

***I'm Not Finished* – Writer's Statement**

I'm Not Finished is a film about boundaries, impulses and reading the line between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour when it comes to physical intimacy and consent, and focussing on these different individual moments. It is a film showing that is OK to say 'no' when a situation is uncomfortable, and that these boundaries must be respected. The film shows the effect of moments of intimacy escalating to the point of being crossed, and the damaging ramifications these traumatic events can have on mental health.

I'm Not Finished is partly inspired by and includes elements of a true event, as well as similar accounts, akin to Michaela Coel's *I May Destroy You*, in order to raise awareness of the reality of the situation despite its partly fictitious retelling. We therefore have the capacity to show the audience an authentic, interesting, sensitive and evocative representation of an event of this nature. The set was safe, as an intimacy co-ordinator was present (on an otherwise closed set) for all intimate scenes, and these were discussed and blocked in advance in a way to ensure the actors were comfortable. As part of our pre-production, the cast and crew had a group discussion, as well as individual conversations on the themes within the piece to ensure that all involved were informed and comfortable with the film's content. There is no explicit sexual content in this piece; any and all acts are implied and not shown.

Additionally, whilst alcohol is present in the party setting, and Alex and Ellie may be seen temporarily holding bottles/cups, they are never seen consuming alcohol. This is to highlight that incidents can and do occur while both parties are sober, and that alcohol is never an excuse for inappropriate sexual behaviour. Moreover, the film is a commentary on hookup culture, where expectations and desires arise in situations such as parties, especially with people you haven't met before. Whilst people can show interest at first, this does not mean they want to engage in any sexual activity on that occasion, and this must be respected.

The film challenges certain preconceptions and stigmas around events of this nature by showing that anyone, however unintentional or without premeditation, can cross the line of inappropriate behaviour if they choose to ignore signals or not listen to the other person. The aim of the film is to give salience and a voice to a group of people who have been victims of such assaults, without vilifying any particular demographic, as assault and harassment will always be such, regardless of the age, gender or background of the victim or perpetrator. Whilst we have a male sexual assault victim and female perpetrator, the film does not detract from the current and important female-led campaigns about their safety and men's behaviour. To help ensure this, the film has a primarily female-led team, including the producer and director.

The film adds to the MeToo conversation, and attempts to reduce the stigma of men discussing their traumatic experiences. As a mark of solidarity with those who have been affected by sexual assault of any kind, Blue Ink Entertainment have decided to promote a designated charity for sexual assault survivors at the end of the film to provide support and extra information about sexual assaults. For these reasons, we believe *I'm Not Finished* will

be successful on the film festival circuit and attract positive attention, as well as encouraging important conversations about consent.

Actor, writer and National Youth Theatre member Rebecca Roberts reviewed the script for *I'm Not Finished*: "*I'm Not Finished* is handled with sensitivity and truth, which is really beautiful to read and visualise. It's certainly a topic that needs to be addressed and openly talked about. I'm really grateful *I'm Not Finished* is exploring this and using own experiences to bring truth to the piece. That's really brave and I think any person who sees it, who can identify with the situation, will be comforted in the knowledge that they're not alone and that they matter."