



# Red Cape

A short film by  
Gary Beatson

## Press Kit

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# Synopsis

Ten-year-old Sandy and his father attempt to navigate complex feelings and emotions after his mother leaves them. It's a story of family, loss and the imagination.

Tensions are high in ten year old Sandy's house as his parents' relationship falls apart.

Sandy uses his red cape and intense imagination to find solace in the chaos as his Father struggles under the weight of the betrayal. Together they must find a way to get through it.





## director bio

Gary Beatson is a filmmaker from Glasgow, Scotland. Initially studying audio he began gravitating towards film during his studies.

For the last few years he has been working on music videos, short films and commercials.

He has worked with Glasgow artists such as Russell Stewart, Zoe Graham, Tom McGuire & The Brassholes and Kitti.

'Red Cape' is his debut short film as writer & director.

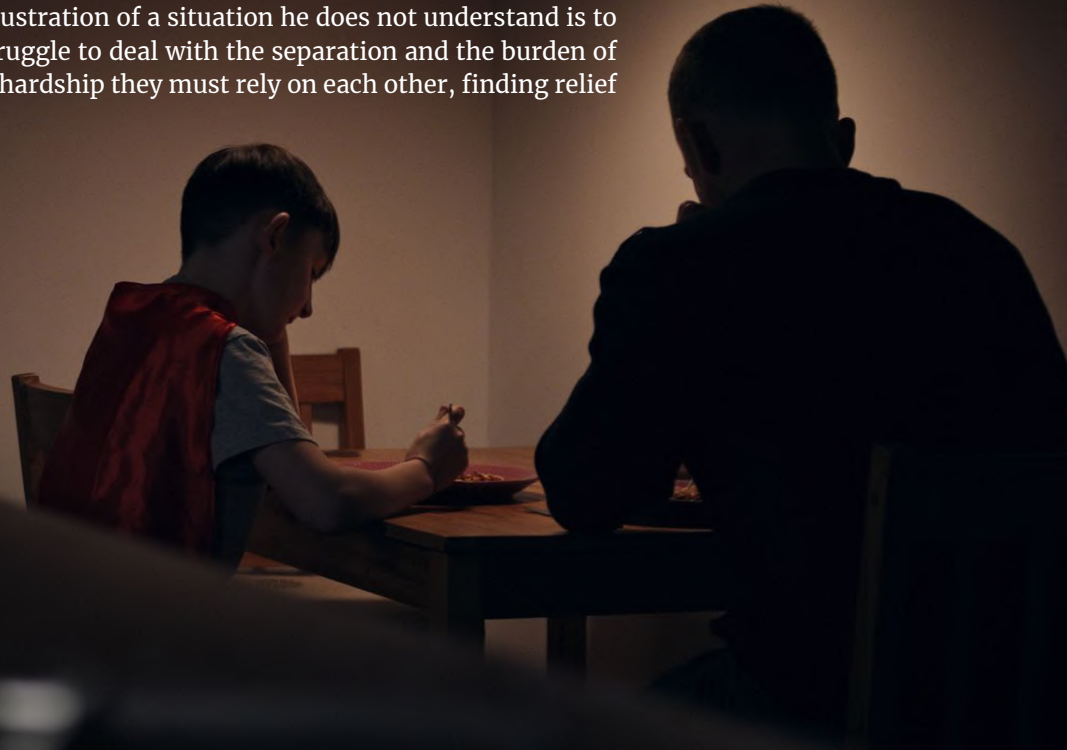
You can find more of Gary's work at [garybeatson.com](http://garybeatson.com)

# directors Statement

'Red Cape' is taken from the life of a close friend of mine. It is the story of 10-year old Sandy, taking place on the day his Mother and Father separate. His only way of coping with the frustration of a situation he does not understand is to disappear into his imagination. As he watches his Father, John, struggle to deal with the separation and the burden of caring for his young son, Sandy shows him that to get through the hardship they must rely on each other, finding relief through imagination, play and their bond with one another.

I wanted to tell this story from the point-of-view of the child. With the viewer being kept in the dark about why his Mother is leaving. Watching him work through frustration and anger, eventually finding some solace in his imagination.

However, I also wanted to explore the story from my current perspective. As an adult I am no longer able to escape the harsh realities of life in the way I once did. The character of John is almost consumed by his emotions. The pain of the separation. The stress of having to then take care and be strong for his Son, to guide him through it when he himself does not know the way. Anxieties about the future and traumas from the past deny me, for the most part, that precious ability that all children possess, living in the present.

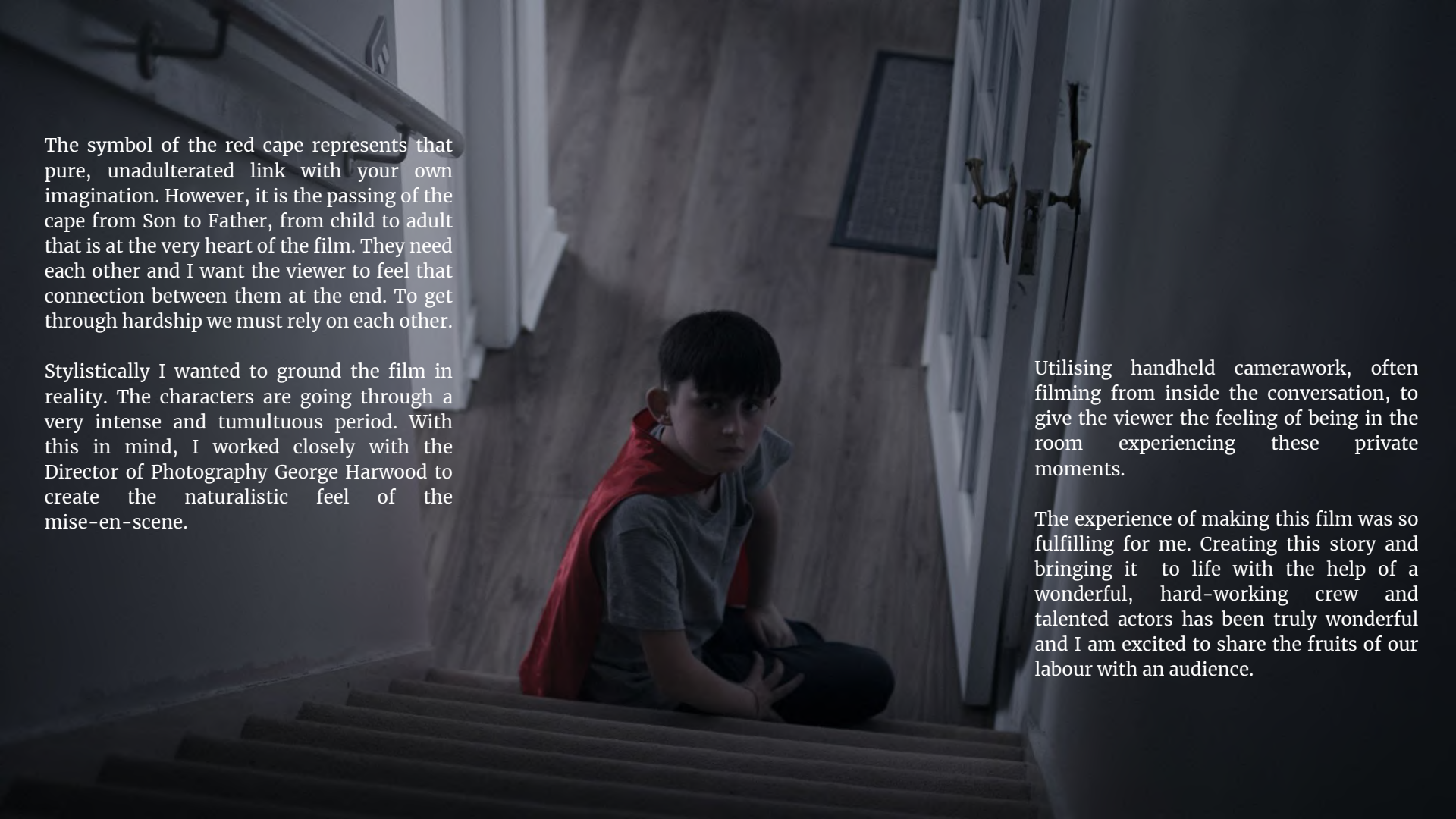


The symbol of the red cape represents that pure, unadulterated link with your own imagination. However, it is the passing of the cape from Son to Father, from child to adult that is at the very heart of the film. They need each other and I want the viewer to feel that connection between them at the end. To get through hardship we must rely on each other.

Stylistically I wanted to ground the film in reality. The characters are going through a very intense and tumultuous period. With this in mind, I worked closely with the Director of Photography George Harwood to create the naturalistic feel of the mise-en-scene.

Utilising handheld camerawork, often filming from inside the conversation, to give the viewer the feeling of being in the room experiencing these private moments.

The experience of making this film was so fulfilling for me. Creating this story and bringing it to life with the help of a wonderful, hard-working crew and talented actors has been truly wonderful and I am excited to share the fruits of our labour with an audience.



# FAQs

- **How did you get into the mindset of a kid for this film?**

*“When writing I spent a lot of time mulling over that time in my own life and trying to rediscover the thought process of someone so young and naive. But what really helped was meeting Noah in the casting process. He is the same age as the character he plays and his energy, enthusiasm and imagination just burst out of him, giving everyone on-set a dose of that childlike spirit that we were trying to capture for the film.”*

- **What advice would you give to other young filmmakers producing their first short?**

*“Number one, don’t shoot during a pandemic. Number two, they also say not to work with kids or animals; as amazing as Noah was there were time limitations for his time on-set that were very tricky to schedule and there were a number of points that our AD had to stop the shooting because Noah needed his break. Lastly, get yourself a crew as dedicated and talented as I was fortunate enough to have, it will make your job so much easier.”*

- **How was filming impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic?**

*“In a word, entirely. There wasn’t one part of the process that wasn’t affected. Filming was the most carefully controlled step as we were limited in the number of people we could have on-set and everyone had to be masked at all times of course. Thanks to our producer Kieran Howe who took the helm as the ‘Covid safety coordinator’, the shoot was disturbed as little as possible.”*

- **What projects are you moving onto next?**

*“For my next film I want to explore different territories than I have with ‘Red Cape’. I have been writing a film that not only has a different energy than this film in terms of it’s pace and tone, but that also allows me to examine other elements of my own background such as the working-class areas of my youth and the characters that surrounded me. I really want to push what I can do with the camera and the editing to make something fresh, vibrant and exciting.”*

# Credits

**Director**  
Gary Beatson

**Producer**  
Kieran Howe

**Starring**  
Noah Wilde Connell  
Christopher Sherwood  
Nina Johnston

**Director of Photography**  
George Harwood

**Production Designer**  
Katherine Lennon

**Sound Recordist**  
Aidan McDonach

**Original Score By**  
Awkward Family Portraits

**1st Assistant Director**  
Jack Jeffrey

**Camera Assistant**  
Michaela McCool

**Gaffer**  
Arran Totten

**Sound Mixing**  
White Room Audio Recording

**Sound Mastering**  
Calum Matheson at Nerfed Audio

**Vocals**  
Julen Santamaria

**Guitar**  
Timmy Allan

**Bass**  
Andrew Herrington

**Keys**  
Roo Geddes

**Drums**  
Chris Dickie

tech

**Title**  
Red Cape

**Filming Location**  
Glasgow, Scotland

**Project Type**  
Short Film

**Language**  
English

**Genre**  
Drama

**Captions**  
English CC

**Runtime**  
9 minutes 23 seconds

**Shooting Format**  
Digital 4K

**Completion Date**  
September 30, 2021

**Aspect Ratio**  
1.85:1

**Budget**  
£3,850

**Colour**  
Full Colour

contact

Kieran Howe - Producer

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