



WRITER/ACTOR EXCLUSIVE

# A Touch Of Frost

Nick Frost reveals all about his new *Wicker Man*-influenced comedy

WORDS: STEVE O'BRIEN

NICK FROST HAS APPEARED IN many types of horror over the years, from zom-romcoms (*Shaun Of The Dead*) to alien invasion extravaganzas (*Attack The Block*) to comic splatterfests (*Slaughterhouse Rulez*), but there's one genre, close to the actor's heart, that he's only just got around to: folk horror.

*Get Away* is not just Nick Frost's first foray into *Wicker Man*/*Midsommar* waters, it's also his first movie as sole writer (he co-penned 2011's *Paul* with old mucker Simon Pegg). So why folk horror and why now?

"About five years ago, I'm not sure what happened, but I suddenly wanted to write all the time," Frost tells Red Alert about how his new horror-comedy came about. "It's as if someone just clicked my creativity button."

The germ of the idea for what would become *Get Away* was formed two decades ago when holidaying in Sweden with his then-wife – on an island in the Baltic Sea specifically – a location the couple would return to regularly over the years.

"I kind of got to know the locals a tiny bit, and they were all very insulated," he says. "Even though they'd known me for 20 years, they'd never really speak to me.

"The Scandinavians," he goes on, "have these traditions and they have this culture, and there are these real *Midsommar* vibes."

It struck Frost how ripe this dynamic was for a folk horror, albeit with a comic slant, conjuring up a story of an English family who travel to a remote Swedish island only to find themselves treated as very much the outsiders.



Sebastian Croft and Maisie Ayres play the siblings.

## “Stefan’s young and funny and he’s charming. He’s a great director and worked hard”

The movie certainly plays on many of the tropes of folk horror, while at the same time cleverly inverting many of them (we can't say any more). With the script being so genre-literate, Frost, who wasn't interested in directing, needed a director who understood what he was trying to do. Enter Dutch filmmaker Steffen Haars.

"We made two films together last year," says Frost, referring to this movie and horror comedy *Krazy House*, which the two shot in Amsterdam in 2023. "Steffan's young and he's funny and he's charming. He's a great director and worked hard. He has that thing that Edgar [Wright] does that he's got a real knowledge of film."

Starring as Frost's wife is Aisling Bea, an actor Frost has nothing but admiration for. "She was top of our list for the character of Mummy," he tells us. "I went and had dinner with her, and within 15 minutes, we were like balls deep in each other's lives, so to speak. It was just like, yeah, you're absolutely who I'd want to spend two months with in Finland [which doubles for Sweden]."

Equally impressive are Sebastian Croft and Maisie Ayres, who play the couple's teenage children. "Sebastian I've worked with quite a bit," Frost says. "He



Have a nice biscuit and wait for it all to blow over.

played a Roman boy in the *Horrible Histories* movie that I did. He was 14 or 15 then and was great – he had a real gangly physicality, and was really fun to be around. Then we did another film a couple of years ago, and when I was writing this I just had him in mind. Maisie hadn't done much at all, but we saw quite a few people for that character on Zoom and she just lit the screen up. It was incredible!"

Since he started writing on his own five years ago, Frost says he's accumulated "a massive amount" of ideas, all of which he stores on his iPhone. "Some obviously are just shit," he laughs, "but some I end up thinking about a lot."

He's currently beavering away on a second draft of his follow-up movie, which he teases is another horror, but this time "more supernatural". Time will tell, though, whether it actually happens.

"We just have to get it financed, that's the tricky bit," he says. "Part of me would like to hope that if *Get Away* does well, and people like it, then someone will say, 'Okay, why don't you make another one?'"

More immediately, Frost is continuing to film the live-action remake of *How To Train Your Dragon* (he's playing Gobber the Belch opposite Mason Thames and Nico Parker), a movie that he says is the biggest he's ever worked on.

"That's what I love about my job," he enthuses, "where you can go and do a really small film with a really small crew, and then the next month, you're in Belfast, and there's like 800 crew and four cameras in every shot.

He adds, "*Snow White And The Huntsman*, that was pretty big, but this, well, this was like... 'Wow!'"

*Get Away* is on Sky Cinema and NOW from 10 January.

► **SCI-FACT!** Frost and his co-stars now have a WhatsApp group, which is called The Smith Family.



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