

Preview: Peter Dinklage and Juliette Lewis in *The Thicket*

BY Joe Leydon July 23, 2024



Director Elliott Lester’s edgy indie Western will be available only in theaters Sept. 6.

Billed as “an edge-of-your-seat thriller that reimagines the Western genre and immerses the audience into the harsh and unforgiving world of the West,” director Elliott Lester’s *The Thicket* is set to gallop into theaters Sept. 6 after screening as an official selection of the prestigious Deauville American Film Festival.

Multiple Emmy Award-winning actor Peter Dinklage (*Game of Thrones*) and Oscar- and Emmy-nominated actress Juliette Lewis (*Cape Fear*, *Yellowjackets*) star in the period drama, along with Esmé Creed-Miles (*Hanna*), Levon Hawke (*Blink Twice*), Macon Blair (*I Care A Lot*), Andrew Schulz (*You People*), James Hetfield (*Metallica*), David Midthunder (*On Sacred Ground*), Arliss Howard (*Mank*), Leslie Grace (*In The Heights*), and Gbenga Akinnagbe (*The Old Man*).

The template: “When fierce bounty hunter Reginald Jones (Dinklage) is recruited by a desperate man to track down a ruthless killer known only as Cutthroat Bill (Lewis), he rallies a band of unlikely heroes, including a grave-digging ex-slave and a street-smart woman-for-hire. Together they embark on a perilous quest to track down Cutthroat Bill that leads them into the deadly no-man’s-land known as...The Thicket.”



Lewis, daughter of the late character actor Geoffrey Lewis, told *People Magazine* that she viewed her *Thicket* performance as a tip of the Stetson to her father, who appeared in many Westerns throughout his decades-long career in film and television.

"Everything about filling this role reminded me of my father's legacy as a villain in one of the greatest Westerns, *High Plains Drifter*," she said. "I pick up where he left off."



Juliette Lewis plays Cutthroat Bill in *The Thicket*.

Dinklage, who also serves as producer for *The Thicket*, described the film as "definitely a passion project of many years in the making for me," telling *People* he considered it a classic Western tale "of settlement in a land without proper laws in place yet. A new beginning to a life on an unknown frontier."

"*The Thicket* captures that in the way Joseph Conrad did with *Heart of Darkness*. What's down that unknown path? What are the consequences of that journey? And how will you ever return to anything you thought you once were?"



Peter Dinklage and Gbenga Akinnagbe in *The Thicket*.