

A man and a woman are in a cluttered office at night. The man is standing and looking at the woman, who is sitting at a desk. The desk is covered with papers, a coffee mug, and other office supplies. The background is filled with shelves of papers and a window with blinds. The lighting is dim, with a desk lamp providing light for the woman.

Coup the Duke Presents

CAN'T STOP ME.

A short film about a simple lie.



Story

A short film about a job interview
where a simple lie begins a spiral
into chaos.

A close-up, profile view of Paul Bailey, a man with dark, wavy hair and a beard, looking off to the side. The background is a soft, out-of-focus yellow and green.

Starring Paul Bailey

Paul is an actor based in South West England. He has thirteen years experience in front of the camera, has worked all over the country, and has an MA in Acting for Screen from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. As of December 2016, he is a Hollywood award-winning actor, having won "Outstanding Up & Coming Actor" at the Golden Film Awards.

Paul has performed on stage in numerous plays and musicals and has performed competitively on the international singing stage in Kansas City. He has also been in short films, radio adaptations, numerous TV commercials and corporate videos, as well as music videos.

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a dark sweater over a white collared shirt, is smiling and looking to her left. She is sitting in a black office chair. The background is a cluttered office desk with various papers, a white mug, and a plant. The lighting is soft and focused on her face.

Starring Tamsyn Kelly

Tamsyn Kelly is a working class comedian, actor and writer from Penzance, Cornwall. As a comedian Tamsyn is currently supporting Kiri Pritchard-McLean on her tour Home Truths, while developing her own hour Tamsyn Kelly's Cornwall. Tamsyn has recently appeared in the Stand Up Sketch Show (ITV2) alongside Seann Walsh, and was a regional finalist in the BBC New Comedian of the Year Award 2021 (BBC One).

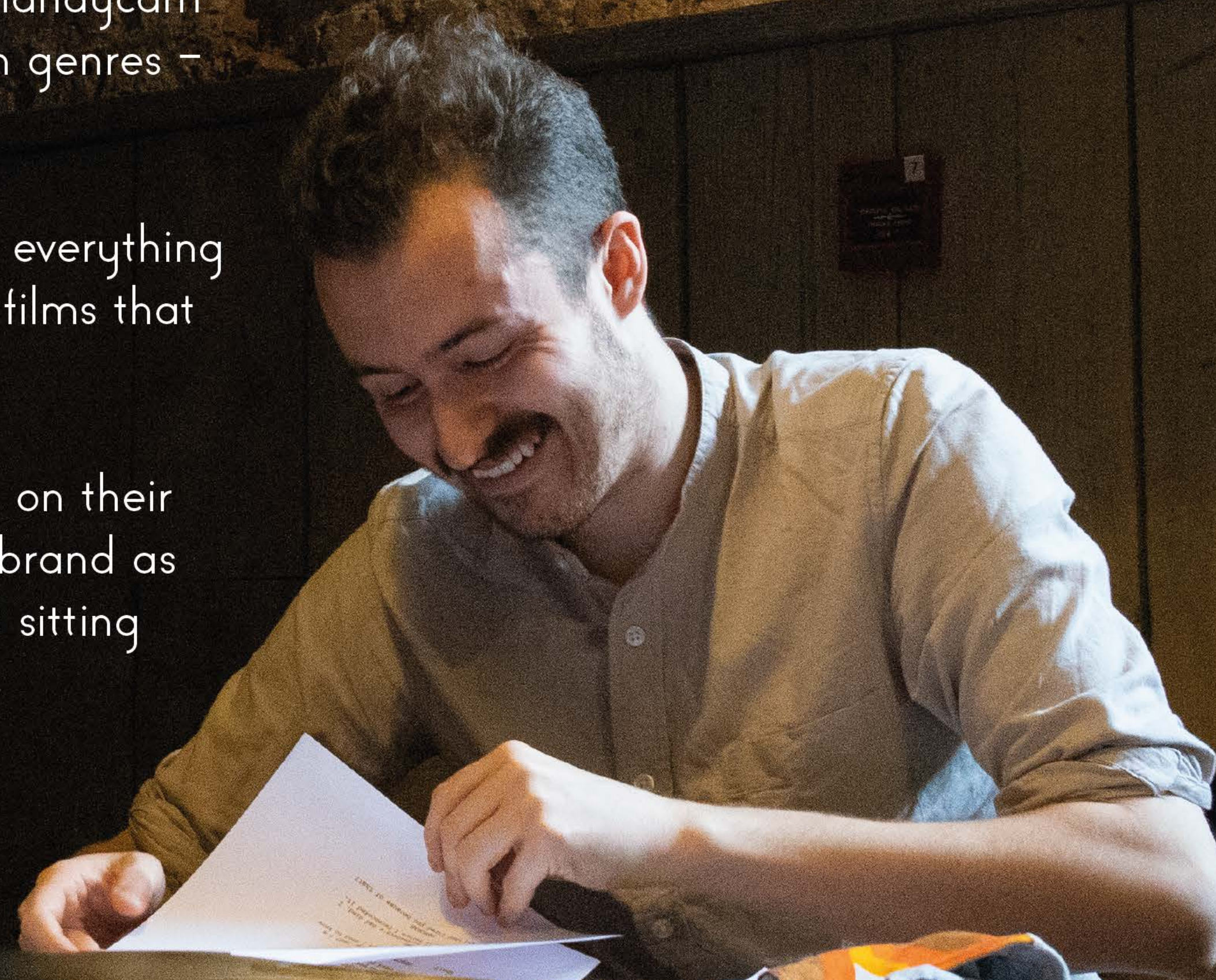
Tamsyn currently has a script commission from Channel 4, as well as various other scripted projects in development. She's also a writer and performer on a new Cornish based BBC Radio 4 series which is due out later this year.

Written and Directed by Scott Piggott

Scott has been making short films for nearly a decade. Starting with handycam parodies in his house, his off-beat comedies have sidestepped between genres – from fantasy to dramas.

Seeing the gap in online content, Scott has diversified his portfolio with everything from online stunts that have received nearly 100 million views to short films that have screened at festivals across the world.

As of now, Scott is developing his work with producer Matt Ashwell on their newly-founded production company 'Coup the Duke'; growing their brand as they screen their stories to new audiences on the festival circuit and sitting at home on TikTok.



A man with long hair tied back, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, is sitting at a desk in a cluttered office. He is smiling and looking towards the left. The desk is covered with papers, a metal filing tray, and a cardboard box. In the background, there is a computer monitor, a fan, and various office supplies. The lighting is warm and focused on the man.

Produced by Matthew Ashwell

Having started in the industry at the age of 15, Matt has worked tirelessly to get to where he is today. Despite getting his start in the busy world of commercials in London, and being lucky enough to meet and work with great talent MPC, Hunky Dory, it was never enough.

After a summer working abroad in Vancouver on high end TV dramas, Matt came back to the UK keen to work in TV some more and was able to get work on Taskmaster, Comedy Roast Battle and the Red Bull Soapbox Race to name just a few.

He moved to Cardiff in 2019 and has since found success working on shows for UK and US audiences, this time at Wild Dream Films. Somehow between a global pandemic and buying his first home, he has found time to produce multiple short films with a range of directors. Currently he is developing more short and feature film projects so keep those eyes peeled!

A close-up, high-angle shot of a woman's face. She has a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of shock or surprise. Her eyes are wide and staring, and her mouth is slightly agape, showing her teeth. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of her skin and the intensity of her expression. The background is blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

Director's Statement

You'd probably associate lying in job interviews to be a cheeky way of making yourself look better, but this story just spiralled from when I suddenly found myself meaninglessly and uncontrollably spewing white lies. Safe to say, it didn't quite go to the same extent this film did.

There's no hiding from the silliness of this film; it is what it is. Most of the shorts I see nowadays are incredibly deep, meaningful and, often, a little bit boring. I wanted this film to comment on the ridiculousness that you have to battle to sell yourself for a soul sucking capitalist career, whilst having a lot of fun along the way.

It's a chaotic and rapid film that blasts through a horrendous job interview and finishes as a kidnapping.

I find myself frequently hesitant to be radical, in terms of style, when a story leans into drama. So the script offered me the perfect opportunity to just have a bit of fun with it, from beginning to end.

It was a lockdown project and didn't we know it, with the main actress pulling out 10 hours before we started filming after testing positive, but luck was on our side as we found ourselves in the safe hands of future comedic star, Tamsyn Kelly.

You're not going to leave this film with a new lease on life, but you'll have some fun along the way.



COUP the DUKE