



# WHO'S YOUR ENEMY

A WWI SHORT FILM

DIRECTED BY JARED GALLEY

**AJAX**  
CREATIVE

A dark, atmospheric scene of a battlefield at night. The ground is covered in snow and debris. In the foreground, a large wooden wheel is partially visible on the right. A fire burns brightly in the center, casting a warm glow. In the background, a soldier is visible, and another figure lies on the ground. The overall mood is somber and desolate.

AMIDST THE CHAOS OF WWI, A BRITISH AND A GERMAN SOLDIER  
FORM AN UNLIKELY BOND THAT CHALLENGES THE VERY  
ESSENCE OF ENEMY LINES AND THE TRUE ABSURDITY OF WAR.

# SYNOPSIS

"Who's Your Enemy" is a compelling World War I drama centered around the poignant encounter between a British and a German soldier after a battle. The film invites audiences to reconsider traditional wartime narratives by delving into themes of humanity, camaraderie, and the inherent absurdity of war. With meticulously constructed trenches and a blend of authentic and innovative production techniques, the film offers a deeply immersive historical experience.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Who's Your Enemy was born out of a desire to explore the absurdity of conflict and the humanity that persists in the most brutal circumstances. The story of Tommy and Fritz, a British and a German soldier left behind after the Battle of the Somme, challenges our simplistic notions of enmity. Too often, we look at our enemies through a two-dimensional lens, reducing them to the shell of a person and failing to recognize their humanity.

In directing this film, I sought to immerse viewers in the emotional turmoil of these two soldiers, revealing that it's one thing to shoot a man from 100 yards away, but entirely different when you're staring into his eyes across the barrel of a gun, it's personal. In that moment, you realize that the enemy isn't just the man in front of you, but also the hatred within yourself.

I hope this film pushes viewers to reflect. When we think about our enemies, it's often filled with hate. But you can never find peace as long as you focus on hatred. "Who's Your Enemy" invites audiences to challenge their assumptions, recognize the humanity on the other side of the trenches, and find empathy in a divided world." - Jared Galley



# BEHIND THE SCENES

IN THE TRENCHES WITH OUR CREW.

The idea for the film spawned after I came across a news article of a WWI replica set that was built by the students of St. Michael Catholic High School - a school in Kemptonville, Ontario. But ironically, this is not where our film was shot as we had our permit pulled 3 days before our shoot due to the use of pyro techniques...

So let's bring it back. After "locking" the trench location at the school, we also needed a No Mans Land location which was essentially a muddy field for the final scene. Matt Day, our production manager, had found a large muddy property that looked the part. So he managed to track down the owner of the property, Luke Gelensye. Coincidentally, Luke picked up the call thinking it was his old friend named Matt Day (who hadn't spoken to in a decade). This twist of fate led him to volunteer for something bigger than he imagined.

So now back at 3 days before the shoot, we were on our way to our tech scout when the school pulled our permit. My heart sank—we had everything ready to go.

Desperate, we headed to the No Man's Land location. Luke overheard our predicament and asked what we needed. When we casually said, "A 200ft trench with a bunker," he confidently replied, "I can build it." We looked up at him. He pointed to a 40ft bulldozer on the side of his property from his recently sold landscaping business. We sketched the trench blueprint on a ragged piece of paper and Luke said he could do it in 4 hours—he did it in 3.

For the next 3 days, we filled 800 sandbags, built a bunker, and dressed the set with everything we could get our hands on. Thanks to Luke and our dedicated team, we turned a potential disaster into a triumph, creating a realistic WWI trench that became the heart of our film.



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Our design consisted of a 200-foot wide main trench, with two shorter runoff trench lines that connected to another 200-foot trench and a bunker in between.



While actual WWI trenches were smaller and tighter, we needed flexibility for filming. Therefore, we dug our trenches about 8 feet deep, allowing us to move the camera on a gimbal without any issues.



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The bunker was a significant challenge. We filled 800 sandbags by hand, which left us with blisters by the end. Building the bunker required a roof, and Luke came to the rescue by pulling a couple of dead trees from the forest. We used these trees as support beams, layered wooden planks on top, and covered it all with mud. From above, it wasn't the prettiest sight, but for the film, it was perfect. It looked even better than I had envisioned.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

IN THE TRENCHES WITH OUR CREW.

Stunts were quite the hurdle in this film. Because we shot the fight scenes during Blue hour - we had a VERY small window to capture the fight, about 30 minutes. But luckily our stunt coordinator and cast did a remarkable job and pulled it off with precision.



SFX also took a major role in this film. Blood Brothers did an amazing job at making our muddy set look like a battlefield with pyro, simulated explosions, squib hits and a whole lot of haze.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

IN THE TRENCHES WITH OUR CREW.

Camera and lighting were also a huge undertaking as we shot 80% of the film as night exteriors. The crew did an amazing job at rigging up the entire set to give us the beautiful image we were after.



# KEY STILLS



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