

= Obsessed ( 2009 film ) =

Obsessed is a 2009 American thriller film directed by Steve Shill . The Rainforest Films production stars Idris Elba , Beyoncé , and Ali Larter . Obsessed tells the story of Lisa , an office temp played by Larter , who develops romantic feelings for her boss , Derek Charles ( Elba ) , and repeatedly attempts to seduce him . Derek 's wife , Sharon ( Beyoncé ) , learns of Lisa 's obsessive behavior , and suspects an affair . Screen Gems president Clint Culpepper conceived the basic idea of Obsessed , which was then developed by writer David Loughery , allocated a production budget of \$ 20 million , and filmed in the summer of 2008 . Obsessed was inspired by the work of directors Roman Polanski and Alfred Hitchcock , and its score was written by James Dooley . Lisa and Sharon were dressed in contrasting styles to reinforce their conflicting characters . Obsessed opened in US theaters on April 24 , 2009 , and UK theaters on May 29 , 2009 , and was distributed by Screen Gems .

Obsessed received generally negative reviews from critics , many of whom were disappointed in the absence of an explanation for Lisa 's obsession with Derek . Others noted that the potential theme of interracial conflict between the Charles family , who were black , and Lisa , who was white , was unexplored . The storyline of Obsessed has been compared with that of Fatal Attraction ( 1987 ) , although film critics disliked the fact that Derek did not yield to Lisa 's seduction . The fight scene finale between Sharon and Lisa , however , was commended by reviewers , and won the MTV Movie Award for Best Fight . Obsessed spent its first week atop the US box office , and grossed \$ 73 @. @ 8 million from theaters , internationally . Sony Pictures Home Entertainment released the film for home viewing on August 4 , 2009 , in the US and has sold 1 @. @ 3 million DVDs , worth \$ 21 million of consumer spending .

= = Plot = =

Derek Charles ( Idris Elba ) works for a finance company and is married to Sharon ( Beyoncé Knowles ) . While Derek is at work , he greets temporary worker Lisa Sheridan ( Ali Larter ) , who , believing Derek was flirting with her , attempts to seduce him throughout the film . Derek repeatedly rejects her , but Lisa continues to pursue him , making sexual advances on him at the Christmas party and flashing him in his car . Derek intends to report Lisa to his firm 's human resource management , but learns that she has quit her job . Thinking that Lisa has given up , Derek is annoyed when he receives flirtatious emails from her . Derek and his workmates visit a resort for a conference , where he spots and confronts Lisa , who spikes his drink . Incapacitated , Derek is helpless when Lisa follows him into his hotel room and rapes him . He confronts Lisa again the following day , and hours later discovers her lying naked in his bed after attempting suicide by drug overdose , and calls for medical help .

After repeated attempts to reach Derek on his phone , Sharon finds Derek at the hospital and suspects that he and Lisa had an affair , as Lisa claims . LAPD Detective Monica Reese ( Christine Lahti ) at first questions Derek 's fidelity to Sharon as well , but soon becomes skeptical of Lisa 's claims , due to inconsistencies in her side of the story , and informs Derek of her belief in him . Sharon , refusing to believe Derek , kicks him out of their house , and he moves into a separate apartment . Months later , Derek and Sharon meet up for dinner and finally reconcile . Meanwhile , Lisa tricks the babysitter Samantha ( Scout Taylor @- @ Compton ) into letting her in under the pretense of being one of Sharon 's friends . When Derek and Sharon return home after dinner , they discover that Lisa had been in the house and seemingly abducted Derek and Sharon 's infant son , Kyle ( Nathan and Nicolas Myers ) . Derek goes to his car with the intent to pursue Lisa , only to find the baby is safely sitting in the back seat . He and Sharon immediately take Kyle to the hospital for a check @- @ up . When Derek and Sharon return home from the hospital , they find Lisa has trashed their bedroom and removed Sharon 's face from their family portrait . Sharon leaves a threatening voice message on Lisa 's phone , and she and Derek set up a home alarm system .

Lisa learns that Derek and Sharon will be going away from town for a few days , with Sharon leaving one afternoon and Derek the next day . While Sharon is on her way to pick up Kyle , she

realizes she forgot to set the alarm system and returns home . Meanwhile , Lisa breaks into Derek and Sharon 's house again and decorates the master bed with rose petals . While setting the alarm , Sharon hears Lisa in the bedroom . She confronts Lisa , who tries to convince her that Derek was seeing Lisa . However , Sharon sees through her lie and attempts to call the police , but Lisa tackles her to the floor , and the two engage in a fistfight . Derek calls the home phone and Lisa answers ; he calls Detective Reese and they both head toward the house . Lisa runs to the attic and Sharon pursues her . Sharon leads her to a weak spot in the attic floor , where Lisa falls through . Seeing that Lisa is in mortal danger , Sharon reaches out in an attempt to grab Lisa and lift her up , but Lisa refuses and tries to pull Sharon down with her . Seeing that the floor is beginning to buckle , Sharon pries Lisa off of her arm . Lisa falls and smashes onto the glass table below . A chandelier falls from the ceiling onto Lisa , eventually killing her . Detective Reese arrive as Sharon comes out of the house . As soon as Detective Reese goes inside the house to investigate Lisa 's actions , Derek soon arrives ; he and Sharon then tearfully embrace one another .

= = Cast = =

Idris Elba as Derek Charles  
Beyoncé Knowles as Sharon Charles  
Ali Larter as Lisa Sheridan  
Nathan and Nicolas Myers as Kyle Charles  
Christine Lahti as Detective Monica Reese  
Scout Taylor @-@ Compton as Samantha  
Jerry O 'Connell as Ben  
Bruce McGill as Joe Gage  
Matthew Humphreys as Patrick  
Richard Ruccolo as Hank

= = Production = =

= = = Background = = =

The concept of Obsessed was thought up by Clint Culpepper , president of Screen Gems , and was shared with David Loughery , who wrote the screenplay . Producer William Packer read the script and signed on ; executive producers for the film were Glenn S. Gainor , Jeff Graup , Earvin " Magic " Johnson , Beyoncé , Mathew Knowles , Damon Lee and Loughery , while Nicholas Stern and George Flynn served as co @-@ producer and associate producer , respectively . Director Steve Shill signed on after reading the script and hearing that Beyoncé was on board . Part of the reason Elba joined in was that the black ? white theme was ignored ; " It 's not mentioned in the film , it 's never an issue , and I think that 's phenomenal ... To me , that was very refreshing that the studio execs didn 't want to make an issue of it . " Obsessed was allocated a production budget of \$ 20 million . Shill stated that the intended effect of the film was to have the audience discuss the characters ' motivations . Writer David Loughery designed Lisa as " not a villain in a traditional sense ; she 's not setting out to wreck a marriage or ruin somebody 's life . She really believes that [ Derek ] is in love with her . " Lisa 's past was deliberately omitted from the film , explaining , " It 's scarier if we never really know how she 's developed this personality that can go from very loving to ultimately deadly . "

= = = Casting and filming = = =

The casting directors for Obsessed were Ron Digman and Valorie Massalas . According to Packer , Elba and Larter were the favorite actors for their respective lead roles ; he stated that " they both brought the right amount of depth and sex appeal " to the film . He emphasized the need for actors "

who were relatable and who can handle that type of human interplay that we have in the film . " Packer showed the film script to Beyoncé 's talent agent , who suggested that Beyoncé play the role of Sharon . The producers " immediately ... fell in love with that idea ; once she suggested Beyoncé , nobody else could play the role . " Packer said that Beyoncé became interested in working on Obsessed because the film was not focused on the music industry , and that it was the first time she played a non @-@ singer . Packer also reported that " she was looking for that challenge and welcomed this opportunity " . Beyoncé stated that she found it challenging to concentrate purely on " the emotion and the psychology of the relationship " . Beyoncé had never taken part in a fight scene , but she was able to learn how to perform the scenes quickly because they were similar to dance choreography , with which she was familiar . Larter was inspired by Rita Hayworth , Barbara Stanwyck and Faye Dunaway , all of whom had previously portrayed femme fatales . Obsessed was filmed over the summer of 2008 , and the final fight scene between Sharon and Lisa was shot over one week .

= = = Set and costumes = = =

Shill and cinematographer Ken Seng were inspired by Roman Polanski and Alfred Hitchcock when constructing the set , and attempted to make it look both frightening and suburban . Shill stated , " It didn 't look like typical Hollywood ; it didn 't look cosmetic . " The Charles ' family home was set in a 1923 Altadena , California house , however the action scenes were shot on a separate purpose @-@ built set . The set was customized from a house built for The Stepfather ( 2009 ) , which in turn was adapted from a block of apartments for Quarantine ( 2008 ) . The Charles ' living room had a ceiling 25 feet ( 7 @.@ 6 m ) high , and a custom @-@ built chandelier for the climactic ending of the film . According to Gainor , the house is symbolic of the family 's aspirations , and is intentionally too large for the three occupants ; he said , " It 's a little awkward and a little bit eerie . " The fight scene was filmed on a sound stage set , rather than in the house , for safety and practicability reasons .

Costume designer Maya Lieberman attempted to contrast the costumes of Sharon and Lisa to reinforce the conflict between the two characters . She said , " With Ali , our discussion started with wanting really clean , classic and sharp lines , whereas Beyoncé 's character [ wore ] more soft , more textural cashmeres and knits . " Sharon wore clothes designed by Zac Posen , Yves Saint Laurent , Jimmy Choo , Diane von Fürstenberg , Valentino , Stella McCartney and Missoni , while Lisa wore Gucci , Dolce & Gabbana and Burberry outfits . Derek was dressed in Dolce & Gabbana and Versace suits with Thomas Pink shirts to create a " prestigious yet contemporary " look .

= = = Music = = =

The film score for Obsessed was written by James Dooley . The beginning of Obsessed , where the Charles are seen in their home , plays adult contemporary music in the background . The remainder of the film 's first act is supported by light piano instrumentation , and occasional " low @-@ register whoosh @-@ thump noises , of the kind you might hear in a stalker movie " , according to Sady Doyle of The Guardian .

Studio recorded songs on the soundtrack of Obsessed are " Any Other Day " ( Wyclef Jean and Norah Jones ) , " Black and Gold " ( Sam Sparro ) , " Soul Food " ( Martina Topley @-@ Bird ) , " American Boy " ( Estelle ) , " Jolly Holly ( Deck the Halls ) " ( Mike Strickland ) , " I 'm Gonna Getcha " ( Crudo ) , " The Christmas Song " ( Marcus Miller ) , " Play That Funky Music " ( Wild Cherry ) , " Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas " ( Ruben Studdard and Tamyra Gray ) , " Wild Thing " ( Tone L?c ) , " Oye Al Desierto " ( With the Quickness ) , " Destiny " ( Zero 7 ) , " Meet the Brilliant " ( Draque Bozung ) , " Golden " ( Jill Scott ) , " Bambool Wall " ( Patch ) , and " Smash into You " ( Beyoncé ) .

= = Release and reception = =

Obsessed premiered at the School of Visual Arts , New York City on April 23 , 2009 , and opened at US cinemas the following day . The film began showing in the United Kingdom on May 29 , 2009 .

= = = Critical response = = =

Obsessed received generally negative reviews from critics . Based on 85 reviews collected by Rotten Tomatoes , the film has a " Rotten " rating from critics , with 19 % positive reviews and an average rating of 3 @.@ 7 out of 10 . The site 's consensus reads " The inevitable Fatal Attraction comparisons aside , Obsessed is a generic , toothless thriller both instantly predictable and instantly forgettable . " Another review aggregator , Metacritic , gave the film a weighted mean score of 25 out of 100 , based on ten reviews from mainstream critics . A common complaint about the film was that , unlike most " deranged stalker " -themed films , Obsessed did not explain why Lisa was so determined to seduce Derek , who showed no interest in her at all . Variety 's John Anderson and The Hollywood Reporter 's Kirk Honeycutt criticized Lisa 's lack of motive and backstory . Stella Papamichael of Digital Spy called the film predictable and blamed the well @-@ defined morality of the characters . She wrote , " Unlike the bunny @-@ boiling ' 80s classic Fatal Attraction , the characters are drawn in 2D . They are either good or bad , and there is absolutely no attempt to understand what drives them either way . " Liz Braun from Jam ! lambasted the lack of character development in Obsessed and called it " a chemistry @-@ free movie " . Jason McKiernan of Filmcritic.com described the film as " so steeped in the formula of the psycho @-@ sexual suspense flick that it works as both a thriller and a comedy " and " very good trash " .

Reviewers also noted that the potential for interracial conflict remained unexplored ; Entertainment Weekly 's Owen Gleiberman wrote , " The movie wants to tease us with intimations of a steamy biracial liaison ; it just doesn 't want to actually go there . " Wesley Morris of The Boston Globe was disappointed that " Obsessed basically plays it safe . The obvious racial buttons are never pushed " . Greg Quill from the Toronto Star agreed , and wrote that Shill and Loughery " stripped the drama of its potentially gripping ? and obvious ? racial overtones " . However , Carrie Rickey of The Philadelphia Inquirer pointed out that having the two female roles of differing races " creates racial tension " , and noted similarities to " the racially charged " Lakeview Terrace ( 2008 ) , which Loughery also wrote . Braun was of the impression that a well @-@ written script was replaced by the film 's " racial politics " . When Derek confronts Lisa at the business conference , she threatens him with a sexual harassment complaint ; Sady Doyle from The Guardian wrote that this alludes to " the history of black men being lynched for their perceived threat to white women " . Doyle pointed out that historically white women are more revered for their beauty than black women , which is a side theme of the fight between Sharon and Lisa . Melissa Anderson of LA Weekly suggested that awkwardness of the interracial relationship of Derek and Lisa as a reason why the filmmakers did not have the two characters partake in any sexual activity .

Critics drew close comparisons between Obsessed and Adrian Lyne 's 1987 stalker thriller Fatal Attraction . However , two distinctions noted were that Obsessed contains no bunny boiling @-@ like incidents , and that Derek and Lisa did not actually have sexual intercourse . John Anderson of Variety wrote , " If Derek had actually slept with Lisa , a la Michael Douglas in Fatal Attraction , Obsessed would at least have had the spurned @-@ woman gambit to play , however hoary . " Peter Travers of Rolling Stone gave the film zero out of four stars , and wrote that Derek 's lack of interest in Lisa allowed for no conflict in the film . Travers concluded , " Everything you need to know is in the trailer . " The Daily Telegraph 's Tim Robey thought that Obsessed would have been more entertaining had Lisa 's character been fiercer like Alex Forrest in Fatal Attraction . Rickey opined that while the lack of infidelity made the film less thrilling , it " is about the sanctity of marriage rather than the shame of adultery . "

The final fight scene between Sharon and Lisa was commended by critics . Marjorie Baumgarten from The Austin Chronicle stated that , despite the predictability of its plot , Obsessed caters to " the American moviegoers ' appetite for a juicy catfight . " E ! Online 's Natasha Vargas @-@ Cooper lauded the choreography and noted the scene as the highlight of the film . McKiernan called it the " best knock @-@ down , drag @-@ out girlfriend " of 2009 . However , Alex Navarro from Screened

called the fight " boring " because of the poor filming and editing of the scene .

== Awards and nominations ==

At the 2009 Teen Choice Awards , Obsessed was nominated in the category of Choice Movie : Drama , while Beyoncé was a nominee for the Choice Movie Actress : Drama award . The fight scene between Sharon and Lisa garnered Beyoncé and Larter a nomination in the Teen Choice Awards ' Choice Movie Rumble category , but lost to Twilight . Beyoncé and Larter were nominated in the categories of Worst Actress and Worst Supporting Actress , but lost to Sandra Bullock and Sienna Miller respectively , at the 30th Golden Raspberry Awards ( " Razzies " ) . Idris Elba was a nominee for the award for Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture at the 41st NAACP Image Awards , but lost to Morgan Freeman 's portrayal of Nelson Mandela in Invictus ( 2009 ) . Obsessed won the award for Best Fight at the 2010 MTV Movie Awards , for the fight between Sharon and Lisa . The stunt work was recognized at the 2010 Taurus World Stunt Awards with nominations for Best Fight and Best High Work , and the award for Best Overall Stunt by a Woman .

== Box office ==

Obsessed was screened at 2 ,@ 514 theaters and grossed \$ 11 @ ,@ 209 @ ,@ 297 on its opening day of April 24 , 2009 ; it ended its opening weekend at the top of the box office , with gross revenue of \$ 28 @ ,@ 612 @ ,@ 730 in those three days , and became the second @ -@ biggest opening weekend for a Screen Gems film ever . The film spent its entire first week of release at number one and grossed \$ 34 @ ,@ 802 @ ,@ 334 , however it slipped to number three the following week due to the release of X @ -@ Men Origins : Wolverine and Ghosts of Girlfriends Past . Obsessed closed in US cinemas on June 14 , 2009 , having grossed \$ 68 @ ,@ 261 @ ,@ 644 domestically in its eight weeks of availability , which made up 92 @ .@ 5 % of its gross worldwide takings . Outside the US , the film grossed an additional \$ 5 @ ,@ 568 @ ,@ 696 , bringing its total gross box office revenue to \$ 73 @ ,@ 830 @ ,@ 340 . The top performing international territory was Spain , with an opening weekend of \$ 646 @ ,@ 760 and a final total of 1 @ ,@ 914 @ ,@ 828 , followed by the United Kingdom with a total of \$ 854 @ ,@ 917 , Germany with \$ 529 @ ,@ 794 , and the region of Southern Africa with \$ 343 @ ,@ 932 .

== Home media ==

Obsessed was released for home viewing via DVD , Blu @ -@ ray and digital distribution by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment on August 4 , 2009 in the US . In its first week of release , Obsessed sold 540 @ ,@ 925 DVD copies in the US , worth \$ 8 @ ,@ 806 @ ,@ 259 of sales . To date the film has sold 1 @ ,@ 263 @ ,@ 325 DVDs in the US , worth \$ 22 @ ,@ 875 @ ,@ 547 of consumer expenditure .