

With the voices of **Imogen Poots** and **Daniel Brühl**

KILLING

FOR

LOVE

PRESS KIT

CONTACT

Rachel (Depew) Giltz
Rachel.Giltz@ifcfilms.com
330-524-4448

A TRUE STORY

sundance
SELECTS

UNITED STATES

THEATRICAL PREMIERE

KILLING FOR LOVE – A TRUE STORY

First love life sentence – The story of Jens Soering and Elizabeth Haysom

U.S. Theatrical Premiere & VOD Release

Friday | December 15

We are pleased to announce the U.S. theatrical and VOD launch of “The Promise” as “Killing for Love”, opening in New York City at the IFC Center, and in Los Angeles at Laemmle Royal, on Friday, December 15.

The film is being released by IFC Films/Sundance Selects, additional US cities will be announced soon.

WATCH TRAILER



FESTIVALS



"Compelling murder-mystery"

The Times

"A thrilling courtroom drama"

Culturmag.de

"Real drama in Shakespearean dimensions"

Saxon Newspaper

"An important movie that should lead to justice"

Munich Merkur

"Gruesome, but utterly gripping"

The Times

"An extraordinary filmic work"

SWR Kunsch

"Absolutely worth seeing"

Stuttgart Newspaper

"Impressive murder-documentary"

Deutschlandradio

"A film like a grenade"

Stern TV

"An exciting movie which shocks with its human tragedy"

tip Berlin

"The Promise" tells a shocking story of love and betrayal"

taz

"Realistic, informative and clarifying"

Status.de

LINKS & BONUS CONTENT

STAY UP TO DATE ON #KILLINGFORLOVE

BONUS VIDEO I



BONUS VIDEO II



BONUS VIDEO III



FILM PAGE



PRESS REVIEWS



FILM WEBSITE



TWITTER



FACEBOOK



VIMEO



SYNOPSIS



KILLING FOR LOVE

FIRST LOVE LIFE SENTENCE — A TRUE STORY

Obsessed young lovers, obscene murders, a sensational trial, and a shocking miscarriage of justice. KILLING FOR LOVE is a riveting dissection of the prosecution's case, the courtroom battle played out on television, and the disturbing aftermath. Convicted of brutally murdering his girlfriend's parents, serving two life sentences, Jens Soering has been in prison for 32 years. The film reveals for the first time the mounting evidence of his innocence: the FBI profile of the killer withheld from the jury, the bloody footprint and unidentified fingerprints pointing to other perpetrators, and the new exculpatory DNA analysis. Highly cinematic in the way of *The Staircase*, as suspenseful as *Serial*, and as confounding as *Making of a Murderer*, KILLING FOR LOVE delivers a powerful story that is indeed, stranger than fiction.

The gruesome murders of Nancy and Derek Haysom in 1985 were an international media sensation. The Haysoms were wealthy, respected members of Virginia society, and the murder conviction of their daughter Elizabeth and her German boyfriend Jens Soering sent shock-waves through the rural community of Bedford County. Elizabeth and Jens had met in a university program for high achieving students. She was a product of European boarding schools, he was the son of a diplomat. After being arrested in London, England, for passing bad checks in 1986, they were both extradited to the United States. This beautifully crafted film reveals a mismanaged judicial process.

This was the first criminal trial of its kind held in front of TV cameras — and was the first such high profile, international case tried in a small town. Photographic evidence that points to sexual abuse, the presiding judge's friendship with the victims, a missing FBI profile, a bloody car with a knife under the seat — all point to a very different story, one that is revealed in the film.

Investigations over the past several years have turned up stunning evidence that was previously suppressed or deemed inadmissible. New forensic techniques have disproven evidence that was key to Jens Soering's original conviction. Soering was previously denied parole 12 times, his 13th hearing took place in October 2017. That hearing was attended by former German president Christian Wulff and German ambassador Peter Wittig who spoke of their belief in Soering's innocence and commitment to his repatriation. The parole board's decision has not yet been announced.

READ THE FULL STORY



READ THE LOVE LETTERS



READ THE NEWS ARCHIVE



OFFICIAL
PRESS RELEASE

**IFC FILMS IS ACQUIRING U.S. RIGHTS TO
TRUE CRIME DOCUMENTARY KILLING FOR LOVE**

NEW YORK, NY (November 28, 2017) – IFC Films announced today that the company is acquiring U.S. distribution rights to Marcus Vetter and Karin Steinberger's *KILLING FOR LOVE*. The documentary presents the case of Jens Soering, who was convicted in 1990 of brutally murdering his girlfriend's parents and is serving a double life sentence in a Virginia prison. As seen in dramatic courtroom footage, the prosecution argued this was a killing for love but the film sheds new light on the trial and reveals critical facts that support Soering's declarations of innocence. The film was produced by Vetter, international sales agent Louise Rosen, and marketing/design specialist Ulf Meyer. Production was financed via German film funds MFG, DFFF, and broadcasters SWR, Arte, BR, DR, BBC, SVT, and VPRO. It will be released day and date on December 15th.

A re-investigation of the case by a former Virginia deputy attorney general and new DNA evidence both point to an innocent man wrongfully imprisoned for the past 32 years. His innocence is now championed by the Institute of Actual Innocence at the University of Richmond, a former detective in the case, an active duty sheriff, and other experts. A pardon request is pending before Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe.

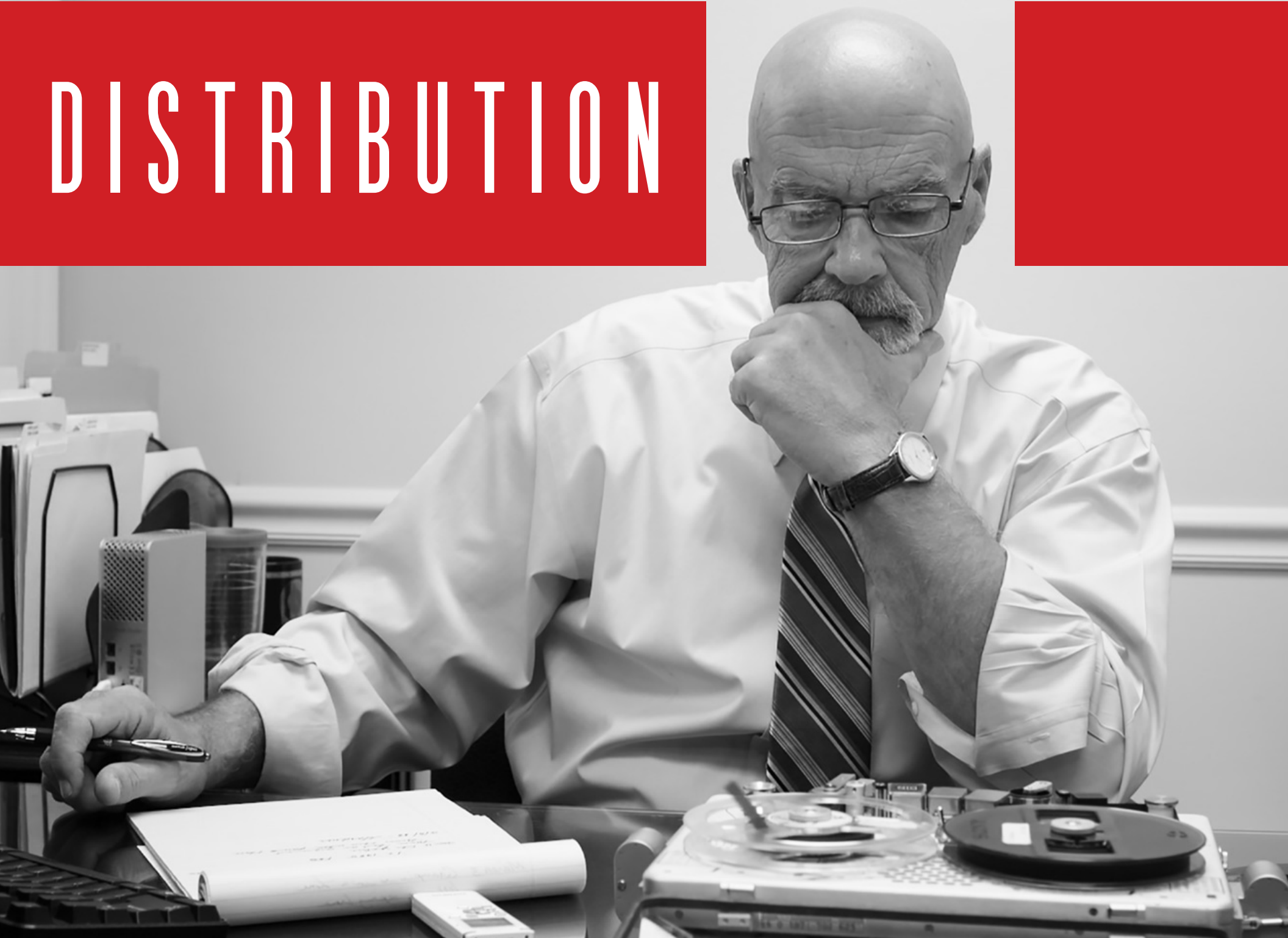
Produced by Filmperspektive, *KILLING FOR LOVE* screened at film festivals including IDFA's Masters section, Denver, Virginia, River Run and DOC NYC. The film was broadcast on television in Denmark, Israel, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, and other networks around the world. This spring's broadcast and streaming on BBC iPlayer resulted in exceptional audience ratings.

"KILLING FOR LOVE is an extraordinary, true crime story and riveting courtroom drama with an obsessive love affair at its core," said Arianna Bocco, EVP of Acquisitions and Productions at Sundance Selects/IFC Films

Directors Vetter and Steinberger said *"We are thrilled to be working with IFC Films, an innovative leader in the distribution of independent film. KILLING FOR LOVE reveals previously unknown facts about this shocking case. We are excited that IFC Films will give a wide audience the opportunity to decide for themselves – guilt, reasonable doubt or absolute innocence?"*

Producer Louise Rosen and Consulting Producer Peter Broderick negotiated the deal with IFC/Sundance Selects. Business affairs for the producers were handled by Iddo Arad of Frankfurt Kernit Klein & Selz.

DISTRIBUTION



ABOUT

IFCFilms

Heading into its 20th year, IFC Films is a leading US distributor of quality talent-driven independent film. Recent releases include *WALKING OUT* starring Matt Bomer, *REBEL IN THE RYE* starring Nicholas Hoult and *VICEROY'S HOUSE* starring Hugh Bonneville and Gillian Anderson. Upcoming releases include *THE TRIBES OF PALOS VERDES* starring Jennifer Garner and *FREAK SHOW*, directed by Trudie Styler. Notable past releases have included Olivier Assayas' *PERSONAL SHOPPER* starring Kristen Stewart; Richard Linklater's Oscar-winning *BOYHOOD* starring Patricia Arquette and Ethan Hawke; Joel Zwick's *MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING*; Michael Moore's *FAHRENHEIT 9/11*; Lena Dunham's *TINY FURNITURE*; Noah Baumbach's *FRANCES HA*; and Alfonso Cuarón's *Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN*. IFC Films and sister labels Sundance Selects and IFC Midnight, are owned and operated by AMC Networks Inc. Sundance Selects is a leading distributor of prestige films such as 2016 Cannes Film Festival Palm d'Or winner *I, DANIEL BLAKE*; Josh Kriegman and Elyse Sternberg's Sundance Documentary grand jury prize winner *WEINER*; Andrew Haigh's Oscar-nominated *45 YEARS*, and Olivier Assayas' *CLOUDS OF SILS MARIA*, starring Juliette Binoche and Kirsten Stewart. IFC Midnight a leading distributor of genre entertainment including horror, science fiction, thrillers, erotic art house, action and more. Notable IFC Midnight titles include Tom Six's controversial horror trilogy *THE HUMAN CENTIPEDE*; Johnnie To's Hong Kong revenge thriller *VENGEANCE*; and the award-winning hit *THE BABADOOK*.

PRESS CONTACT

Rachel (Depew) Giltz

Rachel.Giltz@ifcfilms.com

330-524-4448

CHARACTER BONUS CONTENT & SPOTLIGHTS



CHUCK REID

Chuck Reid was a member of the Bedford County Sheriff's Department and one of the original investigators in the Haysom murder case. In an interview, he spoke about a FBI crime scene profile that was created for the case in 1985, but which was not turned over to the defense or mentioned in court. The profile described a female suspect and does not fit the confession of Jens Soering. Reid is confident that there was such a crime scene profile. But Ricky Gardner claims it never existed.



RICKY GARDNER

Ricky Gardner describes himself as a "lead investigator" in the Haysom murder case. He was there when Jens Soering confessed to the murders in London without a lawyer. To this day, Gardner defends the comparison made in court of a sock imprint found at the crime scene with one of Soering's even though experts later said that this comparison was wrong and misled the jury.



GAIL MARSHALL

Gail Marshall, former Deputy Attorney General of Virginia, has been fighting for Jens Soering for many years. She is certain of his innocence and says she has only had two cases in her entire career where she was firmly convinced that the convicted were innocent. One is now a free man, the other is Jens Soering.



RICH ZORN

Rich Zorn (right), former Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General and a friend of the Soering family. His son went to the same high school as Jens Soering. He supported the family for many years and is committed to the cause of Soering's transfer to Germany.



TONY BUCHANAN

Tony Buchanan is a new witness, who first came forward in 2011 to say that, in 1985, Elizabeth Haysom brought a damaged car to his garage, accompanied by another man – not Jens Soering. In the car lay a bloody knife. Buchanan was never officially questioned.



TOM ELLIOTT

Tom Elliott, a Catholic deacon and chaplain, who has supported Jens Soering for many years. He visited Soering regularly in prison until the authorities claimed his visits were more personal than pastoral. He is hopeful his visiting privileges will be restored in 2018. In the meantime he is working with other supporters, to push once again for Soering's transfer to Germany.



CARLOS SANTOS

Carlos Santos, a journalist, who followed the case from the beginning.



STEVEN D. ROSENFELD

A noted civil rights attorney, Steven D. Rosenfield has been leading the effort for Jens Soering's pardon and repatriation for the last seven years. On January 12, 2010, the Democratic Governor of Virginia, Timothy M. Kaine, consented to the repatriation of Soering to Germany. Soon after, the new Republican Governor, Robert F. McDonnell, sent a letter withdrawing Virginia's consent. Steve Rosenfield filed suit on January 18, 2011, to enforce the transfer to Germany. In July 2012, a court ruled against his repatriation lawsuit; in December 2012, the Virginia Supreme Court refused to even hear the appeal. Since then Steve Rosenfield has helped bring together the new DNA analysis and reexamination of the case by Virginia law enforcement experts. This information has formed the basis for a request for absolute pardon from the Governor.



WILLIAM SWEENEY

William Sweeney, was the presiding judge for Elizabeth Haysom's plea hearing and Jens Soering's murder trial. He swore that he was unbiased, even though he had given an interview before the trial in which he said he thought Jens Soering was guilty. In addition, he was a friend of the brother of one of the victims for over 40 years. He died November 5, 2017 at the age of 89.



DAVE WATSON

Dave Watson, a private investigator who was hired by Gail Ball to reinvestigate the case.



ED SULZBACH

Ed Sulzbach was a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a highly respected FBI-profiler. He was the recipient of the FBI's Medal of Valor and FBI Star, two of the Bureau's highest honors. He investigated the crime scene at Loose Chippings and wrote a psychological profile, in which he concluded that the perpetrator very possibly was female and someone close to the family. Sulzbach's presence at the crime scene was never mentioned in court. Jens Soering's lawyers were not aware of the existence of a profile, which would have been exculpatory evidence. According to the Bedford County Sheriff's Department, the profile never existed, and several FOIA requests for the profile remain unanswered. He died on April 13, 2016 at the age of 75.

CREDITS



A PRODUCTION OF FILMPERSPEKTIVE AND BUKERA PICTURES

PRODUCTION

Our goal is to create a platform for the independent production of documentaries and fiction films. We are interested in using our unique backgrounds and styles to create feature length films that are high quality and tell stories that people throughout the world can relate to. We strive to do this by focusing on creating material that is powerful, edgy, provocative, contemporary and must be seen because of its political or social relevance. Our vision is to create a network of filmmakers and commissioning editors around the globe who believe, like we do, that films do make a difference. Our aim is to create a student filmmaking program for young people who would otherwise not have a chance to be educated in this field.

A production of **Filmperspektive**

Original title **The Promise**

A film by **Marcus Vetter and Karin Steinberger**

In co-production with **SWR, ARTE, BR, DR, BBC, SVT, VPRO**

Directed and edited by **Marcus Vetter**

Co-Director **Karin Steinberger**

Year of Production **2016**

Producers **Marcus Vetter // Louise Rosen // Ulf Meyer**

Consulting Producer **Peter Broderick**

Director of Photography **Georg Zengerling**

Co-Editors **Michele Gentile // Patrick Wilfert**

Bonus materials **Andrea Stettmer // Christoph von Stieglitz**

Original Music **Jens Huerkamp**

Sound **Aljoscha Haupt**

Sound Design **Markus Limberger**

Sound Mix **Jonathan Schorr**

Line Producer **Annette Burchard**

Color Correction **Fabiana Cardalda**

Legal Advisor **Albert Kitzler**

Commissioning Editors **Gudrun Hanke el Ghomri, SWR**

Catherine Le Goff, ARTE // Petra Felber, BR

Mette Hoffmann Meyer, DR // Nick Fraser, BBC

Kate Townsend, BBC // Axel Arnö, SVT

Nathalie Windhorst, VPRO

Founded by **MFG and DFFF**

Distributor, Germany **Farbfilm, Berlin**

World Sales **Louise Rosen Ltd.**

North American Distribution Representatives **Louise Rosen/Louise Rosen Ltd.,**

Peter Broderick/Paradigm Consulting

Funding provided by **MFG and DFFF**

BRD 2016 / Shooting: April 2014 – June 2015

Format: HD/35mm / Shooting Format: HD

Sound Format: Dolby Digital/ 1:1.85

Runtime 123:37

The Murder of Derek and Nancy Haysom



April 3, 1985, some of the Haysoms went over to visit and play bridge with Nancy, but when they did not see who had a key. When they got to the door they found the bodies and immediately called the police. When the police arrived, they noticed how the blood was smeared on the wall.



LONDON TIMES

LONDON - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1986 NO. 67,459 TWENTY PENCE

Young American murderer arrested for check fraud



South West London - [unclear] who was arrested in London for passing phony checks. [unclear] Haysom's murder. Months after the March 1985 was arrested on charges of check fraud in [unclear] country of [unclear]. When British police [unclear]



Soering Found Guilty In Grisly Murders of

PRESS KIT CONTACT

Rachel (Depew) Giltz
Rachel.Giltz@ifcfilms.com
330-524-4448

sundance
SELECTS