

= Olly Blackburn =

Olly Blackburn ( also credited as Oliver Blackburn and Ollie Blackburn ) is a film director and screenwriter . Born in London , England , Blackburn had an acting role in the 1982 short comedy film *A Shocking Accident* ; the film won an Academy Award in 1983 for Best Short Subject . He graduated from Oxford University in 1993 where he studied history . Blackburn won a Fulbright Scholarship and pursued graduate studies in film and television at the Tisch School of the Arts . While there , his film *Swallowed* received New York University 's Martin Scorsese Post @-@ Production Award .

Blackburn began his professional film career directing commercials and music videos , and became associated with the film production company Warp X. He served as Second Unit Director on the film *Reverb* . Blackburn co @-@ wrote and directed *Donkey Punch* , which was his first film to be shown at the Sundance Film Festival . He shot the film on a £ 1 million budget over 24 days in South Africa . Movie critics likened his work on the film to filmmaker Peter Berg 's *Very Bad Things* , director Phillip Noyce 's *Dead Calm* , and Roman Polanski 's *Knife in the Water* . He went on to serve as writer for the film *Vinyan* , which critics compared to two films by director Nicolas Roeg , *Don 't Look Now* and *Heart of Darkness* .

= = Early life and education = =

Blackburn was born in London , England . In 1982 Blackburn acted in the short comedy film *A Shocking Accident* directed by James Scott , based on a short story of the same name by Graham Greene . The film won an Academy Award in 1983 for Best Short Subject .

Blackburn received a degree from Oxford University in 1993 ; he focused on history . He subsequently worked in journalism . Blackburn won a Fulbright Scholarship , and studied television and film as a graduate student at New York University 's Tisch School of the Arts . While at NYU , Blackburn created a short film titled *Swallowed* ; this work was recognised with the 1996 Martin Scorsese Post @-@ Production Award . In an interview with IndieLondon , Blackburn stated his role models include Sam Peckinpah and Michael Powell . While living in New York City , Blackburn and his co @-@ writer for *Donkey Punch* , David Bloom , stayed in an apartment together for one year . Bloom had also been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the United States . In 2009 , Blackburn resided in South London .

= = Film career = =

Prior to his work as a film director , Blackburn directed commercials and music videos . He worked on television productions at British film production company Warp X , alongside the company 's founder , Robin Gutch .

Blackburn served as Second Unit Director on the film *Reverb* , written and directed by Eitan Arrusi , and produced by Frank Mannion . *Reverb* stars Leo Gregory , Eva Birthistle , Margo Stilley , Luke de Woolfson , Stephen Lord , and Neil Newbon . The Guardian noted , " In the end , this looks like just another crass , unimaginative and heavy @-@ handed British horror . " A review in The Daily Telegraph commented , " Eitan Arrusi 's movie appears to have been shot through dirty glass and edited in a blender ? it may drive you mad . " Total Film observed , " Hidden sounds lead to haunted rooms and tedious occult mythology " .

Blackburn directed the 2008 film *Donkey Punch* , which he co @-@ wrote with David Bloom . His total budget for the film was £ 1 million . Blackburn 's production team went through a casting process which took seven months ; the film stars Nichola Burley , Tom Burke , Jaime Winstone and Julian Morris . He shot the film in South Africa , over 24 days . Film shooting for *Donkey Punch* began in March 2007 ; during production Blackburn dealt with actors afflicted by hypothermia and tidal surges on location . In an interview with Total Film , Blackburn commented , " I think *Donkey Punch* is an extreme thriller or an extreme reality @-@ based thriller . The whole point of the film is it 's grounded in reality . " Blackburn wrote that he made *Donkey Punch* , " to try to push the genre .

" Donkey Punch received mixed reviews ; the film obtained a rating of 49 % based on 51 reviews at Rotten Tomatoes , and a score of 43 out of 100 at Metacritic . The Philadelphia Inquirer compared Blackburn 's work to films including filmmaker Peter Berg 's Very Bad Things and director Philip Noyce 's Dead Calm , and wrote , " Donkey Punch offers a gripping mix of sexual heat and nasty menace . " The Los Angeles Times additionally compared Blackburn 's work to Dead Calm as well as director Roman Polanski 's Knife in the Water , and concluded , Donkey Punch isn 't without a certain power as it gleefully turns its careless hedonists into caged , paranoid rats . " The film was Blackburn 's first work to be shown at the Sundance Film Festival , where it received a positive reception from the audience in attendance .

Blackburn served as writer on the film Vinyan , directed by Fabrice Du Welz . Vinyan stars Emmanuelle Béart , Rufus Sewell , and Julie Dreyfus . Sky Movies likened Vinyan to Nicolas Roeg 's two films Don 't Look Now and Heart of Darkness ; Blackburn interviewed Roeg in 2008 for TimeOut London and noted , " Nic Roeg inspires me . " This Is London characterised the film as , " a dark and pessimistic drama which goes slap @-@ happily mad towards the end but keeps you watching all the same . " Empire Magazine also compared the film to Nicolas Roeg 's Don 't Look Now , and concluded , " Horrific and harrowing but the narrative arc could leave the audience unmoved . "

= = Filmography = =

= = Awards and nominations = =