has made music videos for The Arctic Monkeys, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Super Furry Animals, Kasabian, the Last Shadow Puppets and Vampire Weekend. He also directed the feature-length concert film of the Arctic Monkeys at the Apollo which was released in 2008. Ayoade's directorial debut came in 2010 with the critically acclaimed and award winning *Submarine*.

### Co-Writer - Avi Korine

In 2007 Avi co-wrote the film, *Mister Lonely*, starring Diego Luna and Samantha Morton with his brother, Harmony Korine. *The Double* - co-written with Richard Ayoade - is his second film. Avi has also written about boxing and basketball for both Freedarko.com and The Sporting News.

### Producers Robin Fox & Amina Dasmal

Alcove Entertainment was co-founded by producer Robin Fox and Amina Dasmal in 2005. Alcove Entertainment are currently in post-production for *The Double*, a comedy co-written and directed by BAFTA-award nominated Richard Ayoade and co-developed and co-financed by Film4.

Alcove Entertainment's first feature *Cochochi*, a production with Gael García Bernal and Diego Luna's production company Canana, won the Discovery Award at the Toronto Film Festival in 2007, in addition to the Grand Jury Prize at the Miami International Film Festival in 2008. Subsequent films include Harmony Korine's *Trash Humpers*, which was awarded the Grand Jury prize at the CPH: DOX Film Festival in 2009. The film was distributed on DVD and VHS in the UK with Warp Films. *The Caller*, a supernatural thriller directed by Matthew Parkhill and written by Sergio Casci, starring Rachelle Lefevre, Stephen Moyer and Luis Guzman was picked up by Sony Pictures for distribution after premiering at the 2011 Berlinale Film Market.

### Director of Photography - Erik Wilson

Erik Wilson is a Norwegian DoP living in the UK. Erik lit 2nd Unit for Wes Craven on *The Hills Have Eyes I & II* through 20th Century Fox, and in 2006 he shot the documentary *The Journalist and The Jihad* that won two Emmy nominations. In 2007 he

shot Main Unit on the horror features *Pumpkinhead: Ashes to Ashes* and *Pumpkinhead: Bloodfeud*, as well as ITV's 'Murderland' starring Robbie Coltrane. Other feature films include Richard Ayoade's *Submarine*, Paddy Considine's *Tyrannosaur*, *The Imposter*, *Now is Good* and most recently the Nick Cave film *20,000 days on Earth*.

### **Co-Producer - Andy Stebbing**

Andy produced *Submarine* along with Mark Herbert & Mary Burke at Warp Films and is Co-producer on Richard Ayoade's forthcoming film *The Double*, starring Jesse Eisenberg & Mia Wasikowska. Currently he is Co-producing 'Harry Hill the Movie' for Entertainment, with Director Steve Bendelack (*Mr Beans Holiday*). Previously he produced the micro-budget film *Kicks* directed by Lindy Heymann and was Co-producer on Fernando Meirelles's *360* starring Anthony Hopkins, Jude Law & Rachel Weisz. Other credits include Line Producing Neil Marshall's *Centurion* for Pathe, Sarah Gavron's adaptation of *Brick Lane* for Ruby Films and Film4's *Brothers of the Head*, which won the Michael Powell award at the Edinburgh Film Festival.

### **Composer – Andrew Hewitt**

Andrew Hewitt is a BAFTA nominated composer whose features include *The Sea* (Ciaran Hinds, Rufus Sewell) with violin solos by Grammy-award winning Hilary Hahn; *The Brass Teapot* (Juno Temple, Michael Angarano); *Submarine* (Sally Hawkins, Paddy Considine) and *Cuckoo* (Richard E Grant). A graduate of Cambridge University, he first toured globally as a performer in the UK's most prestigious classical ensembles (and in film scores including *Stars Wars* and *Lord of the Rings*), before proceeding to score TV movies, commercials, short films, and TV series' such as Richard Ayoade's 'Garth Marengi's Darkplace'. Andrew orchestrates and conducts all his scores, recording often with the renowned Composers Ensemble orchestra. *The Double* is his sixth feature. [www.andrew-hewitt.co.uk](http://www.andrew-hewitt.co.uk)

## CREDITS

DIRECTED BY RICHARD AYOADE  
WRITTEN BY RICHARD AYOADE & AVI KORINE  
STORY BY AVI KORINE  
BASED ON 'THE DOUBLE' BY FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY  
PRODUCED BY ROBIN C FOX & AMINA DASMAL  
CO-PRODUCER – ANDY STEBBING

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS -  
MICHAEL CAINE  
GRAEME COX  
TESSA ROSS  
NIGEL WILLIAMS

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS –  
POLLY STOKES  
HARMONY KORINE  
CHARLES-MARIE ANTHONIOZ

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY – ERIK ALEXANDER WILSON  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER – DAVID CRANK  
EDITORS – NICK FENTON & CHRIS DICKENS ACE  
HAIR AND MAKE UP DESIGNER – JAN SEWELL  
COSTUME DESIGNER – JACQUELINE DURRAN  
ORIGINAL SCORE - ANDREW HEWITT  
RE-RECORDING MIXER - NIGEL HEATH  
SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR - JAMES FELTHAM  
EXECUTIVE VFX PRODUCER - SIMON WHALLEY  
VFX SUPERVISOR - MATT CLARKE  
CASTING BY – DOUGLAS AIBEL, KAREN LINDSAY STEWART

STARRING  
JESSE EISENBERG  
MIA WASIKOWSKA  
WALLACE SHAWN  
NOAH TAYLOR  
YASMIN PAIGE  
CATHY MORIARTY  
PHYLLIS SOMERVILLE  
AND JAMES FOX AS 'THE COLONEL'  
KOBNA HOLDBROOK-SMITH  
TONY ROHR  
SUSAN BLOMMAERT  
JON KORKES  
TIM KEY

LLOYD WOOLF  
LYDIA AYOADE  
SALLY HAWKINS  
J MASCIS  
CHRISTOPHER MORRIS  
CHRIS O'DOWD  
CRAIG ROBERTS  
KIERSTON WAREING