

A NOT A NUMBER PRODUCTION



PEOPLE  
DISAPPEAR  
EVERYDAY

# SPLINTERED

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, YOU'RE SAFE HERE



# SPLINTERED

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## DETAILS

**GENRE:** Psychological thriller

**DIRECTOR:** Simeon Halligan RCA M.A.

**STORY BY:** Simeon Halligan

**SCREENPLAY BY:** Steve Trimingham

**INTENDED RELEASE:** Theatrical/DVD

**INTENDED RATING:** R15 UK

**RUNNING TIME:** 95 mins



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## SYNOPSIS

Don't be Frightened you're safe here!

Sophie is haunted by the memories of her past. She can't, or won't open up to her best friend Jane as her competitive nature and dark moods keep everybody but Jane at a distance. A double date set up by Jane backfires when Sophie ignores her date Dean. Sam (Jane's boyfriend), affronted by the way Sophie has treated his friend, challenges Sophie's claims that... 'I'm as tough as any boy.'

To prove the point, they end up at the old Forbes Hospital, the local mental institute. Long since abandoned but reputed to be haunted. Sam conspires with Dean to lock her in and a spooked Sophie has to tolerate Sam's ridicule of her fear all the way home. She is determined to prove herself and returns to the old building later that night on her own.

As she enters, the air is full of the whispers of ghostly voices. Could it just be the wind swirling around the deteriorating building? Is there another presence lurking within the crumbling walls of the Institute or is she just acutely aware of the creaking, tired structure?

She senses someone else is there! She hears them; she spots them! She runs in fear but the floor gives way to a bone-shattering fall.

Sophie is bedridden, unable to move and at the mercy of a shadowy stranger, the bedraggled and bearded Gavin. Can Sophie trust him? Gavin is erratic and more than a little creepy, but he offers to care for her until she can walk again. He wants to make a

good impression on Sophie, his newfound friend, so he decides to keep his equally dysfunctional brother, Vincent a secret from her. Gavin doesn't want her disturbed by his violent preoccupations.

When Sophie finds dead animals at the end of her bed, Gavin has no choice but to own up to his existence. Vincent sees Sophie as a threat to his claustrophobic relationship with his brother and he's jealous he wants her out. Will Gavin protect Sophie from Vincent's cruel desires?

Who are the other people that Gavin talks to? Sophie hears his conversations with them but cannot move from the bed to see beyond the doorway. She begins to question their existence.

Meanwhile the outside is inevitably encroaching on this isolated world as her friends search for the missing Sophie. Vincent has no problem with dispatching whoever threatens his safe haven but his methods are brutal, as Sophie will find out.

Sophie must come to terms with her traumatic past and use what she has learnt to overcome this horrendous ordeal.

Can Sophie trust Gavin to protect her from his twisted brother or is Gavin's relationship with Vincent much closer than we ever imaged?



## CHARACTERS

Sophie, Gavin and his brother Vincent are each a product of their dysfunctional childhoods. All three are disturbed because of the way they were abused but each has reacted in a different way.

### GAVIN

He claims he once worked in the abandoned Mental Institute; now he lives a hermit's life, eking out an existence and tending for his dangerous brother Vincent.

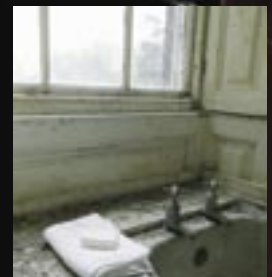
When Sophie falls into his life, he sees a glimpse of a life outside his own and has to decide between the possibilities of a new life promised by Sophie and the prospect of the Institute and Vincent.

Gavin can't escape his past and his own splintered psyche frustrates his attempts at escape.

### VINCENT

Totally dependant on his caring older brother, Vincent's childhood had a tragic impact on him. He has an affinity and fascination for dead things and his collection of slaughtered animals keeps him occupied...most of the time.

He yearns for a normal family life, but has no experience of it. His fervent wish to have a normal stable existence drives him to heights of murderous rage when it's clear he will never be allowed to live that life.



### SOPHIE

Sixteen-year-old Sophie is haunted by the memories of her past; she is competitive, sullen and claims to be as tough as any boy.

She finds herself incarcerated in what appears to be an inescapable room by Gavin, a loner living in the abandoned mental Institute. Sophie doesn't trust him at first, but ultimately has little choice as only he can protect her from his disturbed and violent brother Vincent.

To her, Vincent represents the beast that lies within the soul of all men.

Something burns deep inside her. A hidden fear that grips her tight and prevents her from letting down her guard.

Sophie witnessed the terrible abuse of her mother as a child and this has an overbearing effect on her relationship with boys and particularly older men.

She must learn to trust in order to survive. She must find out who Gavin really is and what his relationship is to the shadowy Vincent, his brother only mentioned in whispers.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

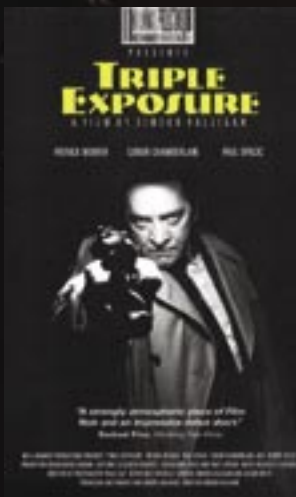
'Splintered' is a dark character-based psychological thriller. It's the story of a girl who, fleeing a guilty conscience, must come to terms with her entrapment and fate at the hands of two deeply disturbed brothers.

With echoes of such disturbing films as Hitchcock's 'Psycho', Stephen King's 'Misery', the recent 'Machinist' and literary works such as John Fowles 'The Collector', Splintered is a work of claustrophobic intensity, allowing the audience into the mind of the incarcerated teenager who, desperate in her solitude, comes to realize her need for the company of her captor.

The look of the film will be inspired by the austere expressionism of films such as 'Night of the Hunter' (Charles Laughton 1955) and The Haunting (Robert Wise 1963).

Film noir styling combined with bleached out colour and dark shadows will create a rich and unsettling mise-en-scene. The broken, derelict environment of the Institute becomes a visual metaphor for the mental states of its inhabitants.

We hope to create a "subtle nightmare" with this film, one that pulls its dramatic suspense and horror from the undetermined lies and half-truths that pass between the characters.



## THEMES

'Splintered' is a modern day fairy tale. A story told somewhere between the Brothers Grimm and Alfred Hitchcock.

The story is a version of 'Little Red Riding Hood' with a contemporary dark adult twist.

'Splintered' examines women's fear of the animal in men. Sophie has a fear of violent older men. Vincent's feral nature reminds and connects Sophie with her traumatic childhood and the pain and fear she carries with her. She's running from her past, unable to forget what her Stepfather did to her Mother and deal with the effect those events had on her.

The story is about deception, the masks everyone wears to hide their fear from others and the repercussions of childhood abuse.







For more information please contact:  
Phone: Simeon Halligan +44(0)7721 529947  
Email: [info@splinteredthemovie.com](mailto:info@splinteredthemovie.com)

[www.splinteredthemovie.com](http://www.splinteredthemovie.com)  
[www.notanumber.co.uk](http://www.notanumber.co.uk)