

Eyes open onto nightmare

“A nightmarish odyssey that challenges notions of sanity, identity and perception”

The *Eye* portrays the terrifying events that befall a young woman, Sydney Wells, who undergoes a double corneal transplant, but soon discovers her new eyes bring with them far more than she ever expected.

Sydney Wells, the protagonist in *The Eye*, is not your typical movie heroine. Blinded in both eyes after a tragic childhood accident, she's beautiful, confident, and, despite her disability, has managed to achieve a happy, fulfilling life as a successful concert violinist in Los Angeles.

At the urging of her sister, Sydney elects to undergo a double corneal transplant in the hopes of regaining



her sight. This life-changing surgery catapults her into a nightmarish odyssey that challenges her most fundamental notions of sanity, identity and perception.

Is she experiencing the phenomena of cellular memory, or something far worse that exceeds the limits of the imagination? For Jessica Alba, the stunning star

of such hits as *Sin City* and the *Fantastic Four* movies, tackling the role of Sydney offered a unique and exciting opportunity to stretch as an actor and delve into a rich, multi-faceted character.

“Sydney is a challenging part that required a lot of preparation,” says Alba. “I was really looking for the right thriller/horror movie

to do, and most of them are slasher, gore-for-gore's sake and vulgar. But *The Eye* is very classy, elegant and beautifully written, and Sydney is such a unique, interesting person. Her journey, the process of regaining her sight and then everything that she faces afterwards, it really intrigued me.”

From Lionsgate and Paramount Vantage, *The Eye* is based on the 2002 Asian horror film of the same name written by Jo Jo Yuet-chun Hui, Oxide Pang and Danny Pang and directed by the Chinese filmmaking duo Danny Pang and Oxide Pang.

The film, which was an international hit, caught the attention of C/W Productions, who bought the rights for an American remake.

“Great films have at their core characters who are trying to achieve something on either a physical or emotional level,” says Paula Wagner.

“Alba's character Sydney overcomes her physical disability and following cornea transplant she learns that she must rediscover

who she is and her place in the world and must learn to handle the emotional changes that come with it.”

Executive producer Michael Paseornek says, “The original Asian film is a favorite among critics and horror fans alike. We are excited to be re-inventing this smart thriller with Jessica -- our second film with her in a year -- as well as with the very respected and creative filmmaker Paula Wager and her team at C/W.”

“Our directors Xavier and David will deliver what we are sure will be an edge-of-your-seat thriller.”

In developing the script, C/W producer Don Granger worked closely with screenwriter Sebastian Gutierrez, saying “there is a fine line when re-interpreting a film that has already garnered international success. It is a constant challenge to improve upon the original source and maintain the integrity of the story.”

The Eye – now showing in cinemas

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