



TRUCK

The Pitch

Once you're on there's no getting off...

Part action thriller, part deep-veined examination of a world far too close to the edge, Truck is a cinematic lightning strike. A woman gets on the back of a truck. She's fleeing the city. Others get on. They will fight, kill, do what it takes to survive. Although it may just be that the best way of surviving is to keep your head down and never say a word. The truck careers across a dystopian landscape. No-one knows where they're going. They just hope they get there soon.

In the spirit of 28 Days Later and Children of Men, Truck takes its audience on a shocking ride through a contemporary landscape dragged through a chilling looking glass. It's a dramatic, non-stop journey, fuelled by just the merest flicker of hope.

The treatment

A truck is driving through a deserted London. It stops and Dhlha, a woman in her twenties, gets on. She sleeps. Later two tattooed, long-haired Australians get on. One, Darren tells the other, Greg, what he'd like to do to Dhlha. When the truck stops Greg gets off. A group of women get on. They are well dressed and multinational. They taunt Darren. He responds aggressively. They attack him and bind him. He tries to threaten Hannah. This causes Mka, the strongest of the women, to threaten him. The women stab Darren.

Dhlha watches silently. One of the women, Ana, tries to get her to join in. The driver removes Darren's body. The women get Dhlha to clean up. Ana picks on Dhlha, teasing her.

Two middle class families get on. They are quiet and demoralised. Ana flirts with one of the men, Graham. Graham seems interested, in spite of the presence of his wife and sons. Hannah becomes sick. When the truck stops she gets off, with two of the other women. Ana continues to tease Graham. When his three year old son, Dan, starts screaming, Ana looks like she's going to attack him. Dhlha throws herself at Ana, to protect the child. Graham joins in the fight and Ana is pinned down. When the truck stops, Ana is removed. Ian, the other father, tries to reason with the driver. He is removed, as is Alison, Graham's wife, with their sons. Ian's wife and daughter, Jean and Siena, are left on.

Three Polish clowns get on. They perform. The truck's passengers are distracted, particularly Dhlha and Siena. Later they sleep. They never awake from their sleep.

Dhlha is sickening. She has the same disease as Hannah. Graham seems to be tending to her, but then he attacks her. Mka intercepts him, fighting him off by hitting him with her stiletto. Graham retreats into a corner. Dhlha becomes sicker and Jean stops her daughter, Siena, from playing with Dhlha.

Many more people get on. They are friendly. The truck comes to a halt. It is now crowded. The truck stays stationary. People start to get desperate. The temperature rises and they try to climb out, going mad, feeling penned in. Finally the truck doors are opened.



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The truck has stopped in a pine forest. Mka observes how sick Dhlha is. When the truck drives off, Jean is becoming increasingly eccentric. A Chinese man plays Dhlha some music and Jean notes that he fancies Dhlha. At night, as Jean talks, Graham once again tries to attack Dhlha. His attack is prevented when the truck is stopped by a group of child soldiers, who remove any remaining valuables and take Jean and the Chinese man off the truck.

The truck drives on until it breaks down in the mountains. Dhlha is now very sick. There are eight people left. Mka goes off to explore. A Scottish man arrives and tells the party the way to safety is across the mountains. Dhlha is too sick to leave the truck. Mka takes Siena with her as the party leaves for the mountains. Graham remains behind. He has decided to protect Dhlha. At night, strangers attack the truck, and Graham is killed trying to defend Dhlha. Dhlha is evicted from the truck.

Mka comes back to find her dying. She shoots Dhlha to give her a painless death. She finds a picture of Dhlha with her family. She buries Dhlha and heads back to the mountains.

Key Personnel

Rob Curry - Director

Rob recently completed his first feature film as a director, *The Boat People*. While he has directed short films and music videos, his main directing career has been in theatre. He has directed over 20 productions, including UK and European and tours of new and classical work. A fascination with storytelling through visual language has led him naturally to cinema. He is currently in pre-production for 'The Tempest', and is working on a second feature due to film early 2008, 'Truck'.

Anthony Fletcher – Writer

Anthony Fletcher is a screenwriter, playwright and theatre practitioner. He worked with Rob Curry to write and facilitate the production of *The Boat People*, Fifth Column Films' first feature. His plays have been performed at The Stephen Joseph Theatre and Soho Theatre, amongst other venues.