



VENICE 2016 Netherlands

***Brimstone*: A European western competes for the Golden Lion**

by VITOR PINTO

🕒 29/07/2016 - Dakota Fanning and Guy Pearce star in Dutch director Martin Koolhoven's first English-language feature



Brimstone by Martin Koolhoven

Brimstone [+], the first English-language film by Dutch director **Martin Koolhoven** (*Schnitzel Paradise* [+]), has been selected to compete at the 73rd [Venice International Film Festival](#) (31 August – 10 September). The selection ends a hiatus of ten years during which no Dutch title made it into the running for the Golden Lion – the last one to do so was **Paul Verhoeven's** *Black Book* [+].

Hollywood actors **Dakota Fanning** and **Guy Pearce** lead the cast of this gothic thriller set in the old west. Fanning plays a mute young woman who communicates through sign language, occasionally assisted by her daughter. When the city receives a new reverend (Pearce), she immediately knows she and her family are in danger. Over four chapters, *Brimstone* will show the confrontation between the two, and also portray how the heroine's life unfolded in the past. **Kit "Jon Snow" Harington** and Dutch actress **Carice van Houten** (*Black Book*) play supporting roles.

Brimstone is a major European co-production effort led by Dutch company **N279 Entertainment**, along with **X-Filme** (Germany), **Prime Time** (Belgium), **The Jokers** (France) and Dragon Films (Sweden), and it boasted support from the **Netherlands Film Fund**.

Two other Dutch minority co-productions are also heading to the Lido this year, set to screen in the Orizzonti section: *King of the Belgians* [+] and *White Sun*. *King of the Belgians* is the latest effort by duo **Peter Brosens** and **Jessica Woodworth**. Amsterdam-based outfit **Topkapi Films** got on board this co-production led by Belgium's **Bo Films**, which also involves **Entre Chien et Loup** (Belgium) and **Art Fest** (Bulgaria). Finally, there is also **Deepak Rauniyar's** film *White Sun* [+], which was produced by Aadi Production (Nepal), in co-production with Louverture Films (USA) and The Film Kitchen (Netherlands).

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