

A group of young women are shown in a gymnasium setting. In the center, a woman with curly hair and a red headband wears a bright yellow tracksuit. She is surrounded by other women, some in grey and blue tracksuits, who appear to be in a physical struggle or intense activity. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor sports facility.

# NO BALL GAMES

A SHORT FILM BY **SAM BREWSTER**



# NO BALL GAMES

Running Time: **2min 35sec**  
Written & Directed By: **Sam Brewster**  
Produced By: **Sam Brewster**  
**Lily Bowerkail**  
**Faye Butler**  
Cinematographer: **Alfred Thirolle**  
Music by: **Sam Brewster**



# LOGLINE

Compassion casts you out.

# BRIEF SYNOPSIS

In this cyclical fever dream, a woman struggles to win over the crowd.

# LONG SYNOPSIS

A young woman stumbles across a scene in which a group of people, a cross-section of society, are stood, transfixed, staring up at a red ball. They encourage her to fetch the ball for them. The young woman goes to fetch the ball, and throws it down to the crowd, but accidentally hits an old woman, knocking her over. The young woman runs over to check on the old woman, but the crowd don't like that. They jilt them both and return to their first positions, to wait for the next candidate, leaving both women alone.

# OUR STORY

Before the film premiered in Cannes, this film had a bit of a journey to make it out from the deep recesses of Sam's mind to the screens you now see it on.

One November evening, when discussing ideas with friend and director Liam Saint-Pierre, Liam suggested that the story might make a good candidate for the Straight 8 competition, run by fellow filmmaker Ed Sayers. Sam looked it up, agreed, and paid for entry. The rest is history.

The dreamlike mood of 8mm lends itself well to the story. The main concerns were the constraints of the competition - all films must be shot in sequence, in one cartridge of 8mm film, with no editing. The soundtrack had to be made 'blind', having never seen the rushes.

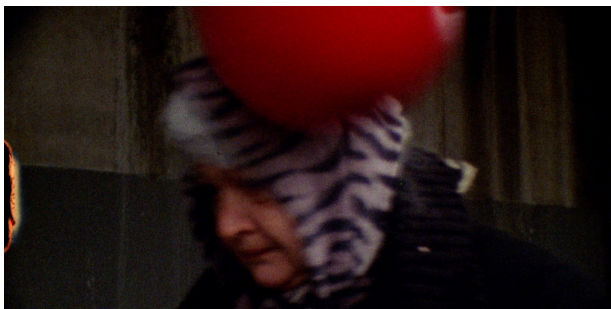
Fortunately, thanks to diligent development and pre-production in which Sam created an animated storyboard and shot an on-location rehearsal with Beth and cinematographer Alfred Thirolle, when it came to the shoot day all went smoothly.





## **BETH MORONEY**

Beth is an actor living in London. She's keen to expand her roles, often portraying the heart or compassionate core to a story.



## **JILL STANFORD**

Jill excels at playing eccentric and quirky older ladies these days, including in feature film Johnny Twoshoes and the role of Judith in feature film Kindling.



## **FLO BUTLER**

No Ball Games marks Flo's first screen credit; her aunt, Faye Butler, is a producer from Blackpool based in London.

# WRITER & DIRECTOR, SAM BREWSTER

Sam is a writer and director based in London. He's known for his absurdist and melodramatic style. He's currently working on more shorts and developing a feature about lorry drivers in the 1970s.

Several of his films have screened at prestigious festivals such as London Short Film Festival and Cannes Film Festival.

During his formative years, he attended an international school situated on a NATO base close to Brussels. This upbringing exposed him to a vibrant mix of nationalities and a fascinating fusion of American and Belgian culture. As a result, he forever associates delicacies like gaufre and frogs' legs with Big Red chewing gum and Texan rodeos. Relocating to England was a culture shock that has influenced his work ever since - bringing social and cultural behaviours into sharp criticism.

[sam@sbrewster.co.uk](mailto:sam@sbrewster.co.uk)



## PRODUCER, FAYE BUTLER

Faye Butler is a producer based in London. She had produced several shorts and have more on her slate for 2023. Her latest film, [Keep The Faith](#), is currently in post-production.

For distribution enquiries please contact [hello@fayebutler.co.uk](mailto:hello@fayebutler.co.uk)



## PRODUCER, LILY BOWERKAIL

Lily Bowerkails' first production role co-producing with Sam, she has previously worked on documentary and interview videos.



## CINEMATOGRAPHER, ALFRED THIROLLE

Alfie Thirolle is a French Director of Photography based in London. Since graduating from the National Film and Television School, he has been working across narrative, documentary, commercial and fine art projects.





# PRAISE

*“No Ball Games by Sam Brewster was another to make its premiere in front of a packed Cannes audience. Making the cut for quickly conjuring up a very specific atmosphere - never easy to do, but crucial for successful straight 8 film.*

*Set in a brutalist environment, a dystopian reality unfolds. Never stopping to explain itself, the film left the jury as intrigued at the end as it made us feel at the start.”*

British Cinematographer Magazine, July/August 2023



# PRAISE

*"It's like Glazer meets Kubrick meets Jacques Tati"*

Vieira Vasco, STRAIGHT 8

*"A wicked slice of chilly brain-tease fun"*

Laurence Brook, BUTTHEAD FILMS

*"The evil child dystopia Yorgos Lanthimos wishes he'd made"*

Laura Spini, Director YOU ARE WHOLE

*"An unnerving exercise in dreamlike dread"*

Shaun Munro, Critic FLICKERING MYTH

# CREDITS

Written & Directed by Sam Brewster

Produced by: Sam Brewster  
Lily Bowerkail  
Faye Butler

Director of Photography Alfred Thirolle

Production Assistants Amel Moyerson  
Jasper Marshall

Supervising Sound Editor Roberto De Spirito

Sound Mix Alex Batchelor

Catering Frankie Edwards



# CAST

Young Woman

Beth Moroney

Old Woman

Jill Stanford

Mother

Faye Butler

Child

Flo Butler

Old Man

Sam D'Leon

Old Workman

J. Maitland Lyons

Young Workman

Derek Jeck

Tourist

Kristina Grant

Tourist

Stavros Fotiadis

Young Professional

Rita Főfai



# DETAILS

Runtime: 2min 35sec

Release Date: 27th May 2023

Country of origin: United Kingdom

Language: English (UK)

Filming Location: Thamesmead, London, UK

Shooting Date: 11th February 2023

Completion Date: 28th April 2023

Budget: £850

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Recording Format: Super 8mm

Film stock: Kodak 250D

Camera: Nikon R8 SUPER ZOOM

Film processed by: Cinelab UK

Exhibition Format: DCP, Apple ProRes

Aspect Ratio: 4:3

Sound Mix: Stereo

# SCREENINGS TO DATE

Last updated 8th June 2023.

29th June 2023

Prince Charles Cinema, London, UK

27th May 2023

BFI Southbank, London, UK

22nd May 2023

Cannes Film Festival, Cannes, France

# ONLINE

For up-to-date information on the film, please visit:

<https://sbrewster.co.uk/No-Ball-Games-EPK>

Password: NBG

