



HEY YOU (short film, 2019)

Press release

SHOCKING, AWARD-WINNING SHORT FILM 'HEY YOU' NOW AVAILABLE TO WATCH ONLINE

When two men arrange a hook-up, is who's top or bottom all they should be worried about?

Hey You is a four minute thriller written, produced, directed, and edited by Jared Watmuff. It stars Noel Samuels and Dmitry Spodobaev. The story follows two men who arrange a hook-up in the dead of night -- and the reality of events which befall them.

Mostly dialogue-free, the film is built on juxtaposition, match-cutting between the two men as they prepare themselves. One takes a leisurely shower while the other leaves his wife in bed. A bell is rung and a door is opened. What is on the other side demonstrates the most significant difference between their lives.

The short is fresh from its global festival run, featuring in the Iris Prize's 2019 Best of British shortlist, and has won accolades at other festivals such as the 2019 IMDb New Filmmaker Award (Audience Award), QUEER-Streifen (Audience Award), and Sunday Shorts Film Festival (Jury Award).

The story is inspired by very real events, as Jared explains: 'I remember a moment in 2016 when I first read an article about the persecution of gay and bisexual men by the Islamic State. It was absolutely shocking. I was immediately struck by how, in some way, the only thing which differentiates my fate from these men was is geographical location. It seems so absurd and arbitrary, and reminded me how the rights and freedoms we've gained are in no way guaranteed -- and why we need to keep fighting for them.'

The micro-budget film was shot over two weekends in London and finished in March 2019. The striking cinematography and grading is the work of Eammon Ashton-Atkinson, whose contribution went beyond his enviable artistic prowess: he offered his home as one of the locations (as well as his husband to play one of the parts!) The production received invaluable support from a skeleton crew: Stewie Lee Loong, George Hayward, Ben Ransley, Lexi Elena, and Isaac Walsh.

Jared hopes the film will resonate with viewers. 'I think it's an important message to try and share with as many people as possible, especially when you look at how the rise of populism and anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment seems to go hand in hand. Even in the UK, homophobic crimes have more than doubled in the past five years, so (it's a familiar saying) but now more than ever we need to stay vigilant.'

Described by Little White Lies as '[one to watch closely](#)', Jared's next project is a drama which examines a controversial piece of government legislation dubbed by campaigners as the 'rape clause', and will be released later this year.

For more information, contact Jared Watmuff at jaredwatmuff@gmail.com. You can find more of his work at jmuffy.com.