



WINDOW (SHORT FILM)

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT
Updated October 2016

Directed and Written by Vonne Patiag
Produced by Maren Smith

WINDOW - SHORT FILM EPK

(title)

WINDOW

(one line)

A young man develops a fascination with his neighbour.

(one paragraph)

A young man in suburbia develops a fascination with his neighbour. As he watches from his bedroom, a shared secret from their past slowly reconnects the two.

(half page)

A young man, ONE, isolated in the suburbs of Western Sydney develops a fascination with his neighbor, TWO, and the many pleasures of his life - a red sports car, an attractive girlfriend, and a strong aura of confidence. ONE compares his own body to TWO's, examining his own self in the mirror, attempting to see himself through his physicality. At night, ONE witnesses an act of intimacy between TWO and his girlfriend. The next morning, ONE overhears a fight next door, and as the girlfriend storms off leaving TWO desolate, ONE begins to question his own emotional awareness. ONE leaves his room, and heads to a local sports oval, watching the locals play a game of soccer. TWO pulls up to the sports oval looking for his girlfriend and asks ONE if he's seen her. Together, they head to a takeaway shop where they indulge in burgers. Making small talk, TWO brings up an old memory of a childhood rhyme. Together they reminisce about their childhood together, revealing that they shared an innocent childhood kiss. TWO deflects this, saying that "it doesn't count, we were five." After driving home, the two men sit in the car, slowly lean in, and kiss. ONE leaves the car. The next day, ONE stares at his naked body in the mirror, accepting of what he sees. ONE looks out the window and sees TWO and his girlfriend reconcile their relationship. As TWO follows his girlfriend into his house, he looks up at ONE's window; it's empty.

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(cast)

Vonne Patiag as One

Jordan Gallaway as Two

Rebecca Lamond as Girlfriend

(key crew)

Directed/Written by Vonne Patiag

Produced by Maren Smith

Photographed by Dimitri Zaunders

Designed by Steph Todd

Original Composition by Richard Savery

(length)

8 minutes and 37 seconds.

(production company)

VIP Films

(nationality)

Australian

(format and screening ratio)

digital, 1.85:1.

(copyright owners)

Copyright Vonne Patiag 2016.

(completed)

June 2016.

(website)

www.filmfreeway.com/project/windowshortfilm

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(screenings and awards)

WORLD PREMIERE – St Kilda Film Festival 2016 (May 2016)

WINNER OF BEST SHORT FILM (OLYMPUS FILMMAKER CHALLENGE) -
St Kilda Film Festival 2016 (May 2016)

OFFICIAL SELECTION - Dungog Festival 2016, Short Film Competition
(October 2016)

OFFICIAL SELECTION - Noosa International Film Festival 2016 (November
2016)

OFFICIAL SELECTION - Breath of Fresh Air (BOFA) Film Festival 2016
(November 2016)

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(director's statement)

Window is a short film about two young men in Western Sydney who watch each other from opposite houses. They are named ONE and TWO, representing different views on masculinity and physicality, and how that affects their emotional selves. ONE spends his days looking at the outside world seeking definition for himself, while TWO satiates his physicality with his sports car, GIRLFRIEND, and his labouring job.

The film is about masculinity and the act of looking, of examining a body closely to reveal some truth about yourself, and looking to other bodies to understand your own. It highlights a secret world built through shared intimacy, conveyed through an innocent childhood first kiss, and how it has shaped the differing lives of the two male neighbours and their shared understanding of what it means to grow up trying to understand yourself through your body as well as your sexuality and identity, it is not lust, or romance, but a spark of connection between two people that fuels this search of self.



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(making of)

Window was shot in Western Sydney, playing a vital role to the setting of the characters and story. The film aims to be an authentic portrayal of life in these surroundings, of living in the fringe - a perfect setting for these self-important intimate moments usually forgotten. Particular framing in indoor and outdoor scenes was also used to present how physical barriers compartmentalize people within bedrooms, houses, cars, relationships and identities, much like how we restrict our self scrutiny of our own bodies in private far from the public eye.

With Window, I was heavily influenced by the writing of Virginia Woolf, particularly her stream of consciousness form of writing that highlights the importance of in-between moments of thought lost in storytelling (the action of the kiss between ONE and TWO is lifted directly from *The Hours*, taking heavy influence from Woolf - utilizing intertextual thought in describing a moment of shared understanding). Window is not meant to have a strong narrative, it is a moment in time, a moment of self-realization, about a tiny world built between two people sharing an intimate secret, the way you look across the room at your best friend and lock eyes, understanding what exists between you both.

The film has a naturalistic tone in setting and design, aiming to highlight how these moments of personal growth stem forth from the ordinary. The act of looking told through the act of photographing is vital to the film's emotional range, of a still lingering camera, of slow repeated zooms that attempt to unravel some truth for the audience. This main technique of the film, repeated seven times throughout the film, accentuates the act of looking, of zooming in again and again on these bodies, closer and closer to these characters, trying to find some truth held in their skin.

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We also show through multiple instances of windows and prop planes of glass to emphasize the idea of 'looking through', of crossing the threshold of the physical and emotional barriers into these private rooms of self-discovery. It is the idea of looking through window to understand the world from the safety of our private selves, and the jolt of connection when someone outside looks in. ONE wears glasses throughout the film to emphasize this idea of looking within.

The close-ups of the body were frames like a landscape, with curves, dips, crevices, skin becoming an unknown land to be understood and mapped. This emphasizes how photographing the body reveals some truth and the physicality in search of the emotional.

Window was commissioned as part of the St Kilda Film Festival 2016 in conjunction with Olympus Cameras.



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(biographies)

Vonne Patiag is a filmmaker currently based between Sydney and Melbourne, Australia. He has worked for several creative agencies across Australia, producing music videos, fashion and online content for a number of corporate and independent clients, and his short films have screened nationally. His film 'The Dead Man's Face Was My Own' recently won Best Film at Made In The West Film Festival 2015, and his horror short 'Yang' also premiered at A Night of Horror, Australia's premier genre film festival. St Kilda Film Festival, recently commissioned him in conjunction with Olympus, to write and direct a short film, 'Window', which went on to win Best Film in its category at the 2016 St Kilda Short Film Festival. Vonne is interested in local stories, of infusing his narratives with his personal experiences to further enrich his work. He is currently writing a web series, Boy Space Friends, to go into production in 2017.

Maren Smith is a Producer and Director of Film and Broadcast Media. Her assistant directing credits include TV pilot Legends, supernatural short Pandorian and music videos for Chance Waters and Mind Over Matter. A graduate of USYD with a Bachelor in Film Studies with Honours, and of UTS with a double Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Media Arts and Production) and in International Studies (German), she has a strong passion for visual arts and cinema. Maren is also Producer of the alternative arts radio show Something Else on Eastside Radio 89.7 FM and a film reviewer for Cinemascope. Maren is currently producing a feature film, One Less God, currently in post-production.

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(biographies)

Dimitri Zaunders is a Director of Photography and Camera Assistant, entering the film industry in 2004 when he was taken under the wing of some of Australia's leading cinematographers, working on feature films, commercials and Australian and US television series, including Channel 9's Underbelly: Razor, and the ABC's A Moody Christmas. He has steadily photographed music videos, commercials, short films and camera assisted on several Australian features, including the short film Look At Me, which was recognized with a Gold Award by the NSW Australian Cinematographer's Society in 2012. He also lensed the documentary feature Advance Australia Film which premieres on Foxtel in 2015 and screened at the WOW Film Festival 2014 and the Byron Bay International Film Festival 2014.

(contact)

Vonne Patiag

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Jordan Gallaway as Two (above), Vonne Patiag as One (below).



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Vonne Patiag as One (above), Vonne Patiag as One and Jordan Gallaway as Two (below).

