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splendid film

presenteren / présentent:

# UNA



release: 12/07/2017

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# Synopsis

## • NL •

Een jonge vrouw gaat op zoek naar antwoorden. Ze brengt een onaangekondigd bezoekje aan een oude bekende op diens werkplek. De ontmoeting brengt diep begraven geheimen uit het verleden weer aan de oppervlakte en doet onuitspreekbare verlangens weer opborrelen. Hun zorgvuldig terug opgebouwde levens zullen nooit meer hetzelfde zijn.

## • FR •

Quand une jeune femme, en recherche des réponses, arrive inattendue au lieu de travail d'un homme âgé, les secrets du passé peuvent bouleverser sa nouvelle vie. Leur confrontation permettra de découvrir des souvenirs enterrés et des désirs indescriptibles. Cela les secouera tous les deux au cœur.



# Specificaties / Spécifications

**duur / durée:** 94 min.

**productie / production:** UK / Royaume-Uni

**ondertiteling:** Nederlands & Frans, dialogen in het Engels

**sous-titrage:** néerlandais & français, dialogues en anglais

**formaat / format:** 1.85 : 1

**geluid / son:** DOLBY

# Cast

Ben Mendelsohn	Ray
Rooney Mara	Una
Ruby Stokes	Young Una
Roz Ahmed	Scott
Tobias Menzies	Mark
Tara Fitzgerald	Andrea
Poppy Corby-Tuech	Poppy
Natasha Little	Yvonne
Isobelle Molloy	Holly
Ciarán McMenamin	John



# Crew

**regie / réalisation:** Benedict Andrews

**scenario / scénario:** David Harrower

**art direction / direction artistique:** Tim Blake

**production design:** Fiona Crombie

**montage:** Nick Fenton

**cinematografie / photographie:** Thimios Bakatakis

**productie / production:** Jean Doumanian

**productiehuis / société de production:** Jean Doumanian Productions -  
West End Films - Bron Studios

**geluid / son:** Alex Joseph

**muziek / musique:** Ian Neil

**casting:** Kahleen Crawford

**decors / décors:** Alice Felton

**kostuums / costumes:** Steven Noble

# Benedict Andrews

Now based in Reykjavik, Benedict Andrews is a multi-award winning Australian director of theatre and opera. Over the past decade, Benedict has built up a remarkable and singular body of work in Australia and Europe. He is known for his radical versions of masterpieces by Shakespeare, Anton Chekhov and Tennessee Williams, as well as his stagings of cutting edge contemporary writers.

From 2000 to 2003 Benedict was the Resident Director at Sydney Theatre Company, and in 1997 was the Artistic Director of Magpie 2 Theatre at STCSA where he staged *Features of Blown Youth*, *Mercedes* and *In The Solitude of the Cotton Fields*. Benedict was awarded the 2005 Sydney Myer Performing Arts Award and was the recipient of Gloria Payten and Gloria Dawn Foundation Fellowships in 1998. He is a graduate of Flinders University Drama Centre. From 2004 to 2010, Benedict worked extensively at the Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz, Berlin where his productions include *Saved*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *The Dog, the Night, the Knife*; *Cleansed*; *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You*; *Stoning Mary*; *The Ugly One*; and *Blackbird*.

As a writer, Benedict has adapted *The Maids* with Andrew Upton and *The War of the Roses* with Tom Wright, *Life is a Dream* and *Three Sisters* (2001) with Beatrix Christian, and his own versions of Chekhov's *The Seagull* and *The Three Sisters* (2012). Benedict's first original play *Every Breath* was produced at Belvoir Street Theatre in 2012 and subsequently translated into Portuguese by Jorge Silva Melo for a production by Artistas Unidos in Lisbon 2013. His most recent play *Gloria* opened at Sydney's Griffin Theatre in August 2016 coinciding with the publication of his *Collected Plays* by Oberon Books. Benedict's first volume of poetry *Lens Flare* was published in 2014 by Pitt Street Poetry and was awarded the 2016 Mary Gilmore Prize for best first book of Australian poetry (2014-2016).

Benedict's feature film debut *Una* (based on David Harrower's play 'Blackbird' and starring Rooney Mara and Ben Mendelsohn) had its world premiere at the 43rd Telluride Film Festival. *Una* is also announced for the 2016 Toronto Film Festival and as part of the Official Competition at the 2016 London Film Festival.



## **Filmography**

2016 Una

2014 National Theatre Live: A Streetcar Named Desire

### **Director's comment**

Andrews directed the play in Berlin in 2005. "It really got under my skin then. I was really attracted to David's razor-sharp writing and how he strips his characters bare and basically over the course of this encounter makes them fight for everything they hold dear," he said.

Whereas the play is a "verbal punching match," the film opens up the action to become something else. "I think that's to do with how cinema can become an inquiry into time and memory," Andrews said.

He added: "Her journey to find Ray is a journey into memory, and this opens up a very special space that belongs to the cinema, and a kind of evocation of memory and loss and desire that can be talked about in a way that only the cinema can."

The focus is on Una's attempt to make sense of her past. "Something happened between them that marks them off from the rest of the world and fixes them in time, especially Una," he said. "What happened to her has marked her and the film in a way shows her attempt to retrieve her past."

It is a story of abuse and "damaged love," Andrews said, and Una's attempt to move forward from that. "The audience has to ask questions about repair and redemption inside Una, and that's the force of the story," he says.

A lot depends on the performances of Mara and Mendelsohn. "The story can only really be told when it has very brave actors, actors who are putting themselves on the line," Andrews said.



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