

POLLYANNA
PRESENTS



OPENING FILM

OMOS

A SHORT FILM
BY RHYS HOLLIS

RHYS HOLLIS
ANDREA BAKER
DIVINE TASINDA
KHEANNA WALKER

A SHORT FILM BY RHYS HOLLIS. STARRING RHYS HOLLIS ANDREA BAKER DIVINE TASINDA KHEANNA WALKER - PRODUCER ADAM CASTLE
- DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY / EDITOR AMBROISE LECLERC - PERFORMANCE MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGN XANA - SCORE ASHER FYNN -
COSTUME LADA SOTIROVA JIVOMIR DOMO USTCHIEV - COLOUR GRADE DANGEROUS STUDIO - A POLLYANNA PRODUCTION - WITH THE
SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL LOTTERY VIA CREATIVE SCOTLAND AND HERITAGE FUND, AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND



OMOS

Directed by Rhys Hollis

With Andrea Baker, Divine Tasinda and Kheanna Walker

20' 15"

Logline

A castle and forest come alive with drag, spoken word, pole dance and opera, in homage to Black people who featured in performances in the 16th century Scottish royal court.

Synopsis #1

In *OMOS*, four performers pay homage to an overlooked passage in the history of Black people in the 16th century Scottish royal court. They reclaim the story through drag, dance, opera and pole dance in a Shakespeare-inspired forest and in Stirling Castle, drawing on the past while looking to the future.

Synopsis #2

An unnamed Black man pulled a chariot through the hall of Stirling Castle in Scotland, replacing a live lion that was deemed too scary, in a 16th century royal performance. Shakespeare was perhaps inspired by this event for a joke in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In *OMOS*, four Black performers return to Stirling Castle to pay homage to this historic event and reclaim the story through drag, dance, opera and pole dance in a Shakespeare-inspired forest and the castle. *OMOS* is a collaborative artistic film that blends alternative approaches to historical documentary with queer cabaret techniques. The artists draw on the past and look to the future.



OMOS

Historical context

OMOS pays homage to a historical performance given to King James VI of Scotland with a little-known Black history, alongside connections between Puck's Glen and Stirling Castle and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In the play, a group of performers rehearse in a forest, where they meet Puck, before they eventually perform for the royals at the palace. Puck's Glen, with its magical forest and waterfalls, is named after Puck from the play. In 1594, a performance was given to King James VI of Scotland and his family at Stirling Castle. The original plan was for a lion to pull a chariot through the Great Hall. However, organisers were concerned that the lion would frighten guests and it was removed. Just one year later, and possibly inspired by this event, William Shakespeare included a joke about royals being scared by a performance featuring a lion in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. However, there is an often untold Black history at the heart of this. When the lion's appearance was cancelled in the Stirling Castle event, an unnamed Black man pulled the chariot instead - one of a number of Black people who featured in performances at the Scottish court.

The title *OMOS* was originally an acronym for the phrase 'O monstrous! O strange!', a quote from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As the project developed, this phrase has been morphed to stand for 'Our Movement, Our Stories'. The film has an ambiguous title of solely *OMOS*.



OMOS

Technical details

Screening Format: DCP, ProRes, H264
Shooting Format: digital
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Sound: Stereo
Spoken language: English
Subtitles: English
Colour: Colour
Age rating: 12+

[GOOGLE DRIVE WITH IMAGES +
STILLS + CLIPS + DIALOGUE LIST](#)

Crew

Director: Rhys Hollis
Screenplay: Rhys Hollis
Producer: Pollyanna:
Adam Castle
Cinematographer / Editor: Ambroise Leclerc
Music and sound design: Xana
Score: Asher Fynn
Costume: Lada Sotirova, Jivomir Domoustchiev
Cast in order of appearance:
Divine Tasinda
Rhys Hollis
Kheanna Walker
Andrea Baker

World premiere: Opening Film at Glasgow Short Film Festival 2023

Contacts

Festival distribution

Sanne Jehoul
sanne.jehoul@gmail.com

Producer

Pollyanna
Adam Castle
adam@pollyanna.org.uk
www.pollyanna.org.uk

POLLYANNA

Pollyanna produces queer culture in Scotland. Across cabaret, film and arts projects, we aim to showcase and celebrate LGBTQ performers, support artists in testing out new ideas, and create spaces that welcome communities to forge connections and be inspired to be creative.



OMOS

Event / live performance



OMOS is well-suited to special events, with four performers from the film available to perform live following a screening of the film. This lively cabaret inspired event is great for attracting 18-30s, diverse and LGBTQ+ audiences. It has been presented as the Opening Event for Glasgow Short Film Festival 2022, which included live performances by director and drag artist Rhys Hollis and opera singer Andrea Baker. We can discuss a range of formats to suit audience, need, logistics, budget.

Suggested format

- Introduction
- Film screening
- Q&A with director
- Performances (one to four performances)

Event runtime: 60-90 minutes

Performances

Up to four performers are available, and the number of performers can be tailored to budgets. Ideal lighting for all is colour changing LEDs and white spotlight, but all details are flexible. Use of PA/cinema speakers required.

Rhys Hollis

Based in: London, England, UK

Type: Drag, spoken word, rap

Technical: Handheld wireless microphone, performer sound monitor

Divine Tasinda

Based in: Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Type: Dance

Kheanna Walker

Based in: Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Type: Dance

Technical: X-Pole portable pole dance stage (can usually be hired easily for £50-100 per day), performer sound monitor

Andrea Baker

Based in: Scotland and Germany, UK

Type: Opera singer - requires pianist

Technical: Piano or keyboard.

Above and below: OMOS as Glasgow Short Film Festival 2023 opening event



OMOS

Rhys Hollis

Biography

Rhys Hollis (also known as Rhys's Pieces) is a cabaret artist and director of *OMOS*, alongside performing in the film. Rhys Hollis is described as a one-person cabaret troupe; they are a performance artist, dancer, rapper, lipsyncer, cabaret host, genderbending drag artist and burlesque act. They were crowned 2018's LipSync1000 Champion. In 2019 they were awarded the title of best Variety Act by QX magazine. They have performed at galleries including Tate, V&A and Royal Historic Palaces and performed as themselves in the play *The Sound of the Underground* at The Royal Court, London in 2023 which received five star reviews in *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *Attitude*, *Time Out* and *The Stage*. They host cabaret nights across the UK, including their own creation, *Queerdos Cabaret*. *OMOS* is their debut film.

