



A FILM BY GEORGIA OAKLEY

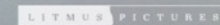
IMELDA STAUNTON EMILY TAAFFE

LITTLE BIRD

LITMUS PICTURES PRESENTS IMELDA STAUNTON AND EMILY TAAFFE "LITTLE BIRD"
COSTUME DESIGNER SINEAD O'SULLIVAN COMPOSER ISOBEL WALLER-BRIDGE EDITOR ERLINE O'DONOVAN
PRODUCTION DESIGNER CARLY REDDIN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NANU SEGAL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AARON BERG BEN SCHIFFER
PRODUCED BY REBECCA CRONSHEY EMILY TAAFFE VICTORIA ZALIN WRITTEN BY EMILY TAAFFE DIRECTED BY GEORGIA OAKLEY



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Little Bird

[Narrative Short]

Running Time:

Directed By:

Written By:

Produced By:

Production Company:

Edited by:

Cinematographer:

Composer:

10 minutes

Georgia Oakley

Emily Taaffe

Rebecca Cronshey

Emily Taaffe

Victoria Zalin

Litmus Pictures

Erline O'Donovan

Nanu Segan

Isobel Waller-Bridge



Short Synopsis

[42 WORDS]

Set in London in 1941, at a time when women were called upon to aid the war effort; *LITTLE BIRD* explores how far one young woman will go to create a life for herself and what she is willing to leave behind.

Full Synopsis

[391 WORDS]

Set in London in 1941, at a time when women were called upon to aid the war effort; *LITTLE BIRD* explores how far one young woman will go to create a life for herself and what she is willing to leave behind.

Written by Emily Taaffe, this is a deeply personal story. Inspired by the disappearance from Ireland of her great-aunt, Emily began to investigate the role of women in WWII. Scouring the archives at the Imperial War Museum a picture began to emerge. Suddenly the war appeared as a means of escape for so many young women, an opportunity to carve a new identity amidst the chaos of war and fly from cages, whether gilded or otherwise. Emily had found a story to tell.

Our Story

Due to the strong female energy of this story, and in a bid to correct the gender disparity in filmmaking she began to reach out to other female filmmakers. Georgia Oakley was an immediate fit for the project, bringing a strong visual style and sense of how this period short film should be visualised. Rebecca Cronshey joined as producing partner alongside Emily, bringing her years of expertise working in the British film industry and her immense knowledge of the graft that goes into telling stories on film. Victoria Zalin, Rebecca's partner at Litmus Pictures, also came on board and was able to achieve a huge amount of collaboration and progress at an unearthly rate, which proved indispensable.

When Imelda Staunton accepted the role we were thrilled. However, although we had a star, we had no money. So we turned to Kickstarter. People really responded to our aim of trying to make the film with as many women as possible and we were all taken aback to find we'd smashed our target of £17K, reaching £20K by our deadline. Our supporters came from far and wide, on both sides of the Atlantic and demonstrated a huge appetite for this story about women, told by women. An award from Kodak to supply all of our film stock followed, along with the Jury Prize from Audience Awards' Reel Pitch competition, a bursary from The Jameson Works, and support from Working Title Films and Big Light.





Shoot & Post

LITTLE BIRD was shot on 16mm at locations in London and Southampton during July 2016. It was made with an 80% female shoot crew.

Because of the support and awards we received, we were able to secure processing deals with Cinelab, sound design with James Mather and his team, and picture post with Goldcrest.

Imelda Staunton *as First Officer Simpkins*

Imelda Staunton is an award winning actress of international renown. She is currently starring in Edward Albee's 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' on London's West End which comes on the heels of her Olivier Award-winning performance as Mama Rose in 'Gypsy'. On film Staunton is perhaps best known for playing the title role in VERA DRAKE for which she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress and for which she received the BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role, and for the role of Dolores Umbridge in the Harry Potter films. Amongst her many other theatre credits, notable performances include Mrs Lovett in 'Sweeney Todd', for which she won an Olivier Award, 'Circle Mirror Transformation' for the Royal Court and the role of Claire in Edward Albee's 'A Delicate Balance' at the Almeida.



Emily Taaffe *as Prudence Willis*

Emily is an Irish actress living and working in London for the past nine years. She graduated from LAMDA in 2007 and has had a variety of leading roles on stage and screen since. Highlights include Viola in 'Twelfth Night', Miranda in 'The Tempest' & Luciana in 'Comedy of Errors' for the Royal Shakespeare Company; 'The Veil', 'The Cherry Orchard' & 'Nation' for the National Theatre, 'The Crucible' at Regents Park Open Air, 'The American Plan' at the St James Theatre & 'Three Sisters' at The Abbey Theatre and Southwark Playhouse. On screen she has appeared in various roles including PAULA, CALL THE MIDWIFE, WAR AND PEACE (BBC), RIPPER STREET, VERA (ITV), and X COMPANY (CBC).



Betrys Jones *as Post Office Teller*

Originally from South Wales, Bettrys graduated from the Poor School 12 years ago and has been living and working as an actress in London ever since. Highlights of her stage work include Mary Warren in 'The Crucible' at Regents Park Open Air, Prince Edward in 'Edward II' and Emilie in 'Warhorse' for the National Theatre, 'The Mouse and his Child', 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' and 'Comedy of Errors' for the RSC, 'Praxis makes Perfect' and 'The Dark Philosophers' for National Theatre Wales, 'Wait until Dark' at the Garrick. Her television and film credits include SKINS (Channel 4) DOCTORS (BBC) and PRIVATE PEACEFUL. She has worked extensively on radio including roles in 'Pilgrim', 'The Corrections', 'The Big Broadcast' and 'The Hot Kid' (all radio 4).



Director *Georgia Oakley*

After a degree in English Literature, Georgia moved to London to make films. She worked for three years as an in house director for Irresistible films before leaving to focus on her own work. She has screened short films at dozens of international festivals including New York Film Festival, London Short Film Festival, Berlin Short Film Festival, Aesthetica & Bird's Eye View.

Her 2014 film *CALLOW + SONS* was funded by the Kevin Spacey Foundation and picked up awards in San Francisco and Mumbai. In 2013 she wrote and directed two micro shorts for Channel 4 that became Vimeo staff picks, one which garnered over 500,000 viewers on air.

Alongside her narrative work Georgia makes documentaries; in 2014 she spent time in India documenting the lives of the transgender community in the wake of a landmark new ruling.

Georgia is currently developing the screenplay for her first feature with the Screen Arts Institute at the BFI as well as directing a comedy web series that explores sexual fluidity in the digital age.

Georgia is represented by Ollie Azis at Independent Talent.

www.georgiaoakley.com

ollieazis@independenttalent.com



Producer *Rebecca Cronshey*

Rebecca started her career in the UK Theatrical team at Twentieth Century Fox in 2010 before moving into production at DNA Films. Here she worked on such films as DREDD, SUNSHINE ON LEITH and EX MACHINA. With producing as the end goal, she left to gain on-set experience working as assistant to Thomas Vinterberg on FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD, Nira Park at Big Talk Pictures and Michael Grandage on his first feature, GENIUS. Since GENIUS, she has been researching on film and TV projects, and has just completed Joe Wright's latest feature, DARKEST HOUR. Rebecca and her producing partner, Victoria Zalin, founded Litmus Pictures in 2016 and are currently developing several projects with talented writers and directors in London.

rebecca@litmuspictures.co.uk



Producer *Victoria Zalin*

Victoria is new to the world of producing having spent several years in the production department on feature films including RUSH, FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD and A UNITED KINGDOM. She is one half of Litmus Pictures, a production company set up with fellow producer Rebecca Cronshey with the aim of bringing remarkable female stories to screen. LITTLE BIRD is her debut as a producer.

victoria@litmuspictures.co.uk



Producer *Emily Taaffe*

This is Emily's first short film as a writer or a producer. She likes the view from this side.

emilytaaffe@gmail.com



Cinematographer *Nanu Segal*

Nanu Segal is an award-winning cinematographer based in the UK. Since training at the NFTS in the UK, Nanu has shot a range of feature films, from art house (ALL GOOD CHILDREN, SONG OF SONGS), to genre (DONKEY PUNCH, THE CHILDREN), as well as numerous short films which have collected many awards from film festivals across the globe (Cannes Cinefondation Award / BAFTA / Rhode Island). Alongside her narrative work, Nanu shoots commercials for companies such as Rattling Stick, Gorgeous, Smuggler, MJZ and Moxie. Nanu's work has taken her all over the world, from her home turf of London, to the US, South America, Africa and all through Europe.



Production Designer *Carly Reddin*

After graduating with a first class degree in Design for Film and Television at Nottingham Trent University, Carly Reddin won the prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize to attend The Royal College of Art's National Film and Television School in 2005. Her graduation film, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, was the only British film in official competition at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. Since then, as a working professional, she has worked with a talented array of award winning directors. Carly has production designed two features so far: HELLO CARTER dir. Anthony Wilcox and THE FACE OF AN ANGEL dir. Michael Winterbottom. She has also designed the TV series 'Aber Bergen' in Norway and most recently a short film starring John Malkovich in Paris.



Composer *Isobel Waller Bridge*

Isobel Waller-Bridge is an award-winning composer for film, television and theatre, whose work for television and film includes FLEABAG (BBC/Amazon); WAR & PEACE (BBC, Emmy Nominated for Best Score); FROZEN PLANET (3 BAFTA wins, RTS nominated); TRUE APPALOOSA (BBC4). Lauded for her trademark electronic sound worlds and scoring sweeping melodies for large-scale orchestra, Isobel's work has awarded her with a number of prestigious awards, including Best Composer at Bafta recognised Underwire Film Festival, and winner of Best Sound Designer at Off West End Theatre Awards. She has collaborated with Oscar Winning composer Stephen Warbeck, Multi Bafta and Emmy Award winning composer George Fenton, and Ivor Novello and Bafta winning composer Martin Phipps, amongst others.



Editor *Erline O'Donovan*

Erline started making films when she was 9 years old and she has been editing since early 2007. She attended the ESEC (Paris) after college in the editing department before moving to the UK to further her career. She has gone on to assist on films such as EX MACHINA and TARZAN UNTAMED, and was additional editor on a few films including BIG GAME before recently editing her first feature, JUST CHARLIE. She's about to edit her second feature, MILK & HONEY.



Costume Designer *Sinead O'Sullivan*

Sinéad is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and RADA. She has worked in the UK film industry for the past six years and is currently assistant designing for Jacqueline Durran. Credits as an assistant designer include BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (2017), PAN (2015), MACBETH (2015) MR TURNER (2014) THE WORLD'S END (2013), THE DOUBLE (2013) and ANNA KARENINA (2012). She has also worked on THE DARK KNIGHT RISES, and TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY. She has designed a number of short films and music videos, and has recently published a directory on ethical sourcing for costume departments in film, tv and theatre.



Hair & Make Up Designer *Charlotte Rodgers*

Charlotte is a graduate of the London College of Fashion and has been working in the film and television industry for over 14 years, starting with work experience on the second Harry Potter film. Since then she has worked on over 40 feature films and was twice nominated for the LA Hair & Make-Up Guild Awards for her work assisting Sian Grigg on EX MACHINA.





Credits

Directed by
Written by
Produced by

Georgia Oakley
Emily Taaffe
Rebecca Cronshey
Emily Taaffe
Victoria Zalin
Nanu Segal
Carly Reddin
Erline O'Donovan
Sinead O'Sullivan
Charlotte Rogers
Isobel Waller-Bridge
Sara Lima
Aaron Berg
Ben Schiffer
Big Light
Damien Cummins
James Michael Hughes
Michelle Mendenhall

Director of Photography
Production Designer
Editor
Costume Designer
Hair & Make-up Designer
Music by
Production Sound Recordist
Executive Producers

Associate Producers

CAST

First Officer Simpkins
Prudence Willis / Chrissie
Post Office Teller
WRENS in Corridor

Women in Post Office

WREN on Ship
Bobby

Imelda Staunton
Emily Taaffe
Betrys Jones
Anna Fenwick
Aspen Reiss
Fiona Sheehan
Emily Tucker
Miriam Lessar
Megan Maczko
Kirstin Smith
Emmeline Kay

Production Manager
First Assistant Director
2nd Assistant Director
Floor Runner
Runner Driver
Script Supervisor
Sound Maintenance
1st Assistant Camera
2nd Assistant Camera
Camera Trainee
Camera Trainee
Camera Tests -
1st Assistant Camera
Grip
Stills Photographer
B-Roll & EPK
Gaffer
Best Boy
Electricians

Standby Art Director
Art Department Assistant
Art Department Assistant
Carpenter
Costume Assistant
Make-up and Hair Artist
Make-up and Hair Artist

Digital Intermediate Provided by
Digital Colourist
Digital On-Line Editor
Head of Production
Digital Film Bureau
Re-Recording Mixer
Effects Editor
Dialogue Editor
Foley & ADR recordist
Foley Artist

May Cunningham
Cordelia Hardy
Amy Greenberg
Elizabeth Coates
Fred Oakley
Marianne Huet
Tawa Durowoju
Catharine Brown
Victoria Hanna
Melanie Jansen
Fiona Harper

Julia Green
Michael Farrell
Jane Hobson
Jon Robertson
Sebastian Kudenowski
Rory Harborne
Daniel Ansell
Lorenzo Guerrieri
Liam Morris

Anna Thomas
Catiana Becker
Virginia Arostegi
Rupert Emerton
Gabriella Malewska
Claire Pompili
Jules Grace
Goldcrest
Maria Chamberlain
Daniel Tomlinson
Rob Farris
Timothy P Jones
Gordon Pratt
James Mather AMPAS
David Mackie
Nina Norek
Adam Mendez
Andrea King

VFX
VFX Artist
Title & End Credits
Designed by
Music recorded and
piano played by
Violin played by
Film Processing
Dailies Colourist
Lab Contact
Insurance

Camera & Grip Equipment
Lighting Equipment
Film Stock
Walkie Talkies
Isle of Wight Ferry

Cheap Shot Ltd
Benjamin Perrott
Matt Curtis
Isobel Waller-Bridge

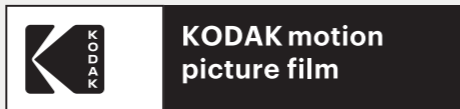
James Underwood
Cinelab London
Paul Dean
Adrian Bull
Media Insurance Brokers
Ltd

Arri Rental
Panalux
Kodak
Audiolink
Red Funnel



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