

Saoirse Ronan tastes blood in first "BYZANTIUM" clip

Written by Samuel Zimmerman
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While we've yet to see a trailer, this clip seems wholly evocative of what to expect from a new Neil Jordan vampire film.

BYZANTIUM, premiering this weekend at the [Toronto International Film Festival](#), sees acclaimed director Jordan (INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE, THE COMPANY OF WOLVES) return to creatures of the night with a tale of two vampires as they take up residence in a seaside English town.

Eleanor and Clara (Saoirse Ronan and Gemma Arterton, respectively), two mysterious and penniless young women, flee the scene of a violent crime and arrive in a run-down coastal resort. They try to find money and refuge along the tawdry seafront and in the dilapidated hotels.

Clara, ever-practical, sells her body. She soon meets shy and lonely Noel, who provides a roof over their heads in his seedy guesthouse, Byzantium. Clara, always looking towards the future, turns it into a 'pop-up' brothel.

Meanwhile Eleanor, the eternal schoolgirl, meets Frank, a kindred spirit who unwittingly prompts her to tell the truth about her life. She tells him that Clara is her mother; yet Clara is only a few years older. She says that she was born in 1804; yet she is just sixteen. She confesses that she must drink human blood to stay alive – and so must her mother. In the small, quiet town, people start to die.

And the past that the girls have been running from for so long, finally catches up with them – with astonishing consequences.

The first excerpt (from [Empire](#)) is lyrical and bloody, can't wait to see what entire film entails.

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