

A FILM BY  
THE BROTHERS GROOM

# BETWEEN THE LIGHTS

LOVE TRANSCENDS...



WORLD PREMIERE  
DANCES WITH FILMS NYC - DECEMBER 2023  
OPENING NIGHT GALA  
KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL - FEBRUARY 2024



WINNER - BEST FOREIGN FILM  
MYRTLE BEACH INT'L FILM FESTIVAL - APRIL 2024

WEST COAST PREMIERE  
DANCES WITH FILMS LA - JUNE 2024



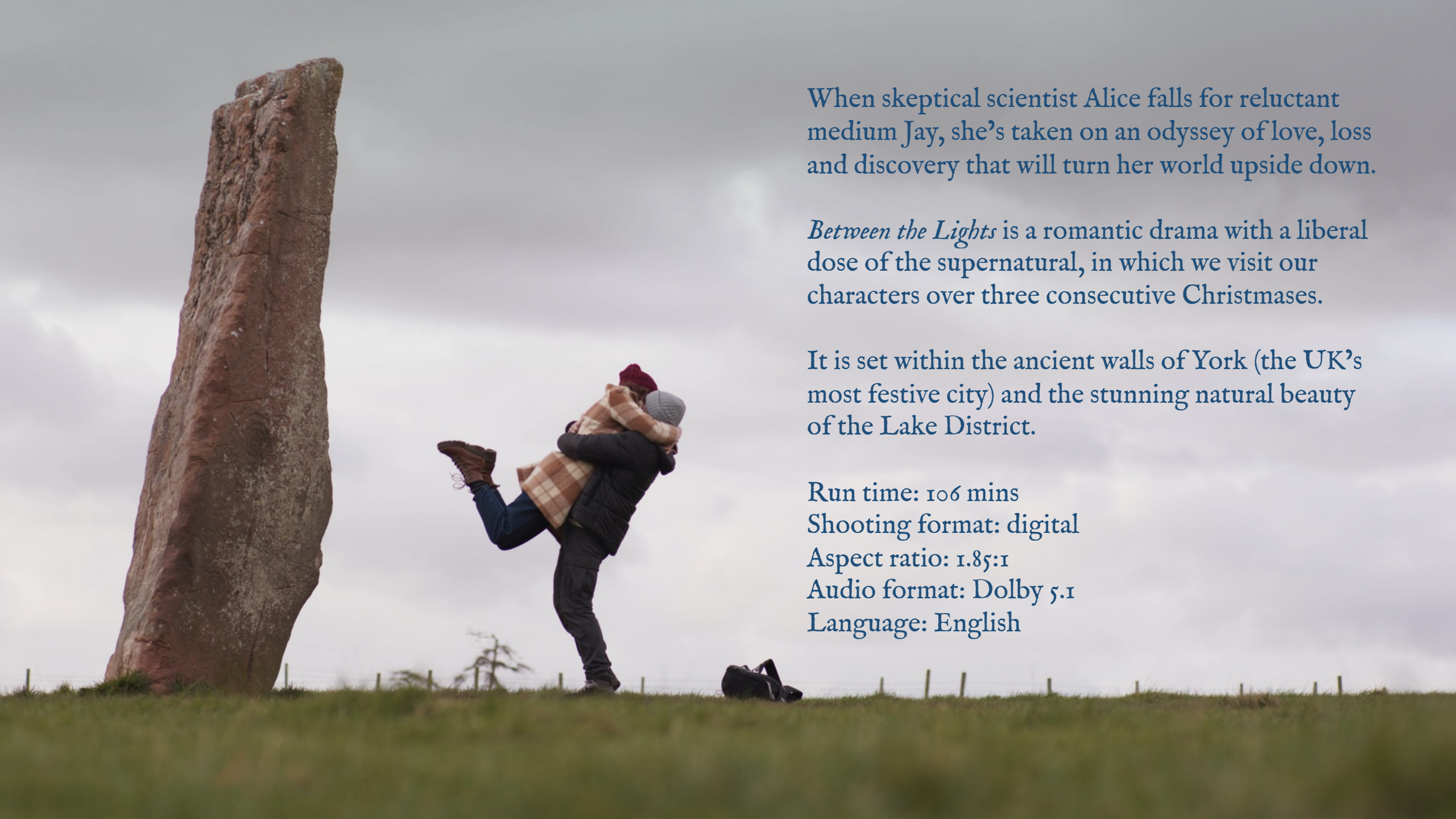
A LAAL BLUE DOT PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH RED ROCK ENTERTAINMENT A FILM BY THE BROTHERS GROOM

STARRING INES DE CLERCQ SAMUEL EDWARD-COOK RICHARD RIDDELL 'BETWEEN THE LIGHTS'

MUSIC BY JOHN DORR COSTUME DESIGNER TRACEY CLIFFE MAKE UP BY CATHERINE BURDETT EDITED BY BRUCE BILLINGS PRODUCTION DESIGNER TEDDY JACKSON

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALEX STONE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER GARY COLLINS PRODUCED BY DAVID GROOM & MICHAEL GROOM

STORY BY MICHAEL GROOM & DAVID GROOM WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL GROOM



When skeptical scientist Alice falls for reluctant medium Jay, she's taken on an odyssey of love, loss and discovery that will turn her world upside down.

*Between the Lights* is a romantic drama with a liberal dose of the supernatural, in which we visit our characters over three consecutive Christmases.

It is set within the ancient walls of York (the UK's most festive city) and the stunning natural beauty of the Lake District.

Run time: 106 mins

Shooting format: digital

Aspect ratio: 1.85:1

Audio format: Dolby 5.1

Language: English

- **SYNOPSIS** - ALICE is a scientist who likes fact. JAY is a hesitant spiritualist. They meet in a pub in the ancient city of York just before Christmas, and bond over a love of David Bowie in *Labyrinth*. With some prompting from a seemingly possessed digital display board at the train station, Jay decides to spend Christmas with Alice (and the benign entity she apparently shares her home with). Jay confesses his mediumship abilities, but Alice is skeptical. So their relationship begins. Next Christmas is spent in the Lake District. Jay senses a strange premonition of doom, but shakes off the worrisome interpretation of it. He proposes marriage at an ancient stone circle. By the third Christmas Jay has indeed died. Alice is pregnant with his baby. During this sorrowful yuletide, she faces all her doubts and opens up to the possibility that he may be communicating with her from the spiritual realm. A festive triptych love story, **BETWEEN THE LIGHTS** addresses the mysteries of the cosmos and the question of life after death.





~ MAIN CAST ~

Samuel Edward-Cook plays reluctant medium Jay. He is an English actor, known for his roles as Walter Storey in the BBC drama series *Land Girls*, Danny Whizz-Bang in *Peaky Blinders*, and as DC Steve Beckton in the ITV drama series *Innocent*. He is also in Shane Meadows' TV series *The Gallows Pole*, as well as Channel 4's *Pure*, and ITV's *Better*.

He has been in numerous stage shows, including *Antigone* at the Barbican with Juliette Binoche and is currently playing Pistol opposite Sir Ian McKellen in *Player Kings*, Robert Icke's adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry IV Parts I&II*. Sam trained at RADA.

Inès De Clercq plays skeptical scientist Alice. She is a London-based actor and singer with extensive stage and screen experience. She's performed on stage at The Old Vic, The Bunker Theatre, Theatre 503, The Arcola, The Pleasance Courtyard, Somerset House and The Royal Festival Hall. She has worked on projects for the National Theatre, The Royal Court, Headlong, Bush Theatre and Carnegie Hall and recently returned from touring the musical *Once* in China.

Her screen credits include *Broadchurch*, *Cider With Rosie*, *Pack of Lies*, *My White Best Friend*, *The Unicorn*, *White Girl*, *Unprecedented* and *EastEnders*.

A man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a dark quilted jacket, stands on a city street at night. He is looking slightly to his right with a serious expression. The background shows a building with arched windows and a white car parked on the street. The lighting is dim, with some streetlights and a Christmas tree with lights visible on the right side of the frame.

## ~ SUPPORTING CAST

~ The supporting cast is filled out by talented and highly trained professional actors with a plethora of stage and screen credits between them. Richard Riddell plays The Staring Man - a mysterious spirit who plagues Jay's life - and Alana Ramsey plays his widow. Both trained at RADA. Richard's screen credits include *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *Legend*, *Endeavour*, *Bodyguard*, *The Terror* and *Curfew*. Alana plays Lady Lynesse Hightower in *House of the Dragon*, and can be seen in *The Crown* and *Bulletproof*.

The supporting cast also includes Alexander Cobb (RADA-trained and featuring in *Moon Knight*, *The King's Man*, *Grace*, and *Mary Shelley*), Siu Hun Li (RADA-trained), Naveed Khan (*Death on the Nile*, *Humans*) and Jason Langley (*Da Vinci's Demons*, *World Without End*).

BETWEEN THE LIGHTS was made with support from Creative England and had its world premiere in New York in December 2023, as part of Dances With Films NY (rated as a Top-10 US film festival by *USA Today*). The European premiere was an opening night gala presentation at the Keswick Film Festival in the century-old Alhambra cinema in February 2024. The filmmakers behind the film - Michael and David Groom - grew up in north Cumbria, and were thrilled to bring the film home.

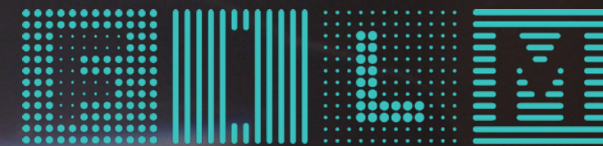
The film was recently selected for the Breakthrough Strand of the BFI's London Screenings expo, which is a business-to-business event for sales agents. It also received the Best Foreign Film award at the Myrtle Beach International Film Festival in April 2024.

The next screening of BETWEEN THE LIGHTS is a West Coast premiere in Hollywood, featuring as part of Dances With Films LA at the TCL Chinese Theatre in June 2024.

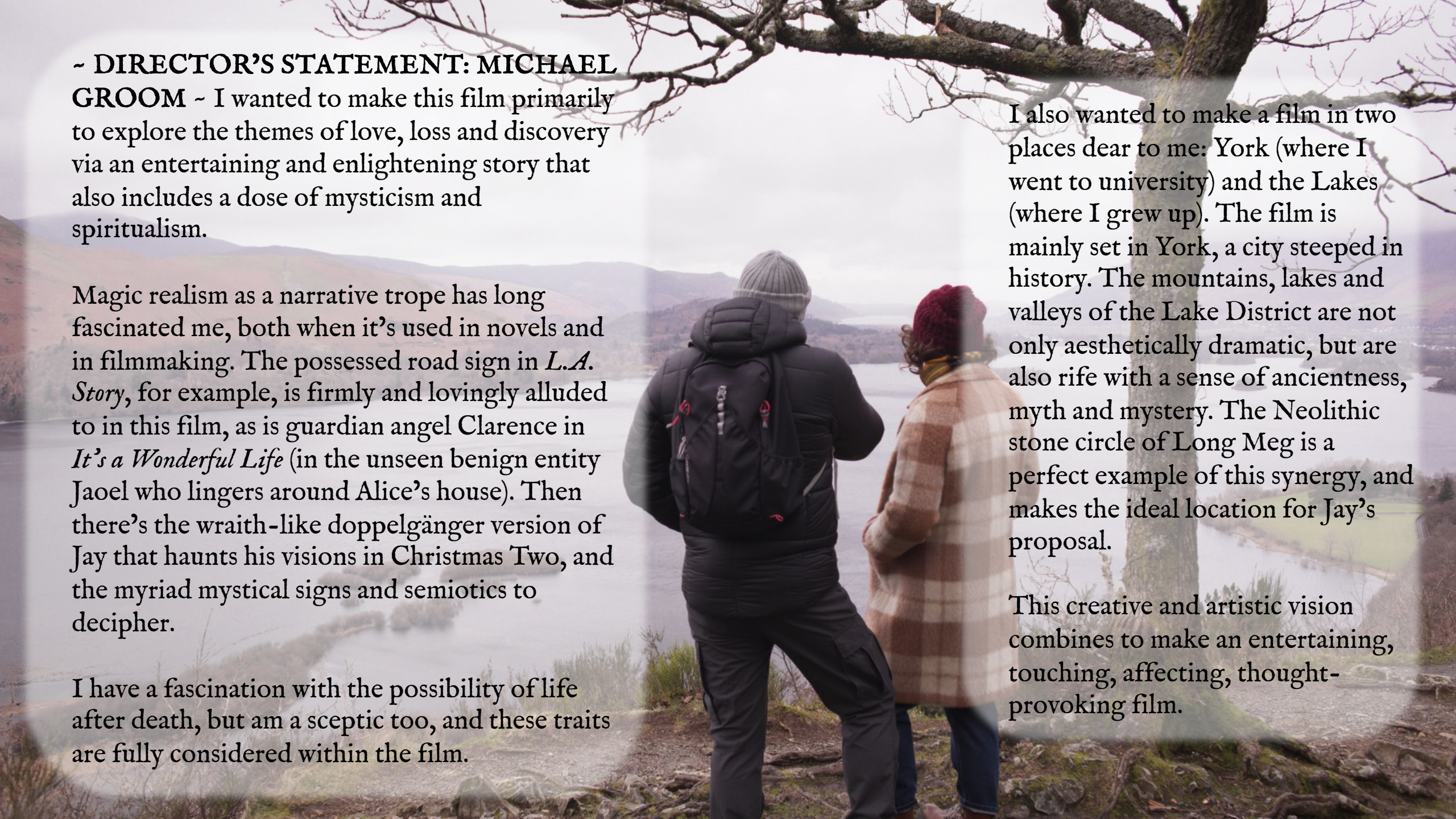
In collaboration with BIFA recognised Brighton Rocks International Film Festival, BETWEEN THE LIGHTS will also be part of a 'One Night Stand' special screening event in London later in 2024.

In December 2023 the film was acquired by LA-based sales agency Mind the Gap, and will be released globally (on various platforms, streaming and theatrically) in November 2024.

**BREAKTHROUGH STRAND - OFFICIAL SELECTION  
LONDON SCREENINGS**



**LONDON**



**- DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT: MICHAEL GROOM** - I wanted to make this film primarily to explore the themes of love, loss and discovery via an entertaining and enlightening story that also includes a dose of mysticism and spiritualism.

Magic realism as a narrative trope has long fascinated me, both when it's used in novels and in filmmaking. The possessed road sign in *L.A. Story*, for example, is firmly and lovingly alluded to in this film, as is guardian angel Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life* (in the unseen benign entity Jaobel who lingers around Alice's house). Then there's the wraith-like doppelgänger version of Jay that haunts his visions in *Christmas Two*, and the myriad mystical signs and semiotics to decipher.

I have a fascination with the possibility of life after death, but am a sceptic too, and these traits are fully considered within the film.

I also wanted to make a film in two places dear to me: York (where I went to university) and the Lakes (where I grew up). The film is mainly set in York, a city steeped in history. The mountains, lakes and valleys of the Lake District are not only aesthetically dramatic, but are also rife with a sense of ancientness, myth and mystery. The Neolithic stone circle of Long Meg is a perfect example of this synergy, and makes the ideal location for Jay's proposal.

This creative and artistic vision combines to make an entertaining, touching, affecting, thought-provoking film.

~ FILMMAKERS MICHAEL and DAVID GROOM ~

BAFTA Connect member Michael Groom (director, writer and co-producer) and David Groom (co-producer) set up their Creative-England-supported production company Laal Blue Dot after they both worked for many years in the film industry. They cut their teeth working for Michael Winterbottom and Andrew Eaton at Revolution Films, before working freelance - often on films produced by Plan B Entertainment (Brad Pitt, Dede Gardner and Jeremy Kleiner).

Michael also assisted world-class directors; he was the long-time assistant of David Michôd, who directed *Animal Kingdom*, *War Machine* and *The King*; as well as enjoying stints assisting Jean-Marc Vallée, Garth Davis and Matt Shakman.

Michael and David have made short films together that have enjoyed festival success, and Michael has always juggled writing with his freelance work, selling his first script to Damian Jones when he was just 24 - a film that was made by Vertigo Films and Protagonist Pictures and was nominated for the Golden Tiger at the Rotterdam International Film Festival. In 2019 Michael was a shortlisted finalist in the BBC Writersroom. In 2022 he was long listed for Netflix's BreakOut scheme. In 2021-23 the brothers partook in the Evolve programme (Creative England / BFI) and in 2022-23 they were part of the Market Trader programme (Creative England / BFI). *Between the Lights* is their debut feature film.



# Train Information

Departures

Special  
notices

Su

~ CREW ~

Written, Directed and Produced by MICHAEL GROOM

Produced by DAVID GROOM

Executive Produced by GARY COLLINS

Director of Photography ALEX STONE

Sound Designed by BEN BELL

Edited by BRUCE BILLINGS

YOU

SHOULD

GO

TO

HER

Production Design by TEDDY JACKSON

Original Music by JOHN DORR

Choral Pieces by THE SIXTEEN & HARRY CHRISTOPHERS

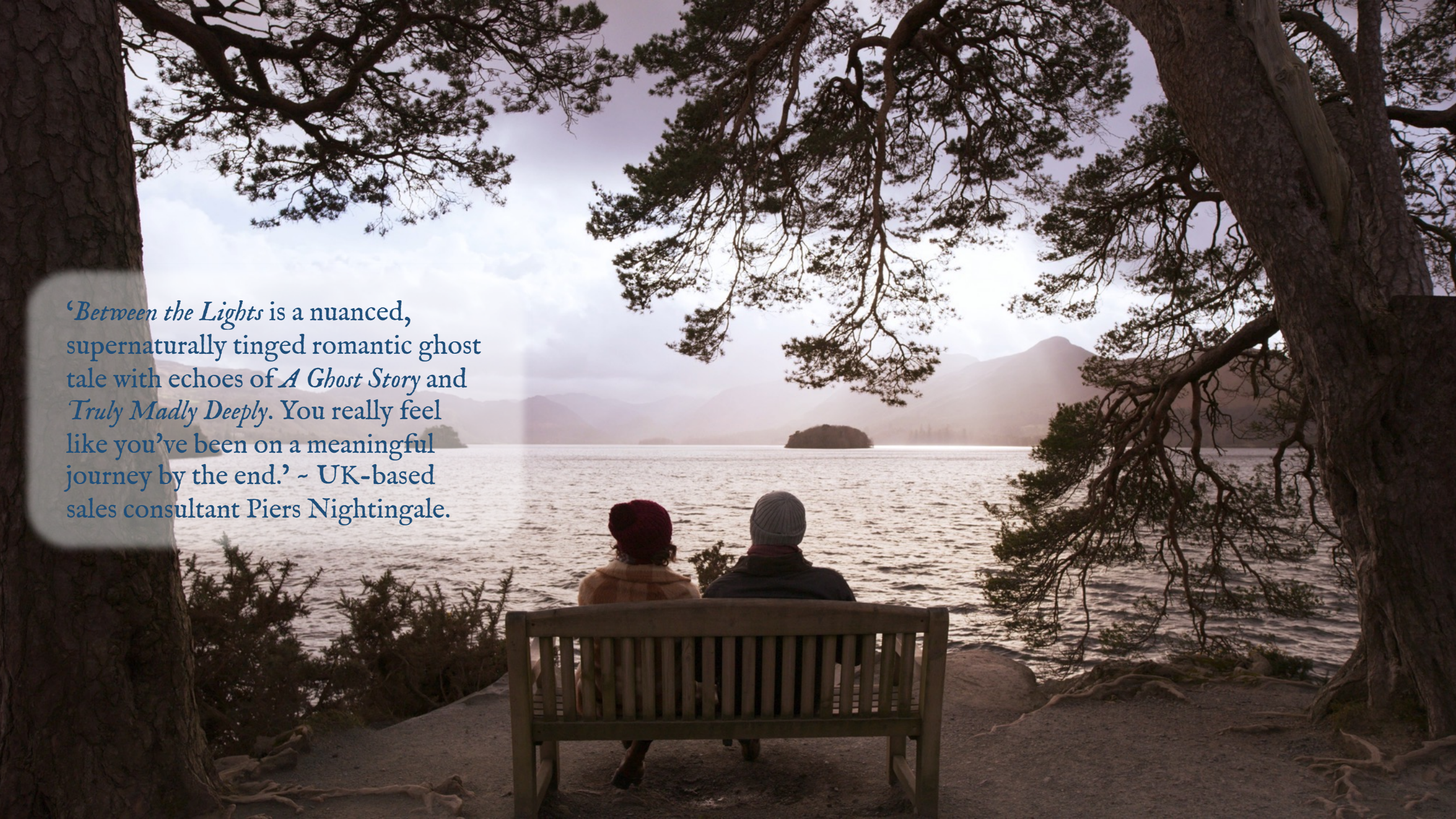
Costumes Designed by TRACEY CLIFFE

Hair & Make-Up by CATHERINE BURDETT

Visual Effects by ALBIN LARSSON

Colourist LEE CLAPPISON

Post-Production Facility MOLINARE

A couple is seen from behind, sitting on a wooden bench on a sandy shore. They are looking out over a large body of water towards a distant island and mountains. The scene is framed by the branches of large, mature trees on either side. The lighting is soft and atmospheric, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting.

*‘Between the Lights is a nuanced, supernaturally tinged romantic ghost tale with echoes of *A Ghost Story* and *Truly Madly Deeply*. You really feel like you’ve been on a meaningful journey by the end.’ ~ UK-based sales consultant Piers Nightingale.*

# MEDIA COVERAGE

BREAKTHROUGH STRAND - OFFICIAL SELECTION  
LONDON SCREENINGS

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## TV:

- ITV Border TV (U.K.) - 'The Cumbrian Brothers Making a Name for Themselves in the Movie World'  
BTL Headlines Keswick Film Festival - <https://vimeo.com/918702325>
- WBTW Channel 13 News (U.S.A.) - BTL at the 19<sup>th</sup> Myrtle Beach IFF - <https://vimeo.com/942106668>
- ABC 15 WPDE News (U.S.A.) - BTL at the 19<sup>th</sup> Myrtle Beach IFF - <https://vimeo.com/user197318385/btlteaserreel>

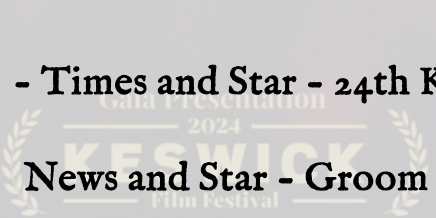
## RADIO:

- BBC Radio Cumbria (U.K.) - BTL to open Keswick Film Festival - <https://vimeo.com/925952482>
- WRNN Hot Talk 99.5 (U.S.A.) - 'British film headlines the Myrtle Beach International Film Festival' - <https://vimeo.com/938682166>

## PUBLICATIONS:

- Creative UK - Laal Blue Dot co-founder Michael Groom on the power of profitable, no-frills filmmaking - <https://www.wearecreative.uk/laal-blue-dot-michael-groom-on-no-frills-filmmaking/>
- Screen Daily - Line-up Announced for London Screenings - <https://www.screendaily.com/news/kensukes-kingdom-chuck-chuck-baby-among-line-up-for-london-screenings-2023/5182954.article?referrer=RSS>
- Film London - BTL part of 2023 London Screenings - <https://filmlondon.org.uk/latest/london-screenings-to-showcase-12-industry-premieres>
- News and Star - Keswick Film Festival to showcase BTL - <https://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/24043498.keswick-film-festival-showcase-between-lights/>
- News and Star - BTL Headlines Keswick Film Festival - <https://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/24156473.lights-headlines-keswick-film-festival/>
- Times and Star - 24th Keswick Film Festival experiences record ticket sales - <https://www.timesandstar.co.uk/news/24166064.24th-keswick-film-festival-experiences-record-ticket-sales/>
- News and Star - Groom brothers win at Myrtle Beach International Film Festival - <https://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/24288991.groom-brothers-win-myrtle-beach-international-film-festival/>
- MovieMaker - Dances With Films 2024 LA Line-up - <https://www.moviemaker.com/dances-with-films-la-2024-lineup/amp/>

LONDON



# LAAL BLUE DOT

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Laal Blue Dot Ltd is backed by Creative Enterprise

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