



Present

THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE®

A film by **Steven Soderbergh**

Starring **Sasha Grey**

OPENING ACROSS THE UK ON 4TH DECEMBER 2009



For further information please contact:

Giorgia Lo Savio giorgia@revolvergroup.com

Tel: 020 7243 4300

Images: www.revolvergroup.com/press

Running Time: 77 minutes

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Certificate: tbc



Oscar-winning director Steven Soderbergh unveils the world's most elusive porn megastar, Sasha Grey, as his new muse in this bold, sensual drama.

THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE takes you deep inside the convoluted reality of high-end escorts - a business that provides men with the ultimate '**GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE**'. The only catch? A \$2,000 price tag.

Following *TRAFFIC*, the *OCEAN'S ELEVEN* trilogy and *CHE*, Soderbergh adopts 21-year-old Grey to tell the story of a highly sought after call girl, running her own business on her own terms, holding down her career and juggling her profession with a fully supportive boyfriend.

In a world where prostitution is now ingrained in international culture, this timely film finally unpicks the reality of elite escorts – through the eyes of one of the most prolific, complex young porn stars today, Sasha Gray.

How do we ascribe value to certain things? And, in this case, why does kissing require an incredible surcharge, in the sex industry? What is that about? That's the thing that [Girlfriend Experience] do that prostitutes don't. You're not allowed to kiss. That's a whole different thing. Here, you're paying top-dollar to be able to make-out, and I think that's interesting.

-- Steven Soderbergh, Director



SHORT SYNOPSIS

Set in the weeks leading up to the 2008 presidential election, **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE** is five days in the life of Chelsea (Sasha Grey), a high-end Manhattan call girl who offers more than just sex to her clients – she offers companionship and conversation giving “the ultimate **GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE**.” Chelsea thinks she has her life totally under control—she feels her future is secure because she runs her own business her own way, makes \$2000 an hour, and has a devoted boyfriend (Chris Santos) who accepts her lifestyle. But when you’re in the business of meeting people, you never know what’s around the corner. Chelsea is an elite Manhattan call girl who provides more than just a sexual encounter by simulating a complete romantic relationship –for 77 minutes. Despite a wide variety of happy customers, Chelsea wants to expand her business. Her real boyfriend Chris, a personal trainer at a downtown gym, has come to terms with his girlfriend’s level of experience, not to mention the posh apartment they share as a result of her success.



LONG SYNOPSIS

But it's October of 2008 and the faltering U.S. economy is on everyone's lips. One of Chelsea's clients, a Hassidic jeweler, advises her against keeping her savings in diamonds—"Diamonds have no value. Keep it in gold." Meanwhile, she solicits advice from business people (some of whom are clients) on how to achieve growth in a down market. Chelsea goes so far as to visit a sex connoisseur who runs an influential website and who promises Chelsea a favorable review in exchange for a free sample. Meanwhile, Chris finds himself at an impasse in his own career: training wealthy hedge fund managers, he's generating plenty of business for the gym, but little of that lucre is coming back to him. Worse, his relationship with Chelsea has cooled -- hardly a **GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE** at all.

On the heels of a nasty web review from the sex connoisseur, Chelsea meets Philip, a new client from out of town who listens to her as she unloads her career anxieties to him. In Philip, Chelsea finally sees the promise of a real relationship – a real **GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE** – not just another transaction.

From Academy Award-winning director Steven Soderbergh comes **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE**, a drama about the fraught relationship between our professional and personal lives in the age of post-crisis capitalism. **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE** stars Sasha Grey, the legendary 21-year-old adult film star making her feature film debut. The film was written by Brian Koppelman & David Levien (*THE ILLUSIONIST*, *ROUNDERS*, *OCEAN'S 13*), produced by Gregory Jacobs (*CHE*, *OCEAN'S 13*), and executive-produced by Todd Wagner and Mark Cuban (*GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK*; *WE OWN THE NIGHT*).



ABOUT THE ACTORS

SASHA GREY – Chelsea / Christine

Sasha Grey, born March 14, 1988, in Sacramento, California is an American actor, writer, photographer, porn star, transgressive artist and experimental musician. She has a strong interest in the films of the French New Wave and before deciding on her present stage name, she toyed with the name of Jean-Luc Godard's ex-wife Anna Karina. In interviews she has stated that the name Grey represents two things: Oscar Wilde's Dorian Grey and the Kinsey scale of sexuality (homosexual to heterosexual, a grey scale in-between).

Sasha began college in August of 2005, balancing school and work seven days a week, and soon after moved to LA to pursue a career as a porn star. Around this time she started thinking about pornography as a career opportunity. Sasha has a huge appetite for sex and self-exploration.

Sasha is a genuinely smart, funny, ambitious, and daring person. She does the work she does because she wants to – because she not only enjoys the sex in all its myriad forms but also because she likes doing, as she calls it, performance art.

Star of more than 80 porn films, Grey was featured in the November 2006 edition of Los Angeles Magazine, which flagged her as a potential major star, the next Jenna Jameson. Grey was chosen as Penthouse Pet of The Month for July 2007 where the spread is still considered to be the most radical change for the magazine when renowned fashion photographer Terry Richardson conducted the shoot, a previously unprecedented move. In 2008, she won Female Performer of the Year at the 25th Annual AVN awards. Her work also includes featuring as part of the artwork for The Smashing Pumpkins 2007 album Zeitgeist and modeling for American Apparel and Vice Magazine, as well as starring in Lee Demarbre's horror film, SMASH CUT. Grey's achievements put her into the 2009 Rolling Stone Magazine Hot List.

Marking her mainstream feature film debut in **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE**, Grey's career path has taken her from the average porn actress to an international super star.

Awards

2006 RRFF *Best Newbie*

2007 AVN Award for *Best Three-Way Sex Scene*

2007 AVN Award for *Best Group Sex Scene*

2007 XRCO Award for *Best New Starlet*

2007 Adultcon Top 20 *Adult Actresses*

2008 AVN Award - *Best Oral Sex Scene*

2008 AVN Award - *Female Performer of the Year*

2008 XRCO Award for *Female Performer of the Year*



CHRIS SANTOS - Chris

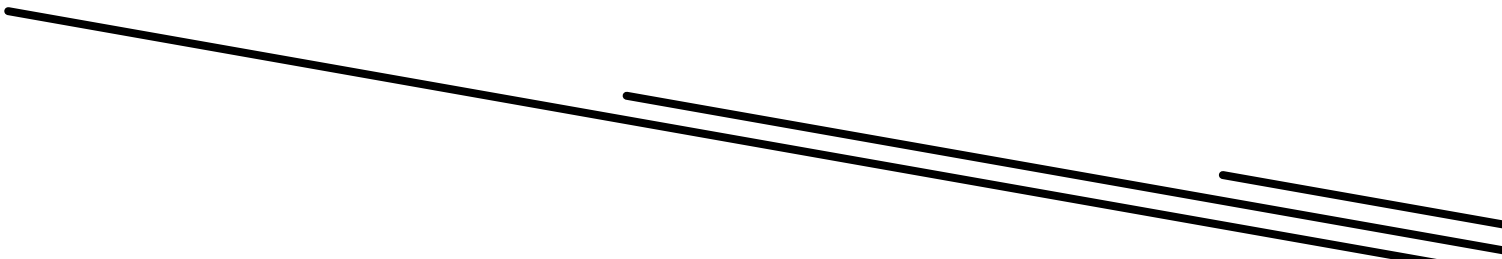
Santos was born on May 21, 1978 in Long Island, NY, and moved to Los Angeles in 2007. Chris Santos is making his feature film debut in Steven Soderbergh's THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE. He calls on his athletic experience as a trainer and triathlete for the lead role of 'Chris,' a trainer whose high-end escort girlfriend provides the titular experience for her clients.

MARK JACOBSON - Interviewer

Mark Jacobson has been a journalist for over thirty-five years. He has written for New York Magazine, National Geographic, Rolling Stone, the Village Voice, Esquire, the New York Times Magazine and many others. Jacobson's articles have been adapted into the classic TV series, "Taxi" and the feature film AMERICAN GANGSTER. He authored the screenplay for the upcoming film LOVE RANCH, starring Helen Mirren and Joe Pesci, directed by Taylor Hackford. Jacobson is also the author of a number of novels including the cult favorite, Gorjira.

GLENN KENNY - The Erotic Connoisseur

Glenn Kenny was the senior editor and chief film critic for Premiere magazine from 1996 to 2007. His writing has appeared in The Village Voice, The New York Times, The New York Daily News, Film Comment, the DGA Quarterly, Rolling Stone and other publications. In 2002 he edited and wrote the introduction to "A Galaxy Not So Far Away: Writers and Artists on 25 Years of Star Wars" (Owl Books). He is married, lives in Brooklyn, and showers regularly.





ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

STEVEN SODERBERGH – Director

Director Steven Soderbergh won an Academy Award for Best Director for his 2000 ensemble drama *TRAFFIC*. He had earned dual Best Director Oscar nominations that year, also receiving one for *ERIN BROCKOVICH*, starring Julia Roberts in her Oscar-winning performance. Soderbergh had earlier gained an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay for *SEX, LIES, AND VIDEOTAPE*, which marked his feature film directorial debut. The film also won the Palme d'Or at the 1989 Cannes Film Festival.

Most recently, he directed *THE INFORMANT*, starring Matt Damon. Among his other credits are *CHE*, *OCEAN'S THIRTEEN*, *THE GOOD GERMAN*, *BUBBLE*, *OCEAN'S TWELVE*, *SOLARIS*, *FULL FRONTAL*, *OCEAN'S ELEVEN*, *THE LIMEY*, *OUT OF SIGHT*, *GRAY'S ANATOMY*, *SCHIZOPOLIS*, *THE UNDERNEATH*, *KING OF THE HILL* AND *KAFKA*.

He also wrote, directed, photographed and edited *EQUILIBRIUM*, starring Alan Arkin, Robert Downey, Jr. and Ele Keats, which was one of a trio of short eroticism-themed films released as *Eros*. Michelangelo Antonioni and Wong Kar-wai directed the other two segments. The film had its premiere at the 2004 Venice Film Festival.

In addition, Soderbergh has produced or executive produced a wide range of features. Most recently he produced *SOLITARY MAN*, directed by Brian Koppelman and David Levien and executive produced *I'M NOT THERE*, directed by Todd Haynes and starring Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger and Ben Whishaw; *MICHAEL CLAYTON*, directed by Tony Gilroy and starring George Clooney and the documentary *ROMAN POLANSKI: WANTED AND DESIRED*, directed by Marina Zenovich.

Other producer or executive producer credits include Gregory Jacobs' films *WIND CHILL AND CRIMINAL*; George Clooney's *GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK* and *CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND*; *A SCANNER DARKLY*, directed by Richard Linklater; *RUMOR HAS IT...* directed by Rob Reiner; *SYRIANA*, directed by Stephen Gaghan; Lodge Kerrigan's *KEANE*, which played at the Telluride, Toronto and New York Film Festivals; John Maybury's *THE JACKET*; *FAR FROM HEAVEN*, directed by Todd Haynes; *INSOMNIA*, directed by Christopher Nolan; Anthony and Joseph Russo's *WELCOME TO COLLINWOOD*; Gary Ross' *PLEASANTVILLE* and Greg Mottola's *THE DAYTRIPPERS*.

GREGORY JACOBS – Producer

Gregory Jacobs most recently produced *THE INFORMANT*, directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Matt Damon. It was a continuation of his collaboration with Soderbergh for whom he also produced *THE GOOD GERMAN* starring George Clooney, Cate Blanchett and Tobey Maguire; *FULL FRONTAL* starring Julia Roberts, David Duchovny and Catherine Keener, which had its premiere at the 2002 Venice Film Festival; and *BUBBLE* starring only non-actors, which had its premiere at the 2005 Venice Film Festival before being screened at the Toronto and New York Film Festivals. Previously, he produced *EQUILIBRIUM*, Soderbergh's segment of a trio of short films released together as *EROS*. Michaelangelo Antonioni and Wong Kar-wai directed the other two segments. *EROS* was premiered at the 2004 Venice Film Festival before being screened at the Toronto Film Festival.



Jacobs is the executive producer on Soderbergh's Spanish-language films CHE: PART ONE and CHE: PART TWO starring Benicio Del Toro as Che Guevara. The films had their debut at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival where Del Toro received the Best Actor Award.

Jacobs and Soderbergh began their association in 1992 when Jacobs was first assistant director on KING OF THE HILL. He has collaborated with the director on nine additional films, including OCEAN'S THIRTEEN and OCEAN'S TWELVE (on which he served as executive producer); OCEAN'S ELEVEN, SOLARIS (on which he served as executive producer), the Academy Award-winning TRAFFIC, ERIN BROCKOVICH (nominated for an Academy Award), THE LIMEY, OUT OF SIGHT, and THE UNDERNEATH.

Jacobs directed the horror/thriller WIND CHILL starring Emily Blunt, Ashton Holmes and Martin Donovan, which was released in 2007.

Jacobs made his writing and directorial debut on CRIMINAL starring John C. Reilly, Diego Luna and Maggie Gyllenhaal. Prior to its September 2004 release, the film was shown at the Venice, Deauville and London Film Festivals.

BRIAN KOPPELMAN and DAVID LEVIEN - Screenwriters

In October 1996, Koppelman and Levien began writing the screenplay ROUNDERS. In the interest of creating a script that was as authentic as it was entertaining, Koppelman and Levien entered the dangerous world of underground poker halls. (Thorough research has become a trademark for the pair.) Purchased by Miramax Films in March of 1997, the film was produced the following Winter, with notable filmmaker John Dahl (LAST SEDUCTION, RED ROCK WEST) as the director and starring Matt Damon, Edward Norton, John Malkovich, John Turturro, and Martin Landau.

After the release of ROUNDERS, the pair wrote, directed and produced the film, KNOCKAROUND GUYS. Part gangster film, part modern western, KNOCKAROUND GUYS stars Barry Pepper, Vin Diesel, Seth Green, Dennis Hopper, and John Malkovich. Produced by Lawrence Bender (PULP FICTION, GOOD WILL HUNTING, RESERVOIR DOGS), the film was released by New Line Cinema in October 2002.

In addition, Koppelman and Levien produced Neil Burger's, INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSASSIN, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival to glowing reviews. The film was released by Magnolia Pictures in November 2002 and garnered three Independent Spirit Award nominations as well as numerous festival prizes.

In 2003 Koppelman and Levien co-wrote the screenplay for RUNAWAY JURY, based on John Grisham's novel, which stars John Cusack, Gene Hackman, and Dustin Hoffman. Levien's second novel Swagbelly, A Novel for Today's Gentleman was also released in 2003. In 2004 the pair co-wrote the screenplay for WALKING TALL, starring the Rock.

In 2005 they created the acclaimed television series "Tilt" for which they wrote and directed the pilot. In features they produced the surprise hit, THE ILLUSIONIST, starring Edward Norton and Paul Giamatti. The film was released in August 2006, to sterling reviews, including an IFP nomination (Best Screenplay), an Academy Award nomination (Best Cinematography).



In 2006 the pair also wrote the screenplay OCEAN'S 13, for director Steven Soderbergh, producer Jerry Weintraub and Warner Brothers. Released in June 2007, the film opened number one at the box office and grossed over \$300 million worldwide. In a second collaboration with Soderbergh, the pair wrote **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE**.

CARMEN CUBA - Casting Director

Carmen Cuba casts scripted, experimental, documentary and generally uniquely innovative projects. Having started as a journalist working in Spanish-language television and then as an associate with directors Frank Oz (BOWFINGER), Ted Demme (LIFE), Terry Gilliam (FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS), Richard LeGravenese (LIVING OUT LOUD) and Steven Soderbergh (ERIN BROCKOVICH), her perspective as a Casting Director is a combination of curiosity in the truth about people, her respect for actors, and a love of the storytelling through the use of both. She has found non-actors to portray fictionalized characters in fictionalized stories (Steven Soderbergh's BUBBLE and THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE, Larry Clark's KEN PARK, little-known talent to play leading roles in studio and independent features (Steven Soderbergh's THE INFORMANT, Larry Clark's BULLY), and ordinary people to participate in socially challenging documentary programming (Morgan Spurlock's "30 Days," "What Would Jesus Buy?" and the upcoming HBO's "Youth Knows No Pain"), and in all situations is simply an interpreter with an objective and fully invested point of view.

Notes to the Editor

Revolver Entertainment is one of the UK & Ireland's leading 'All Rights' distribution companies, shaking up the industry with a unique approach to managing its enviable and edgy slate of Film and DVD releases. Handling both the large scale and smaller films with equal care and attention. Specialists in delivering maximum media coverage and awareness via multi-platforms, with Revolver Books and 357 Records also operating under the Revolver umbrella, they are an aggressive all rights brand marketing entity. The launch of Revolver USA in 2007 expanded this brand across the Atlantic, commencing with the release of home entertainment titles throughout the country. Forthcoming theatrical titles include Dead Man Running starring 50 Cent, Tamer Hassan and Danny Dyer, Limits of Control starring Tilda Swinton, John Hurt and Gael Garcia Bernal and Black Death starring Sean Bean . www.revolvergroup.com



CREDITS

Directed by
STEVEN SODERBERGH

Produced by
GREGORY JACOBS

Written by
BRIAN KOPPELMAN & DAVID LEVIEN

Executive Producers
TODD WAGNER
MARC CUBAN

Director of Photography
PETER ANDREWS

Art Director
CARLOS MOORE

Editor
MARY ANN BERNARD

Music by
ROSS GODFREY

Costume Designer
CHRISTOPHER PETERSON

Unit Production Manager
ROBIN LE CHANU

First Assistant Director
GREGORY JACOBS

Second Assistant Director
JODY SPILKOMAN

Casting by
CARMEN CUBA

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