



Scribed in History

Shot like a Western



Norward

Prod Co. – **Arcademic**

Producer - **Shereener Browne** DoP - **Anastasia Pateraki** SoundMix - **Mark Peacock** Composer - **Chris Barn**

Writer/Director – **Mike Spence**

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Logline – A Grizzled Mercenary who fought on the losing side of The Battle of Hastings is drafted to escort a French family to the war-torn North of England.

Synopsis – Saxon Mercenary Edmond Busoni is a hired sword who has worked his way across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

After a defeat in the defining battle on England's south coast, Edmund is given little choice but to escort Lady Mowbray of Normandy and her family to Durham.

This is a Western, the frontier is Britain.

Feudal England during a regime changing invasion is hostile and unwelcoming of these travellers, finally a close tie to Edmund who spearheads the English Resistance, tests his loyalty.

Director's Vision – The story of a country facing regime change and the resistance put up against it is a timely tale. I wanted to give an account not of kings and queens and epic battles, but of a small family and how lives are affected travelling together through perilous circumstances.

I want to create a Western but within a distinct European location and historical setting. I want to present a diverse truth to our characters in these settings that is often white-washed from other stories told of these times.

Much is known about the 1066 Battle of Hastings, but the story doesn't stop there. What happened to day-to-day people in England unfolds that Winter immediately following that iconic October day.

The Campaign was more than a single battle.

As Writer/Director, I'm telling a story leading to a finale about the English Resistance amongst the marshes where I grew up.

Producer, Shereener Browne, challenges commonly held narratives with authentic diverse voices in an England that has a long history of black and middle eastern figures.

Sound Mixer, Mark Peacock, pulls together a rich tapestry of contemporary ethnic folk instrumentation and stories of his home in the North.

Cinematographer, Anastasia Pateraki, paints a picture of the sprawling vistas of 11th Century England, from settlements on the south coast, to the treacherous marshes of The Fens.



Locations and Concepts





Arcademic has a dynamic crew who have worked together on film and a tv pilot.

Partner with London based virtual production studios, ADR labs and translation specialists. Arcademic is an Epic Unreal Megagrants recipient and international multi-award-winning production company for Best Directing, Best Editing, Best Cinematography and Best Screenwriting.

Additional Crew:

1st AD – Rosie Dunjay

2nd AD – Esme Rhodes

Stunts – Dan Starborg

1st AS – Emerson Witzel

1st AC – Luca Vannucci

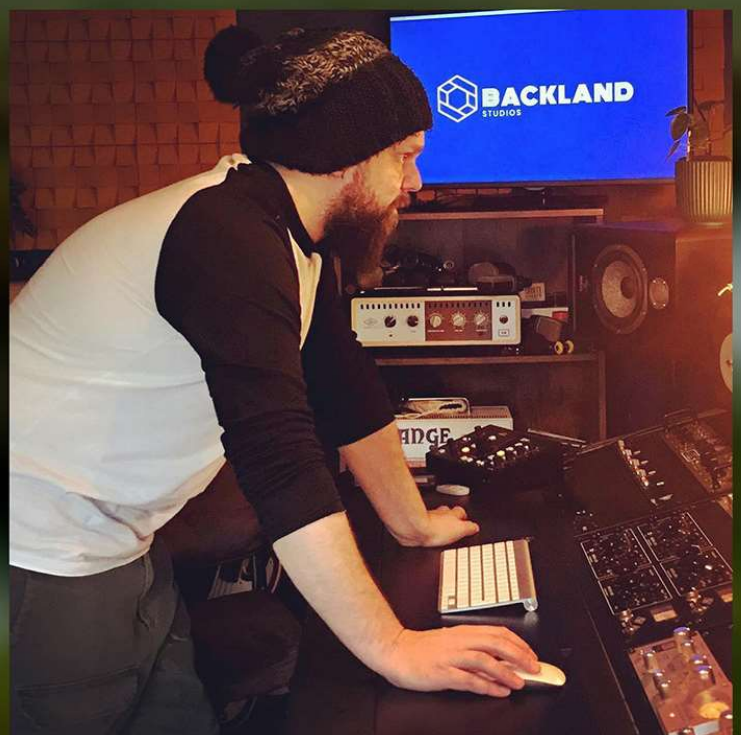
VFX Supervisor – Rob Chandler SFX Supervisor – Jay Ranavaya

Assistant Editor – Christina Barillari

Colour Grade – Jonny Grew

2nd Unit – Sam Astaire & Toby Lawson

French Consultant – Julie Wasdell





Make-up / Costume / VFX tests



Characters –

Edmond Busoni/Norward – *Saxon Mercenary* Against his will, Edmund is charged with switching sides to keep his enemy safe as his homeland is violently ravaged. The journey will test his loyalties when he faces off against a resistance bent on re-establishing the old ways.

Lady Alice Mowbray – *Norman aristocrat* Ripped away from her comfortable French home, everything she loves scattered across a foreign land, she must find understanding and purpose amongst this devastation.

Payam Billah – *Shia Muslim comrade* This Syrian Assassin is ultimately loyal to Edmund, but faces ethical dilemmas.

Hereward the Wake – *Leader of the English Resistance* An outlaw rebelling against a new king. He holds out on a strategic Isle fort. He senses the changes in Edmund and their politics clash.

Maxine Morrel - *Saracen Lady* uprooted by the conquest A deposed landowner and widow, her and her son fall in with Edmund.

Lord Mowbray – *inherited Durham* A seeming protagonist, Mowbray has dealt unforgivable deals behind Alice's back, leading to his own downfall.

Zanaide Mowbray – *daughter, unwitting dowry* A teenager, bargaining pawn in an unpalatable deal. Even if she is saved, the trauma is lasting.

D'Lespreaux – A French knight who squired a young Edmund

William D'Aincourt – Landowner, Zanaide's cruel betrothed

Remigius de Fecamp - Squire and escort to Mowbray

Ali Morrel - Maxine's son, the last of his name

Ernulf de Hesdin - an old ally of Edmund

Seraphin Mowbray – son, plays with fire

Leofric Busoni – Edmond's father

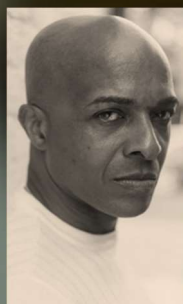
Proposed Casting -



Mike Spence
Edmund



Charlotte Mounter
Alice



Rob Grose
Payam



Harry Anton
Hereward



Shereener Browne
Maxine

Story Summary –

A short victory in the North for Edmond Busoni and his men ends with a definitive defeat at Hastings a month later. The Norman Conquest has begun.

Lady Alice Mowbray is uprooted from her home in Normandy. Her husband sails the family to England with a new charge to replace the Saxon Lord of Durham. Tragically their young son is lost at sea.

Edmund, who's reputation as a sword for hire across Europe and the Mediterranean, is charged by an old French knight who spares his life if he leads a caravan north through perilous war-ravaged England.

With little choice he takes up the ward to the North and immediately faces local confrontations with heavy losses.

Lord Mowbray has secretly arranged for his daughter to be married to a local lord which causes the party to fracture, and when it is revealed how unsavoury the union is, Edmund and his entourage are compelled to risk their lives to retrieve the girl.

The remnants of the group reach Edmund's home in East Anglia, but the welcome is complicated. Edmund's father has sided with an English Lord bent on resisting the French invasion.

Alice and Edmond decide their fates in a critical finale. Stuck between two warring factions eager for blood they must pick a side.