



**CHRIS STONE**  
FILMS

*presents*

# Blood and Bone China

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
STOKE YOUR FIRES  
FILM FESTIVAL 2012

Marseille Web Fest  
Sélection officielle 2011

BEST WEBSERIES  
OF 2011  
INDIE INTERTUBE AWARDS  
2012



BEST HORROR  
WEBSERIES  
INDIE INTERTUBE AWARDS  
2012

BEST DIRECTING  
IN A DRAMA  
INDIE INTERTUBE AWARDS  
2012

**raindance**  
OFFICIAL COURSE  
SELECTION 2011

BEST CREDIT  
SEQUENCE  
INDIE INTERTUBE AWARDS  
2012

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## Cast and Crew

Newlyn Howell ANTHONY MILES  
Anna Fitzgerald RACHEL SHENTON  
Alexander Pyre JOHN JAMES WOODWARD  
Linus Hemlock DAVID LEMBERG  
Lady Victoria LARA DE-LEUW  
Richard Howell SIMON HOOSON  
The Servant RYAN CALLAGHAN  
Leonora ELLIE ASTLEY  
Rev. Thomas Lilley JEFF KIDNER  
Aaron LEWIS BRINDLEY  
Chief Inspector Cooper BRIAN GORMAN  
Magistrate Robert Campbell MATTHEW STEVEN CHAMBERS  
Mrs. Rod JOANNE SINGER  
The Artist ROB POINTON  
Farmer Hewitt JOHN DUTTON  
Miss Hewitt SHELLEY BOSSON  
Young Girl EVIE EARLS-DAVIS

Title Song 'Goodbye Happiness' by  
BIRTHRITE

Additional Costumes Provided by  
CRAIG LEONARD

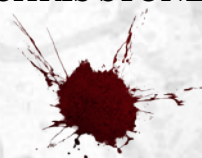
SFX Make Up  
KAZ PRESTON

Written by  
CHRIS STONE & STEPHANIE COOPER

Title Sequence / Colour Grading / Co-Producer  
STEPHANIE COOPER

Executive Producer  
PAUL BAILEY

Director / Producer / Editor  
CHRIS STONE



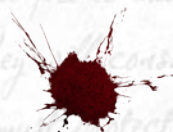
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## Synopsis

**It is 1897 and a city is in turmoil; poor souls are being taken, vanishing without a trace. When the local doctor disappears, word travels to his brother, a young country vet by the name of Newlyn Howell. Spurred on to discover the macabre truth by the enigmatic Alexander Pyre, Newlyn stumbles into a twisted web of deception, murder... and villainous vampires.**



*'Blood and Bone China'* is a feature length Gothic Victorian vampire film that has been broadcast on the internet in 12 bite-sized chunks. It was created and directed by award winning film-maker Chris Stone and set and shot in Chris' home town of Stoke-On-Trent. *'Blood and Bone China'* has been made as part of the Stoke Your Fires Film Festival and stars a wealth of up and coming local talent, including *'Hollyoaks'* actress Rachel Shenton as journalist Anna Fitzgerald.

### TECHNICAL SPECS

**107 MINS | HD 720p | 16:9 | STEREO | UK | 2012**



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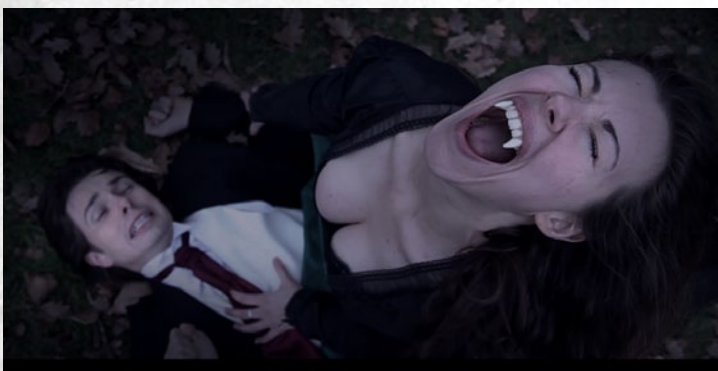
## Long Synopsis

It is 1897 and the city of Stoke-On-Trent is in turmoil; poor souls are being taken, vanishing without a trace. Doctor **RICHARD HOWELL** has discovered the terrible secret behind these disappearances, but before he can reveal it to local journalist **ANNA FITZGERALD**, he is taken by a beautiful but deadly vampire, **LADY VICTORIA**.

Richard's brother **NEWLYN HOWELL** receives a visit from a mysterious old man named **ALEXANDER PYRE**, who delivers the news of Richard's death. Alexander convinces Newlyn to travel to Stoke and unravel the mystery surrounding his disappearance. On their arrival, Newlyn and Alexander meet Anna, the feisty reporter for the local paper. Together they conclude through the clue of a bone china cup left by Richard, **LINUS HEMLOCK**, industrialist and owner of Hemlock China, could have a connection to his disappearance.



To get close to him, Newlyn and Anna join the wealthy and influential residents of Stoke at one of Hemlock's social gatherings in Hemlock manor. Newlyn comes face to face with the foreboding Hemlock and quizzes him about the disappearances. After a run in with Lady Victoria, Anna explores the manor for clues, only to find a vampire child, **LEONORA**, chained up in Hemlock's cellar. Newlyn and Anna quickly leave the manor, but are followed and attacked by Lady Victoria. When all seems lost, Alexander despatches Victoria with his silver sword and rescues them.



Alexander reveals that he is Newlyn's uncle, a vampire hunter and that it is Newlyn's destiny to follow in his footsteps. After the revelation, the group follow a trail of clues, which leads them to the Hemlock China factory. The group split up to cover more ground and Alexander gives Newlyn his sword. Anna and Newlyn find Richard, who is now a blood thirsty vampire.

Richard gives chase, Anna is taken hostage and Newlyn is left surrounded by vampires. Hemlock calls off the vampires and explains to Newlyn how he controls them through his daughter, Leonora. He also discloses how he has made his fortune by selling china made

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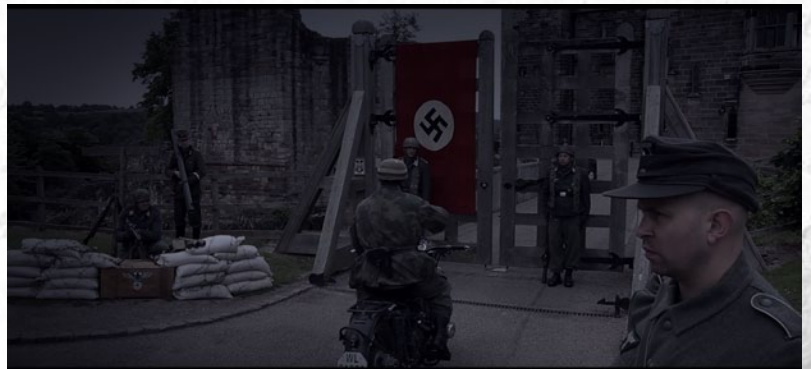


from human bones. Just as Newlyn's demise seems inevitable, Alexander steps in, holding Leonora as a hostage. However, everything goes horribly wrong and Alexander sacrifices himself to give his nephew time to escape. Newlyn is chased from the factory by a murderous vampire.

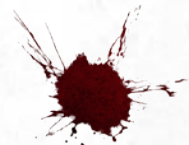


Cornered and alone, Newlyn is saved by a young boy named **AARON**, who takes him to meet the Silver Lining, a group of vampire hunters hidden under a local church. Newlyn rallies the group of renegades together and they march on Hemlock China, to destroy the vampires and rescue Anna. Richard lays down his life to save his

brother in the ensuing climactic battle. Finally, Newlyn confronts Hemlock, only to discover that Anna is dead; bound by ropes and drained of blood. The pair duel to the death, but Newlyn is stabbed and falls. Leonora sees how truly evil her father is. She raises Anna from the dead and commands her to kill her father. Leonora frees all of the vampires under her control and the battle ends. Newlyn passes away from his injuries in Anna's arms, but Anna resurrects him with a loving bite.

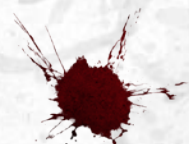


Forty seven years later in Nazi occupied Transylvania, we find Anna, Leonora and Newlyn, who is now fulfilling his destiny as a vampire hunter.



The story of 'Blood and Bone China' was partly inspired by a vampire related death that took place in Stoke-on-Trent in 1972. Inside the Gothic mansion that is number 3, The Villas, a man feared for his life. He held an absolute belief that vampires were real and had filled his room with tokens and talismans to stave off the demonic creatures. After going missing, his landlady called the police who broke down the door to his room. He was found lying in bed; he had choked to death on garlic.

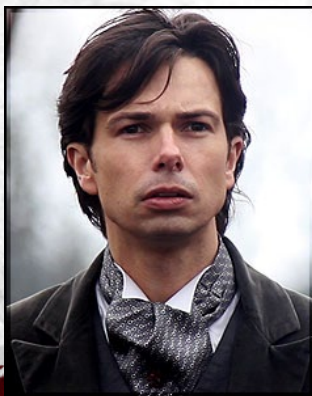
Director Chris Stone was allowed access to the original police files and photographs relating to the case. For authenticity, the production used the actual locations where the real events happened and the film even features a cameo from the grandson of the landlady that discovered the body. Chris Stone has also produced an 18-minute documentary called 'The Vampire of the Villas', which explores this infamous Stoke legend and the troubling and devastating effects that vampire folklore can have on us all.



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# Principal Cast



## **ANTHONY MILES as 'Newlyn Howell'**

Anthony Miles is a Birmingham born actor who studied for a BA Hons. in Theatre at Dartington College of Arts. He graduated in 2000 and has since gone on to enjoy performing in a wide variety of productions. He has recently starred in award-winning short film 'Quizmaster', played 15 characters on stage in 'The Resurrection of Lazarus' and been nominated for 'Best Actor' at the Indie Intertube Awards for his performance as Newlyn Howell in 'Blood and Bone China'.



## **RACHEL SHENTON as 'Anna Fitzgerald'**

Rachel Shenton is a Stoke-On-Trent born actress whose acting career began when she was just eight years old. She gained a National Diploma in Performing Arts from her local college and undertook further training from David Johnson Drama School in Manchester. She has since had several theatre, voice over and television roles, appearing in such well known programmes as 'Doctors', 'Holby City' and 'Waterloo Road'. Rachel is currently appearing in hit UK soap 'Hollyoaks'.



## **JOHN JAMES WOODWARD as 'Alexander Pyre'**

John James Woodward is a Stoke-On-Trent based artist, sculptor and product designer, working primarily in the field of fantasy giftware and toys. John has previously appeared in Chris Stone's award winning short film 'Anno Domini' as a Roman soldier, but Alexander Pyre is his first speaking role as an actor and one he is enjoying immensely.



## **DAVID LEMBERG as 'Linus Hemlock'**

David Lemberg is a Manchester born actor and studied at David Johnson Drama. He has appeared in episodes of 'Shameless' and 'Coronation Street'. David has also played a villainous Serbian gangster in the film 'The Crew' and the role of Tupolski in 'The Pillowman' at the Royal Northern College of Music last year. His next appearance will be in horror film 'The Seasoning House' as Dmitri. He is simply relishing the role of Linus Hemlock.

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# The Director

Chris Stone is an award winning creative filmmaker specialising in short films, music videos and corporate videos. Inspired by big budget Hollywood movies, Chris started making films at a very young age by borrowing his dad's video 8 camera.

Fast forward 17 years and Chris has worked for the BBC, filmed music videos in LA, shot a Royal Television Society nominated documentary in New York and won several awards in Hollywood. Chris has had his films and music videos screened on MTV, ITV and the BBC and premiered at the BFI Southbank and Pinewood Studios.



INTERNATIONAL  
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LA FILM FESTIVAL



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YOUNG INDEPENDENT  
FILM & TELEVISION  
AWARDS



BEST DIRECTOR  
INDIE INTERTUBE  
AWARDS



BEST ACTION FILM  
NEW YORK FILM  
FESTIVAL



BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY  
YOUNG INDEPENDENT  
FILM & TELEVISION  
AWARDS



BEST MUSIC VIDEO  
LONDON LIMELIGHT  
AWARDS



*"In recent years, vampires have been pushed so far from the original Dracula legend, that I decided they needed to get their bite back with 'Blood and Bone China'.*

*'Blood and Bone China' is a feature length film that has been broadcast on the internet in bite-sized chunks, utilising social media platforms to build up a cult fan following.*


*Set in my home town of Stoke-On-Trent, 'Blood and Bone China' explores the city's rich cultural history through a fun, exciting, action-adventure horror story and serves as a showcase for local talent and authentic period locations.*

*The process of production has been extremely challenging but enjoyable and I hope that I have created a new mythology for Stoke-On-Trent."*

- Chris Stone, Director

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# 10 FAQ's Answered by Director Chris Stone

## 1. Why make a film about vampires?

Vampires have been popular since the publication of *'Dracula'* in 1897, and their allure has never faded. They are the embodiment of sex appeal; dangerous, powerful and (usually) physically attractive. Whether it be the romantic teen appeal of *'Twilight'*, the comic book action of *'Blade'* or the sexy immortals of *'True Blood'*, there's a vampire sub genre for everyone.

## 2. Who stars in *'Blood and Bone China'*?

*'Hollyoaks'* actress Rachel Shenton stars as Anna Fitzgerald, the first female journalist for local newspaper, *'The Sentinel'*. However, she is forced to write under a male pseudonym and calls herself Arnold Bennett, the name of a real author from Stoke-On-Trent's rich history. Anna feels that if she can break the story of the century, she will no longer have to hide behind a false name to be taken seriously as a female journalist.

Rachel says, "When I read the script, there was no question in my mind whether to do it or not. It was absolutely brilliant and I read it like a book, I didn't want to put it down."

"I loved playing Anna. She's a really strong willed character who takes no nonsense from the boys and I've always wanted to appear in a period film."

"I've known Chris [Chris Stone, the director] for years and it was amazing to work with him. In the next few years he's going to be the British Spielberg!"

Rising star Anthony Miles plays country vet Newlyn Howell, an unlikely hero in search of his missing brother. David Lemberg, star of upcoming British horror movie *'The Seasoning House'*, appears as the vile Linus Hemlock. Lewis Brindley, who will soon be appearing as Alfie in CBBC series *'Stepping Up'*, portrays the young and enigmatic Aaron.

## 3. Why release your feature film as a web series first?

Psychologically, a web series is far easier to make than a feature film. We made *'Blood and Bone China'* in small manageable chunks, one 'episode' at a time, so it didn't feel like a mammoth amount of work. Also, we were filming *'Blood and Bone China'* as episodes were being broadcast on YouTube and we constantly posted Facebook and Twitter updates. This helped to keep our fans interested and drew in new viewers. We also gave our followers the opportunity to get involved; they provided props and costumes, suggested locations and were invited to set to be supporting artists.

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#### 4. How hard was it to recreate Stoke-On-Trent in the 1800's?

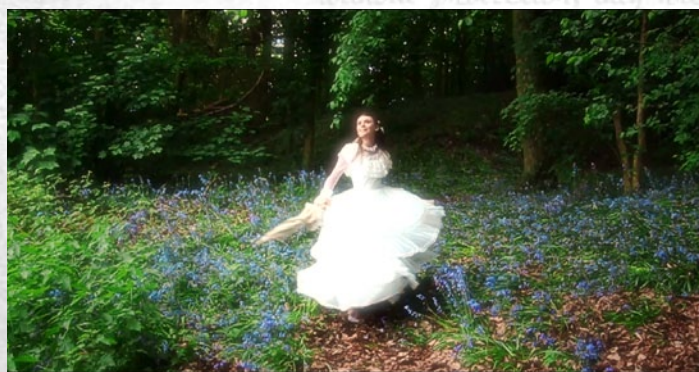
Stoke-On-Trent has a very rich history. In the 1800's, it was the world centre of the ceramics industry. The people of Stoke are very proud of their heritage; there are many museums dedicated to preserving it. I was lucky enough to be given the chance to film at some of those museums, which acted as ready made sets. Without this opportunity, filming *'Blood and Bone China'* would have been very difficult indeed. The city itself still retains much of it's Victorian architecture and period features, which provided the perfect backdrop for our production.



#### 5. What were your main influences?

I was heavily influenced by Victorian Gothic horror films, such as Hammer Horror's *'Dracula'* and Tim Burton's *'Sleepy Hollow'*. The recent release of Hammer's *'The Woman in Black'* proves there is still a big audience for Gothic horror and it became the highest-grossing British horror film in 20 years. Guy Richie's *'Sherlock Holmes'* was another major influence in terms of style and pacing.

#### 6. What was the most challenging part of the production?



Working on a tiny budget was the most challenging part, but the production team managed to get through it by being resourceful and willing to adapt. In a way, I think that all of the difficulties we faced really brought us together as a family.

On the filming side of things, we had to shoot at the museums when they were open. This meant that we would often get members of the public walking through the background in the middle of a take or wanting to watch the action. However, this did help to fuel local community interest in *'Blood and Bone China'* and garnered us new fans.

#### 7. Were you surprised by the positive reactions to *'Blood and Bone China'*?

I knew the horror genre was popular, but I'm surprised by how much *'Blood and Bone China'* has taken off! It has had a fantastic reaction around the world and we've built up a loyal fan base. It's been viewed well over 300,000 times on YouTube and we have strong followings on Twitter and Facebook.

Episodes of *'Blood and Bone China'* have been screened at the prestigious Raindance Film Festival in London and at the Marseilles WebFest and the feature film opened this year's Stoke Your Fires Film Festival. However, the highlight so far has been winning 6 accolades at the Indie Intertube Awards, including *'Best Director'* and *'Best Web Series of 2011'*.

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## 8. What have you got next in the pipeline?

I'm just about to start production on a new horror adventure that follows on from 'Blood and Bone China'. It's not necessarily a sequel, it will be it's own story in it's own right, but it does involve some of the popular characters from 'Blood and Bone China'.

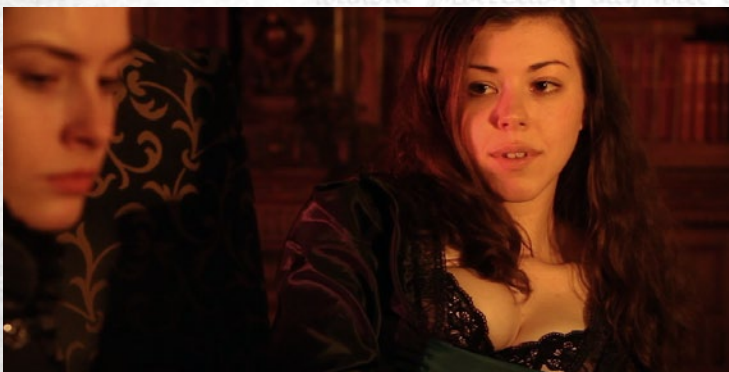


For further updates on the production, follow me on twitter [@bloodbonechina](https://twitter.com/bloodbonechina) and on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/bloodandbonechina>

## 9. What did you learn about directing films?

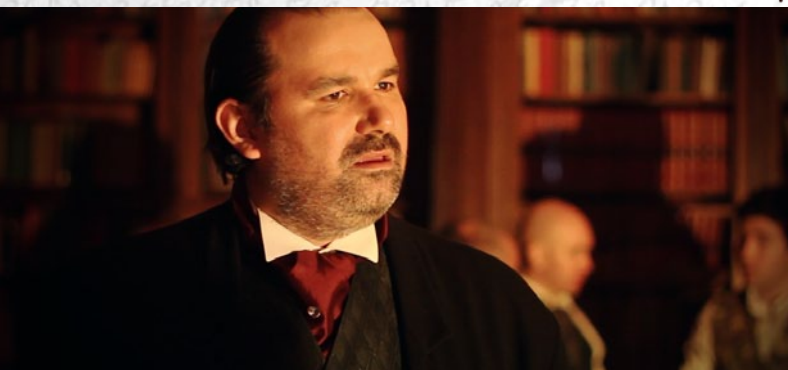
I learnt that it's not about the technology, it's about storytelling and people. Technology can be a fantastic tool, but that's all it is. I think too many film-makers obsess over the latest kit or software, and forget about the story they are telling and, crucially, who they are making it for. You have to know your target audience before you start production and learn how to tell a compelling, emotionally driven story to them.

## 10. Where do you see the future of British film-making?



With the power of the internet, it means that you're able to reach a global audience wherever you are in the world. You no longer have to be based in London or LA to make films. Good stories can be made anywhere, production is no longer 'geo-locked' to what you would traditionally consider production hubs. We are in the midst of a digital revolution and I can see traditional forms of entertainment and distribution changing in the next 15-20 years,

as everyone turns to the net for content. For me, it's all about building a sustainable audience who will enjoy and engage in what I do, who will be lifelong fans and support me in this project and whatever comes next.



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