

**"Debbie Howard is an original and tenacious filmmaker. I have followed the development of Peekaboo and am hugely supportive of this project and feel strongly that this will be the film that takes Debbie to the next level."**

Alex Usbourn, Film Producer, Picture Palace North.



## Peekaboo

### A new film from Big Buddha

**This is Debbie Howard from Big Buddha Films. I am pleased to announce an exciting new project currently under development. I want to take this opportunity to share this idea with you, and ask for your help with funding to make this film.**

Stillbirth and miscarriage are taboo subjects within our society. I am making a new film to highlight this tragedy and the silence that often surrounds babies that are 'born asleep'. This is an incredibly difficult time for parents, and there is little support and understanding to help them. The new film, **Peekaboo**, is a high profile, short narrative film that looks at the issues of stillbirth, miscarriage and the psychological traumas that surround them.

### Themes of the film:

As well as experiencing the loss of a child at birth, parents also have to deal with people not knowing what to say, many not even acknowledging that they had a baby at all. Coping with this silence can make it even more difficult to bear. Some people don't even know if they can legitimately call themselves a parent, and many blame themselves for their own baby's death.

The after effects of this can be very long lasting and traumatic for both parents. The mothers often feel a great sense of guilt as well as enormous sadness. The father's often feel as though they have to be 'the strong one' and often bury their true feelings in order to be there for their partner. In some cases this can lead to mental illness, breakdown and in some cases delusional disorder. Parents try many ways to move on from their loss, but some find that they just never truly can. Here are some excerpts from parents stories of their loss.

#### From A Silent Love by Adrienne Ryan

Before my son died I was able to hold him and tell him how much I loved him. We named him John, and the worst thing for me was knowing that I was his mum but not being able to do anything to help him.

Now, instead of making plans for our new life together as a family, we were being asked about burial arrangements, miniature cemetery plots and caskets. The final decision was which clothes we would bury our precious little son in.

Losing a baby has changed me. I think more than I realise. After you've held your baby in your arms as he draws his last breath it's hard to get upset about fingerprints on the window or crumbs in the car.

Quote from a mother of stillborn baby.



As a man, I would have liked another man, a friend, to sit with me and listen to what it felt like being the father in these circumstances, but it never happened. It's not the male way - you've got to be tough and get on with things.

At the same time, I found it hard to understand how everyone seemed able to carry on with their lives when we had just lost our baby, a baby who was going to join our lives.

Even today, I remain angry at the lack of understanding by others of the extent of our loss.

Quote from a father of stillborn baby.



We came home, and that was when it finally hit me. That gaping wound deep within my soul was like no other pain I had ever experienced in my life, and I spent the day wandering around the house screaming for my son. I felt I would never get over what happened.

Quote from a mother of stillborn baby.

Some people said, "Never mind, you'll have other children." The point was that we wanted this child. Others decided to deal with it as if nothing had happened.

Quote from a parent of stillborn baby.



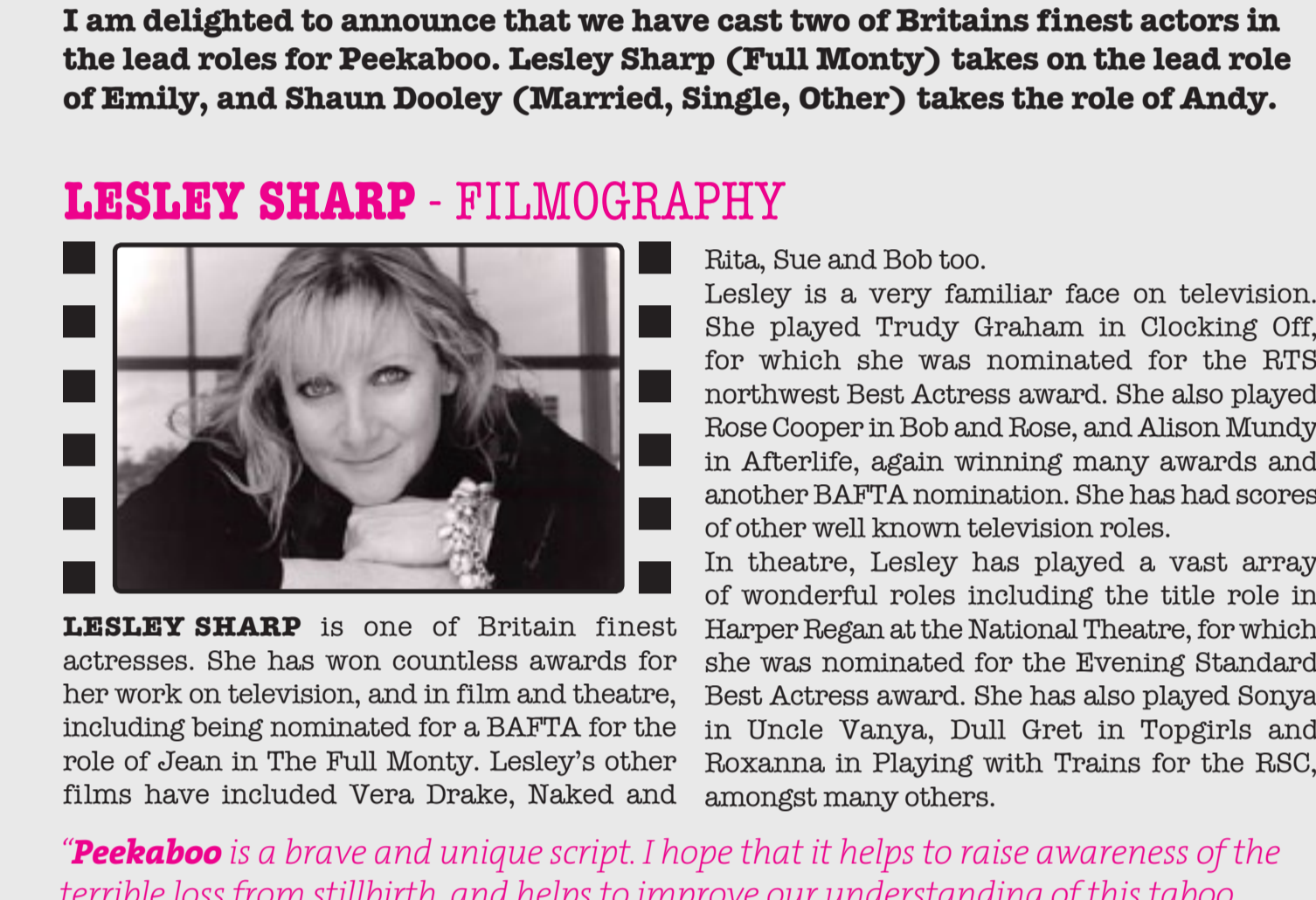
When a baby dies at a time when its dependency on the mother is absolute, many women subsequently feel that they have failed their child and failed in their most basic function of womanhood. The feelings of guilt and failure can often be so intense that they risk falling into the abyss of self doubt from which some become incapable of returning.

Quote from Health Professional.

Can you not see the pain that you cause when you dismiss my loss as trivial? Do you not realize that although they are merely words, it still cuts like a knife when you tell me everything is fine because it wasn't really a baby I lost?

It was a baby, and I am the child's mother. Just because you do not acknowledge it does not make it any less real to me.

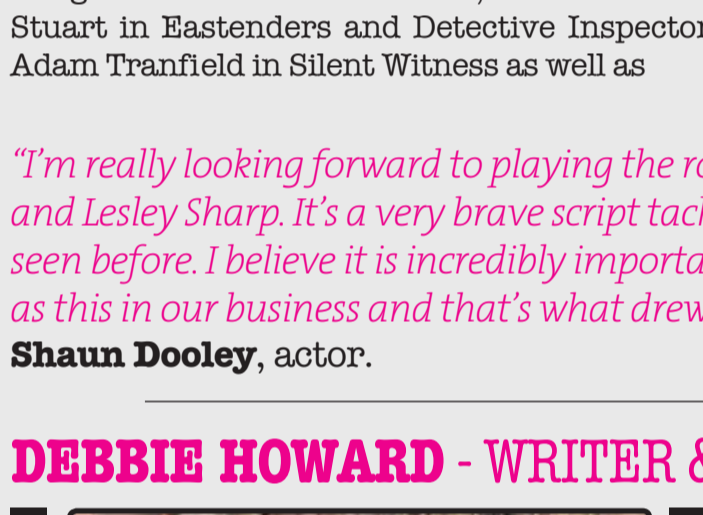
Quote from a mother of a stillborn baby.



### Lead Roles for Peekaboo

**I am delighted to announce that we have cast two of Britains finest actors in the lead roles for Peekaboo. Lesley Sharp (Full Monty) takes on the lead role of Emily, and Shaun Dooley (Married, Single, Other) takes the role of Andy.**

#### LESLEY SHARP - FILMOGRAPHY



**LESLEY SHARP** is one of Britain's finest actresses. She has won countless awards for her work on television, and in film and theatre, including being nominated for a BAFTA for the role of Jean in *The Full Monty*. Lesley's other films have included *Vera Drake*, *Naked* and

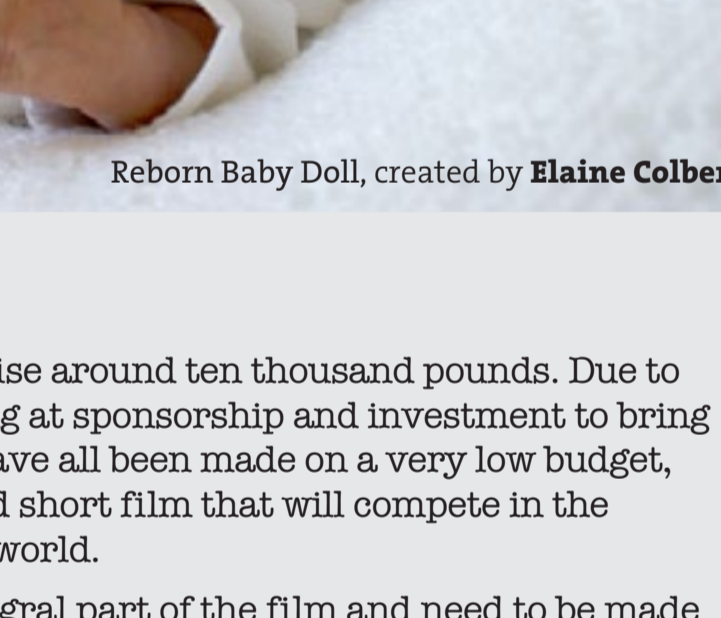
*Rita, Sue and Bob too*. Lesley is a very familiar face on television. She played *Trudy Graham* in *Cloaking Off*, for which she was nominated for the RTS northwest Best Actress award. She also played *Rose Cooper* in *Bob and Rose*, and *Alison Mundy* in *Afterlife*, again winning many awards and another BAFTA nomination. She has had scores of other well-known television roles. In theatre, Lesley has played a vast array of wonderful roles including the title role in *Harper Regan* at the National Theatre, for which she was nominated for the Evening Standard Best Actress award. She has also played *Sonya* in *Uncle Vanya*, *Dull Gret* in *Topgiris* and *Roxanna* in *Playing with Trains* for the RSC, amongst many others.

**"Peekaboo is a brave and unique script. I hope that it helps to raise awareness of the terrible loss from stillbirth, and helps to improve our understanding of this taboo subject matter in the future so that we might be able to offer more care and support to those who are suffering from such an awful tragedy."**

Lesley Sharp, actress.

#### SHAUN DOOLEY - FILMOGRAPHY

**SHAUN DOOLEY** is a very experienced and popular award-winning actor with many years of experience in film, television and theatre, playing a whole range of roles in many wonderful productions.



His film work includes the lead role of *Richard Lee* in the brand new feature film *Kandahar Break* directed by David Whitney for Mill House Films. He also played *Corporal Gant* in *Mark of Cain*, directed by Marco Munden for which he won the Royal Television Society North award for Best Actor. He also played *Dick Alderman* in the *Red Riding* Trilogy for Revolution Films.

On television, Shaun is very well known for his roles as *Eddie* in *Married, Single, Other*, *Richie Fitzgerald* in *Coronation Street*, *Reverend Tom Shark* in *Eastenders* and *Detective Inspector Adam Tranfield* in *Silent Witness* as well as

**"I'm really looking forward to playing the role of Andy and working with Debbie Howard and Lesley Sharp. It's a very brave script tackling a difficult subject matter, that I haven't seen before. I believe it is incredibly important to be addressing uncomfortable issues such as this in our business and that's what drew me to Peekaboo"**

Shaun Dooley, actor.

#### DEBBIE HOWARD - WRITER & DIRECTOR

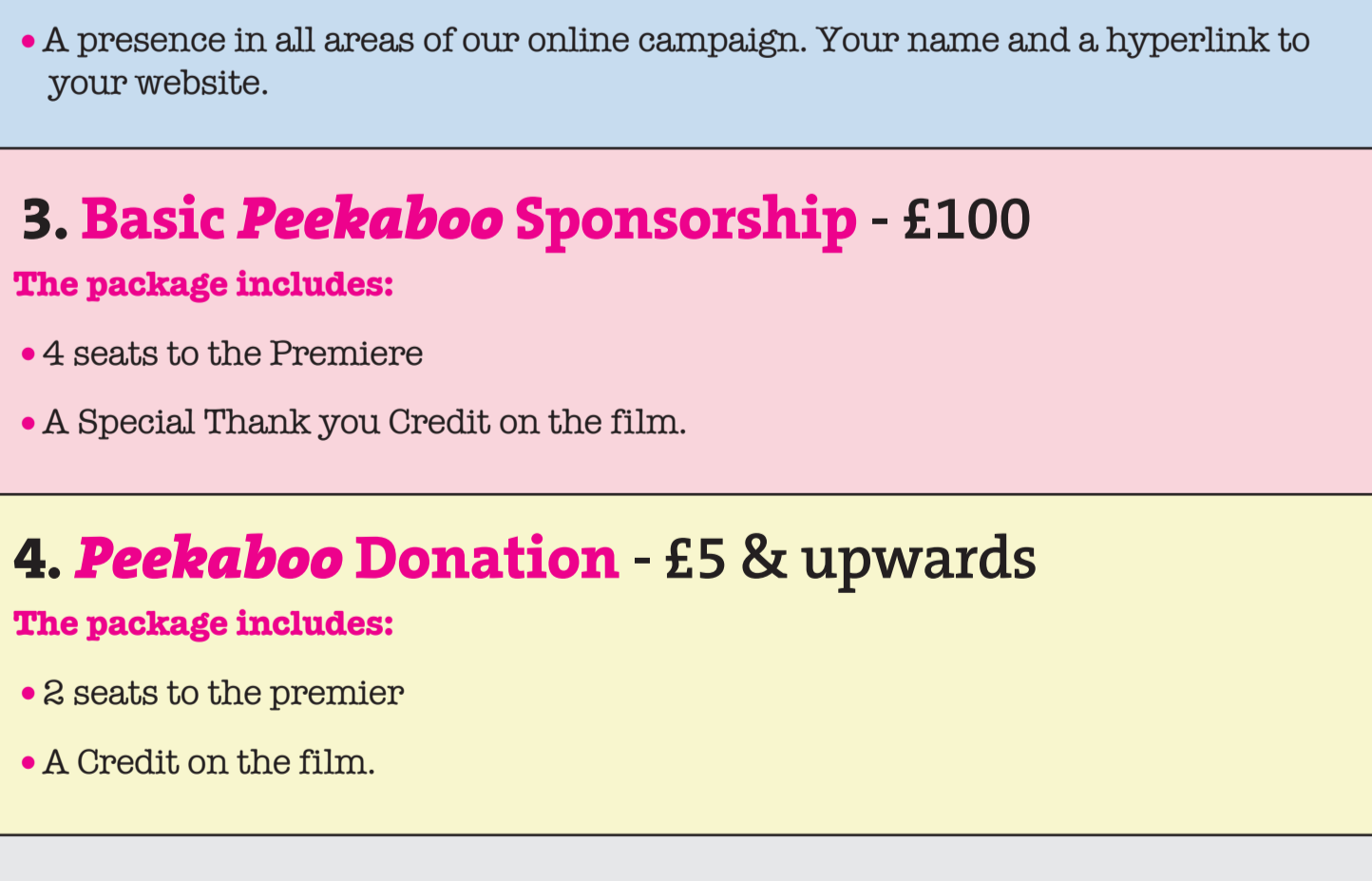


I set up Big Buddha Films five years ago and have focused on making short films that tackle human dilemmas, and show the vulnerabilities of human existence. My previous films have screened at film festivals and awards, they have also been broadcast on TV and on Web channels.

For further information on my other films please visit the website: <http://www.bigbuddhafilms.com>

**I have seen many of Debbie's films and played the character Sadie in Bring Me Joy. She really is an inspiration - full of energy and great ideas. It's because of people like Debbie that things actually get made and don't just end up as a good idea. Her films are original without trying to be too clever, quirky without being downright bonkers, an incisive examination into the complexities of human nature.**

Katy Martin Wood, actress.



Prosthetic molds used in the making of Reborn Babies

### What I really love about Big Buddha films is that they're the kind of films that keep popping back into your head for days to come - often I've laughed out loud thinking about something I saw.

Vic Roberts, Author

### Reborn Baby Doll, created by Elaine Colbert

### Funding Peekaboo

In order to make Peekaboo we need to raise around ten thousand pounds. Due to the funding cuts in the arts we are looking at sponsorship and investment to bring this film to fruition. My previous films have all been made on a very low budget, but I want Peekaboo to be a very high end short film that will compete in the highest calibre film festivals around the world.

We have special effects which are an integral part of the film and need to be made to the highest standards. We need to create our 'babies'. This work needs to be carried out with the utmost of care, and we have the help of experienced reborn artist Elaine Colbert, who is working with us on this.

As a follow-up to Peekaboo, we are planning to make a documentary looking at the issues of miscarriage and stillbirth. We will also explore the world of Reborn Babies, and would like to hear from anyone with a story to tell around these issues.

We want to use the very best technical equipment and crew so that we make a skillfully crafted film. The script has generated a lot of interest, thus being able to attract such a strong cast. Lesley Sharp and Shaun Dooley have pledged their immense talents to support the project.

### Debbie Howard is a hugely talented and productive filmmaker whose films are constantly appearing at international film festivals despite receiving no funding.

Rob Speranza  
South Yorkshire  
Film Makers Network.

### Sponsoring Peekaboo

**There are four different ways in which to support us in the making of Peekaboo. We need your help however small.**

#### 1. Be a Peekaboo Partner - £2,000

This gives you the unique opportunity to have your brand logo embedded within both the film, it's promotion and the online issue campaign aimed at raising awareness around the issue of 'stillborn babies'. Become a partner in generating awareness for this important subject, which is hugely under represented.

##### The package includes:

- An Executive Producer credit on the film
- Your logo will be visible on the film
- 10 seats for the premiere
- Your logo will be on all marketing material related to the film
- A presence in all areas of our online campaign - with logos and hyperlinks to your website

#### 2. Key Peekaboo Sponsorship - £500

This is a unique opportunity to have your brands name embedded within both the film, it's promotion and the online campaign aimed at raising awareness around the issue of 'stillborn babies'. This also allows you to be a key visible figure in generating awareness for this important subject.

##### The package includes:

- An associate producer credit
- 6 seats for the premiere
- Your name on all marketing material related to the film
- A presence in all areas of our online campaign. Your name and a hyperlink to your website.

#### 3. Basic Peekaboo Sponsorship - £100

##### The package includes:

- 4 seats to the Premiere
- A Special Thank you Credit on the film.

#### 4. Peekaboo Donation - £5 & upwards

##### The package includes:

- 2 seats to the premier
- A Credit on the film.

**To make a donation for Peekaboo please click this link:**

<http://www.bigbuddhafilms.com/films/fiction/peekaboo/sponsorship>

If you want to ask us any further questions or have any suggestions for us, please email us at [debbie@bigbuddhafilms.com](mailto:debbie@bigbuddhafilms.com) or call mob: 07941 716004.



### A word from the Writer/Director

**I want to make this film to help to look at this silent issue. I became inspired to write this film when some friends of mine were suffering similar circumstances themselves, their worlds being completely torn apart. When I started to research into this subject I found myself very moved and passionate about it.**

Our Executive Producer of **Peekaboo** is Alex Usbourn of Picture Palace North, who has a long history of successful feature films under his belt, including the acclaimed 'Acid House' by Irvine Welsh.

If you can help us by making a donation, or in any other way at all, please click on this link to our website:

<http://www.bigbuddhafilms.com/films/fiction/peekaboo/>

You can also follow our progress on [Facebook](#)



**Please forward this to anyone else you think may be able to help us.**

**Thank you.**

Debbie Howard  
Big Buddha Films



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