

A man with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a Neolithic-style costume made of animal skin and fur, stands in a grassy field. He has some blood or dirt on his face. In the background are large, rugged mountains under a cloudy sky.

DAN BOIE KRATFELDT

**WHEN I FIRST GOT
THE SCRIPT FOR THE
NEOLITH AND READ
IT FOR THE VERY
FIRST TIME ...THERE
WAS SOMETHING
EXTRAORDINARY
ABOUT THE WHOLE
STORY.**

SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE
VERY OFTEN IN A SHORT FILM
AND IT QUICKLY CAUGHT MY
ATTENTION. AFTER READING IT
A FEW MORE TIMES, AND
HAVING HAD THE PLEASURE OF
TALKING TO DANNY AND
HEARING HIS VISIONS FOR THE
PROJECT, I COULDN'T STOP
FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE
IDEA.

CREATING SOMETHING NEW
LIKE THIS CAN BE RISKY AND
DIFFICULT IN MANY WAYS.
BUT THE LOVE AND PASSION
DANNY HAD FOR THE PROJECT
WAS A BIG PART OF THE
REASON WHY I SAID YES TO
DOING IT.

I HAVE TWO THINGS THAT I ALWAYS HAVE MY EYES ON WITH FILM. I NEVER SAY YES TO A PROJECT NO MATTER WHAT IT IS OR HOW BIG IT IS IF I CAN'T FEEL THE PASSION OF THE FILM DIRECTOR OR IF I CAN'T SEE MYSELF IN THE CHARACTER.


THESE ARE THE TWO SIMPLE THINGS THAT DETERMINE WHETHER I SAY YES OR NO TO BEING PART OF A PROJECT.

TO BE HONEST, I'VE NEVER FELT SUCH PASSION FROM ONE MAN BEFORE AND I FELT CONNECTED TO MY CHARACTER FROM THE VERY FIRST READING I HAD.

OF COURSE I COULDN'T SAY NO TO BEING A PART OF IT!

I HAD ALMOST A YEAR TO PREPARE MYSELF FOR MY CHARACTER AND I WAS GLAD BECAUSE I KNEW FOR THIS ROLE, I HAD TO COMPLETELY TRANSFORM MY BODY AND MIND.





TIME IS EVERYTHING AND YOU CAN REALLY GET DEEP INTO THE DEPTHS OF YOUR CHARACTER WHEN THERE IS TIME. FOR ME, IT'S NOT ABOUT JUST BEING ON SET, SAYING A LOT OF WORDS AND DOING THE THINGS THAT ARE WRITTEN IN THE SCRIPT. THAT IS THE ORIGINAL BLUE PRINT TO BUILD FROM BUT THE ACTUAL PROCESS IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

I BECOME THE CHARACTER. IN CERTAIN MOMENTS ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN.

SO I MAKE SURE I AM PREPARED AND READY.


FOR MY CHARACTER I HAD TO LOOK STRONG BUT ALSO STARVED AT THE SAME TIME. SIMILAR TO AN ATHLETE CUTTING WEIGHT IN PREPARATION FOR COMBAT. HISTORICALLY SPEAKING MEN COULD BE ROWING AT SEA FOR MONTHS WITH LITTLE FOOD AND THEN THEY WOULD HAVE TO FIND A WAY THROUGH NEW LANDSCAPES WHERE THEY HAD TO FIGHT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. I STARTED ON A VERY TOUGH PHYSICAL TRAINING SCHEDULE.

I WENT TO THE GYM EVERY DAY AND I BEGAN A SMALL BUT APPROPRIATE DIET SO I COULD GET THE RIGHT PHYSIQUE AND MENTALITY WHICH WAS RELEVANT TO THE STORY. I LET MY BEARD AND HAIR GROW WILD.

I ALSO LEARNED HOW TO TALK LIKE MY CHARACTER, HOW TO THINK LIKE MY CHARACTER AND HOW TO WALK AND RUN LIKE MY CHARACTER WOULD DO.

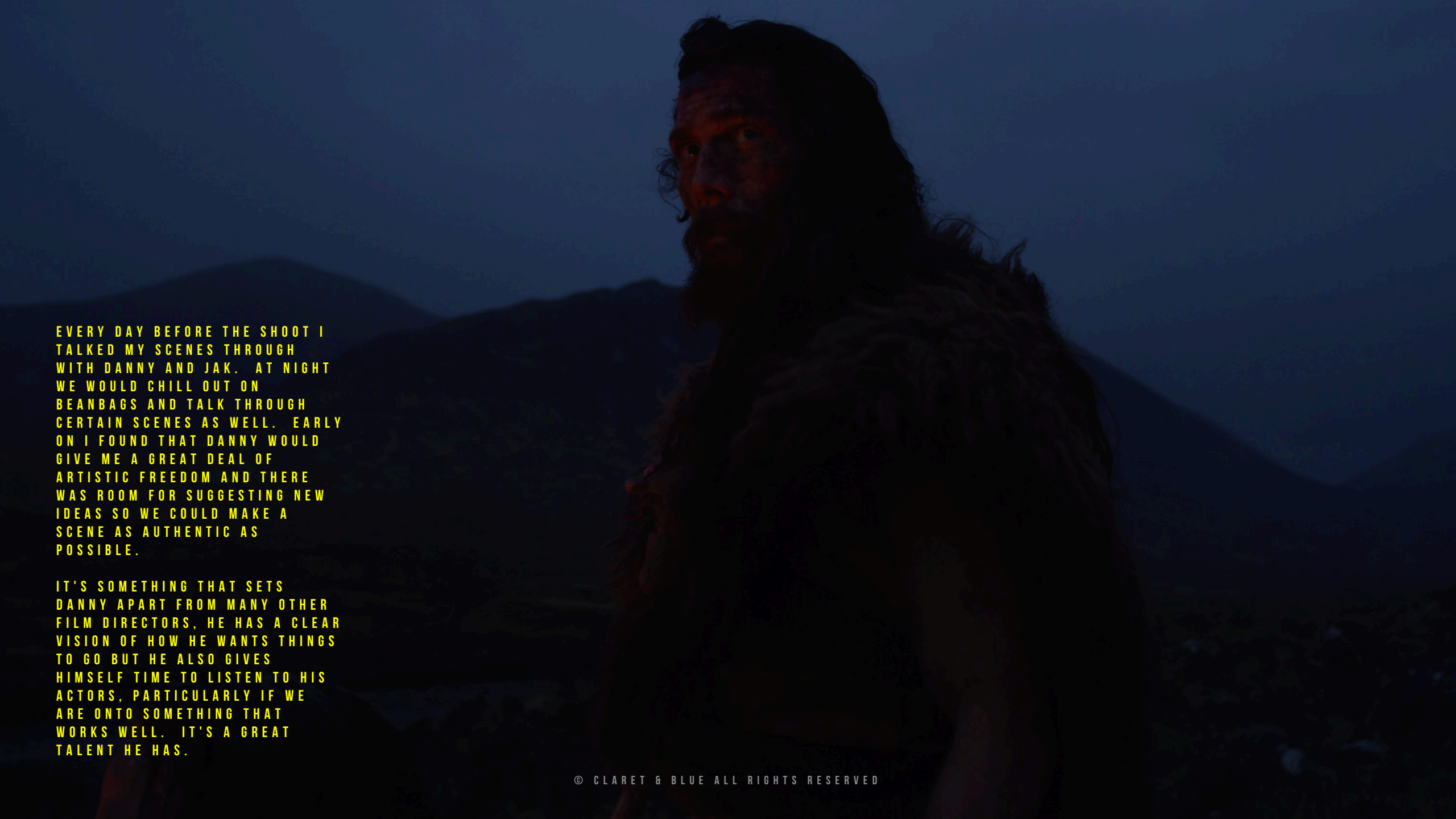
THERE WAS NO STONE I LEFT UNTURNED. LIKE I SAY, I HAD TO BECOME THAT CHARACTER IN EVERY ASPECT.





I COMBINED MY OWN REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES WITH ASPECTS OF MY IMAGINATION AND FOCUSED ON HOW I MYSELF WOULD REACT IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS, THEN FUSED THAT TOGETHER WITH THE MENTALITY OF MY CHARACTER. I BEGAN TO LIVE MY LIFE LIKE THAT THROUGHOUT THE PREPARATION SO I COULD BE ONE WITH THE CHARACTER TO THE VERY END. I LOVED IT.

FOR CERTAIN PEOPLE THIS MAY BE HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BUT THAT'S OKAY WITH ME. I AM VERY HAPPY WITH HOW IT HAS TURNED OUT ON SCREEN. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO BRING THAT CHARACTER TO LIFE WITHIN THE WORLD DANNY CREATED.



EVERY DAY BEFORE THE SHOOT I
TALKED MY SCENES THROUGH
WITH DANNY AND JAK. AT NIGHT
WE WOULD CHILL OUT ON
BEANBAGS AND TALK THROUGH
CERTAIN SCENES AS WELL. EARLY
ON I FOUND THAT DANNY WOULD
GIVE ME A GREAT DEAL OF
ARTISTIC FREEDOM AND THERE
WAS ROOM FOR SUGGESTING NEW
IDEAS SO WE COULD MAKE A
SCENE AS AUTHENTIC AS
POSSIBLE.

IT'S SOMETHING THAT SETS
DANNY APART FROM MANY OTHER
FILM DIRECTORS, HE HAS A CLEAR
VISION OF HOW HE WANTS THINGS
TO GO BUT HE ALSO GIVES
HIMSELF TIME TO LISTEN TO HIS
ACTORS, PARTICULARLY IF WE
ARE ONTO SOMETHING THAT
WORKS WELL. IT'S A GREAT
TALENT HE HAS.

SOME OF THE FUNNIEST MOMENTS I HAD ON SKYE MUST HAVE BEEN AT DANNY'S EXPENSE. HE WAS ALWAYS STUCK, FALLING DOWN MUD HOLES, ALMOST LOSING HIS BOOTS EVERY TIME OR SLIPPING INTO WATER AND GETTING COMPLETELY WET WHEN HE WAS PULLING A CANOE TO SHORE. HE WOULD MUTTER SWEAR WORDS TO HIMSELF WITH A FUNNY SMIRK ON HIS FACE AND LAUGH. HE DIDN'T COMPLAIN.

HE JUST KEPT LEADING FROM THE FRONT AND GOING FORWARD. IT COULD BE VERY DIFFICULT SOMETIMES TO STAY IN CHARACTER AND NOT LAUGH.

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW HE MUST HAVE FELT WHEN THE COLD SET IN WHEN HE WOULD SCURRY UP THE MOUNTAINS SOAKING WET, BUT HE IS SUCH A GOOD MAN AND HE REMAINED VERY PROFESSIONAL THROUGHOUT. I CAN ONLY GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR THAT.



I LOVED EVERYTHING ABOUT SKYE AND STILL DO. THE WILDNESS, THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, THE SILENCE AND THE FREEDOM I FELT. I INSTANTLY FELL IN LOVE WITH IT ALL. WHEN I ARRIVED I REALLY FELT MY CHARACTER GROW. IT WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL.

WE HAD SOME TOUGH DAYS WITH SOME ROUGH WEATHER. WE WALKED THROUGH WILD GLENS AND ALONGSIDE THE MOUNTAINS EVERY DAY JUST TO ARRIVE AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, IT WAS HARD BUT THE PAIN WAS REAL AND IT WAS AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME.

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD ABOUT THE REVENANT BY ALEJANDRO INÁRRITU AND THEIR WHOLE EXPERIENCE. THE NEOLITH WAS A SIMILAR KIND OF EXPERIENCE. NO DOUBT.

WOULD I DO IT AGAIN? DEFINITELY. THERE WOULD BE NO HESITATION.