



GRIFFITH FILM SCHOOL PRESENTS...

Edge of Onyx

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

Running Time..... 11min
Genre..... Drama
Rating..... MA15+: Drug use, sexual material and adult themes
Year..... 2018
Language..... English
Country of Origin..... Australia
Press Contact..... Xanthie Milton – xmilt1@hotmail.com
Links..... Official Site: www.facebook.com/EdgeOfOnyx



SYNOPSIS

Pain and suffering. The difference? Intensity and duration.

For Onyx, her entire existence is suffering. On the outside, a young, beautiful party girl. But inside? A never-ending storm of guilt, shame and misery.

The only way she can find relief is in the nameless sex that makes her feel wanted and needed one minute, used and dirty the next; cutting that relieves the tightness of her own skin, releases the poison in her veins; drugs and alcohol that make her different, make her forget, make her numb.

Edge of Onyx is a short film about the struggles of a young woman with Borderline Personality Disorder. Onyx can't regulate her emotions and is instead a slave to them.

A sneak peek into the life of a tormented young woman, *Edge of Onyx* challenges the stigma around mental illness by demonstrating the pain and confusion it can cause and tapping into universal hopes such as belonging, acceptance and forgiveness.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Edge of Onyx is a love story. More accurately, it is a lack of love story. A story of trepidation, isolation, and the undying need to numb the pain.

Our film follows Onyx, a lonely girl who has lost any sense of self worth. Unable to truly love herself, she hides behind an empty mask of self confidence to the foggy nightclub cattle. Running from the pain, unable to sit in the tension, she reaches for anything and everything to save her. Drugs, alcohol, and sex drive her campaign for relief. When the vicious cycle inevitably lets her down, she resorts to cutting, a ritual she can't go without. Building on the unconscious desire to punish herself, she self-sabotages repeatedly-- the most recent of demons: sleeping with her best friend's boyfriend. After losing the only lifeline of support she has left, she begs for forgiveness, unwilling to see she must first forgive herself. A serendipitous run in with her livid ex-bestie at the club thrusts Onyx to rock bottom, bringing the realization that she can finally admit. She is not okay.

Visually, the film takes place primarily in darker settings reflecting Onyx's dark inner self, except for the bathroom scene, that is intensely bright and stark.

In terms of sound design we are very excited to have worked with a composer who has created an original song specifically created for *Edge of Onyx*. Used for the bathroom scene with a haunting unaccompanied rendition by our main actress, the song dives into the depths of loneliness, hurt, and worthlessness.

This film is critical to the millions of people using sex, drugs, and alcohol as a way to numb the pain. Our film addresses Borderline Personality Disorder but is not limited to just that mental illness. The purpose of our film is to show people suffering from various levels of depression that they are not alone and it is important to recognize the dark patterns and seek help.

Ali Schaefer



PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

Edge of Onyx began as an idea to utilise music to convey internal emotions. For many people, both with and without mental health issues, emotions like guilt and shame can be overwhelming and difficult to manage healthily. Therefore, I wanted to write and produce a film dedicated to exploring the inner world of a young woman consumed by her own emotions. Originally, this would be accomplished through very little dialogue, but one song that would be heard several times throughout the film in different genres that reflect the internal conflict of the main conflict. However, through the making of this film, we have found many other strong methods to portray this struggle, including framing with darkness, stylistic cinematography, character conflict and bold use of silences and stillness. I believe that this makes our final product brave, ambitious and, ultimately, a powerful and emotional film.

I was very lucky to be able to work with such talented cast and crew who were patient with my 'newbie' status as both a screenwriter and producer. Through the production, we have worked together to accomplish tasks and solve creative and logistical problems as they arise. It has been a difficult journey, but well worth it.

My hope for *Edge of Onyx* is that people, especially women who tend to deal with institutionalised shame daily, will watch the short film and identify with that pain. Understand what drives Onyx to act in the way she does while at the same time wishing she could find a different way to cope – just like the character. The audience sees what Onyx sees. The rest of her life isn't explored because she can't see beyond putting one high-heeled foot in front of the other. Also, I hope that the ambiguous ending shows that this kind of despair requires many revelations and a lot of work to get out of, but, for anyone experiencing that pain, they are not alone.

I believe that *Edge of Onyx* is an authentic and passionate film that starts conversations.

Xanthie Milton

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Ali Schaefer is a Director from Las Vegas, Nevada in America. She studied at The Pennsylvania State University and received her Bachelor's in Arts with a specialisation in Film. As a world traveller and professional athlete, Ali is passionate about connecting people with each other to celebrate the world around them. Ali has directed two short films, *Torment* and *Edge of Onyx*, both with principal photography in 2018. She is currently developing a project that connects aspiring professional footballers to play around the world using the platform of social media



PRODUCER'S BIO

Xanthie Milton is a Writer/Producer from Queensland. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Entertainment Industries majoring in Screen Studies from Queensland University of Technology, Xanthie has worked on several local short films in various production roles. While completing her Master's in Screen Production at Griffith, Xanthie hopes to work on as many films and projects as possible in order to practice and hone her skills in order to fulfil her ultimate goal to create films that explore the diversity of humanity and inspire thought and understanding.



LEAD ACTRESS BIO

Georgia Allison is an Australian actress located in the Gold Coast. After studying at the prestigious New York Film Academy, Georgia was picked up by an agent in Melbourne and went on to earn several gigs and connections to shows such as *Home and Away*, *Neighbours*, and US TV Pilots. She made her first on-screen appearances in the Australian TV series *We Were Tomorrow* and *INTERFACE*. Since then, Georgia has starred in several music videos and short films and is currently extending herself into the world of cabaret cirque performance. Going forward, Georgia plans to move her talents to an international platform.



PRODUCTION STILLS





CREDITS

WRITER/PRODUCER.....	Xanthie Milton	ONYX	Georgia Allison
DIRECTOR.....	Ali Schaefer	STRANGER.....	Sam Sidhu
CINEMATOGRAPHER.....	Nick Paton ACS	TAYLOR.....	Samantha Kerin
1 st ASSISTANT DIRECTOR....	Aly Serocki		Xanthie Milton
CAMERA OPERATOR.....	Mark Broadbent	TAYLOR'S FRIEND....	Tyler Auld
1 st ASSISTANT CAMERA.....	Josh Bailey	SECURITY GUARD..	Alex Carlaw
2 nd ASSISTANT CAMERA.....	Caitlyn O'Brien	DRIVER.....	Andrew Seymour
PRODUCTION DESIGN.....	Xanthie Milton	PEDESTRIANS.....	Paul Wood
FILM EDITOR.....	Sabrina Sidharta		Kieran Evans
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR.....	Tess Brading		Gabrielle Lighthouse
SOUND DESIGNER.....	Maxwell Thollar	CLUB EXTRAS.....	Josh Reid
MUSIC PRODUCER.....	Mischa Reinthal	Jemima Head	Deonne Milton
SOUND RECORDIST.....	Lachlan Simpson	Ana Lima	Caitlyn O'Brien
	Alicia Eames	Carly Lawson	Ella Louise Simuduarac
	Maxwell Thollar	Christian Harvey	Lucas Ishizuka
BOOM OPERATOR.....	Saroj Kumar Chauhan	Jasper Lear	Katia Alves Martos
UNIT MANAGER.....	Deonne Milton-Seymour	Katie Heron	Rafaelle Ferrari Correa Lima
HAIR & MAKEUP.....	Andrea Templeman	Nirav Ajudia	Felipe Dias de Sausa
MAKEUP ASSISTANT.....	Melinda Mahoney	Kade Jones	Caio Arusa Perdoneo
		Vivian Gao	