

MOTHER'S DAY

A FILM BY EMILY BURNETT



CLIFF EDGE PICTURES PRESENTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH FFILM CYMRU WALES, BBC CYMRU WALES AND BFI NETWORK AN EMILY BURNETT FILM

TYLER ROCHA "MOTHER'S DAY" TALITHA WING ANITA REYNOLDS

COSTUME DESIGNER SARAH-JANE PEREZ MUSIC BY BARNABY SOUTHGATE DUBBING MIXER NICK DAVIES EDITED BY CHRIS MCGAUGHEY PRODUCTION DESIGNER RYAN THOMAS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY RYAN EDDLESTON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JUDE LISTER FOR FFILM CYMRU WALES RUTH WOODWARD FOR BBC CYMRU WALES ADRIAN BATE AND CRAIG ROBERTS FOR CLIFF EDGE PICTURES

PRODUCED BY LAURA SOUTHGATE WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY EMILY BURNETT



SYNOPSIS

A SPACE-LOVING YOUNG BOY HAS TO NAVIGATE A NEW WORLD WHEN HIS MUM SUDDENLY SUFFERS A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS, AND HIS GRAN RETURNS FROM THE CARIBBEAN TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.

EMRYS IS A MIXED RACE, 7-YEAR-OLD BOY, LIVING IN CARDIFF WITH HIS MUM, WENDY.

WALKING TO SCHOOL, HE PLAYS THE SAME IMAGINATIVE GAMES HE ALWAYS DOES, BUT TODAY, HIS MOTHER IS A SHADOW OF HER NORMAL SELF. ENTERING A SEVERE MENTAL HEALTH DEPRESSION, UNBEKNOWNST TO EMRYS, WENDY HAS CALLED HER MOTHER BETTY FROM BARBADOS TO COME AND TAKE CARE OF HIM WHILE SHE IS UNABLE TO.

WHEN BETTY ARRIVES, EMRYS IS SIMPLY TOLD HIS MUM 'NEEDS A BREAK'. BUT A BREAK FROM WHAT AND WHO? EMRYS MUST NOW NAVIGATE A NEW UNCERTAIN WORLD. A MUM WHO CAN'T GET OUT OF BED, A NEW CULTURE HIS GRANDMOTHER HAS WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR, AND AN IMAGINATION THAT SOMETIMES PLAYS TRICKS ON HIM.

WITH MOTHER'S DAY CLOSE, EMRYS IS SURE HIS GIFT FOR HIS MUM WILL FIX EVERYTHING. WHEN IT DOESN'T, EMRYS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD SHIFTS. HIS LOVE FOR SPACE AND HIS IMAGINATION IS THREATENED. IT'S HIS GRAN WHO GUIDES EMRYS THROUGH THE DARK, TO HELP HIM UNDERSTAND THAT 'A CARD CAN'T FIX THIS, EMRYS CAN'T FIX THIS, AND IT ISN'T HIS FAULT.

HIS MUM WILL ALWAYS LOVE HIM TO THE MOON AND WILL ALWAYS COME BACK.

CAST





Introducing, TYLER ROCHA as

EMRYS

TYLER ROCHA LIVES IN CARDIFF AND WAS DISCOVERED FOR THE ROLE. THIS IS HIS SCREEN DEBUT.

Emrys navigates the world with his vivid imagination. He loves school, his friends, and his life with his mum. His dad was never around, and so his relationship with his mum is a special one. Most weekends they spend time eating their favourite flying saucer sweets, making up fun, make-believe games together, that usually take them to the moon and back.

When his mum suffers her mental health crisis, Suddenly life changes for Emrys. A woman he barely knows bullishly takes over the household, and the one person that made the world make sense for him disappears behind a closed door.



ANITA REYNOLDS as

BETTY

ANITA IS AN ACTRESS WITH A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE IN TV, FILM, THEATRE AND RADIO. SEEN MOST RECENTLY IN CHANNEL 4'S THE LIGHT IN THE HALL, IN MY SKIN (BBC), THE PEMBROKESHIRE MURDERS (ITV) AND ON STAGE IN THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S ROMEO & JULIE, A MONSTER CALLS (OLD VIC), THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR (SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE), AND EAR FOR EYE (ROYAL COURT).

Betty is Emrys' granny, and Wendy's mum. Now living in Barbados, she spent the majority of her adult life in Cardiff, with the dream that she would always go back to her home country to find peace on her front porch. When her daughter started to struggle with her mental health, she knew exactly what was happening because she too had experienced depression when she had children. But back then, you were just seen as 'loco' if you didn't get on with it. When her daughter calls this time, she doesn't hesitate before packing up and getting on a flight to help. But building a relationship with her young grandson is not as easy as she thought.



TALITHA WING as

WENDY

TALITHA CAN CURRENTLY BE SEEN IN THE SERIES LEADING ROLE OF 'DESTINY' IN THE FULL MONTY FOR DISNEY+, FX AND HULU. RECENT CREDITS INCLUDE THE ROLE OF 'DES' IN WRECK SEASON 2 FOR BBC/ HULU AND EUSTON FILMS, THE SERIES REGULAR ROLE OF 'FLICK' IN WOLFE FOR SKY TV AND THE SERIES REGULAR ROLE OF 'SASHA' IN ALEX RIDER, PRODUCED BY ELEVENTH HOUR FILMS FOR SONY TV, WHICH CAN BE SEEN ON AMAZON PRIME AND IMDB TV. TALITHA IS ALSO A TALENTED WRITER AND POET, SHE IS CURRENTLY AN ARTIST IN RESIDENCE AT THE WATERMILL THEATRE.

Wendy is Emrys' mum. She is Cardiff born and bred, though her parents are from Barbados and returned there shortly after she turned 18. She has always been fiercely independent, so when she got pregnant with Emrys at a young age, she never doubted that she would be a good mum. However, when Emrys was born, it triggered a serious depression, which caused her to seek refuge back in Barbados with her mum. The moment she was better she got back on a plane to the UK and continued to raise Emrys as the kind, beautiful boy that he is.

7 years later, that inexplicable sinking feeling is starting to return. Emrys used to be a good enough reason to do anything, but even getting out of bed for him is becoming difficult. Knowing where this is taking her, she calls her mum to come over from Barbados to help look after her boy while she feels unable to.

CREW



WRITER/DIRECTOR

EMILY BURNETT

EMILY IS AN ALUMNA OF BBC WRITERSROOM - WELSH VOICES AND LITERATURE WALES' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND WAS RECENTLY COMMISSIONED TO WRITE FOR GALWAD. SHE HAS MULTIPLE PROJECTS AT VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT. AS WELL AS HER WRITING, EMILY IS A BAFTA-AWARD WINNING ACTOR. MOTHER'S DAY IS HER DIRECTORIAL DEBUT.





CINEMATOGRAPHER

RYAN EDDLESTON

RYAN IS A BAFTA-AWARD WINNING DOP / CINEMATOGRAPHER. ORIGINALLY FROM EAST LANCASHIRE, HE'S A CARDIFF UNIVERSITY GRADUATE AND NOW RESIDES IN CARDIFF. RYAN HAS RECENTLY DOP'D DOCTOR WHO: TALES OF THE TARDIS FOR BAD WOLF AND ALICE LOWE'S FEATURE FILM TIMESTALKER (BFI), STARRING ALICE LOWE (SIGHTSEERS) & NICK FROST (HOT FUZZ). RYAN HAS ALSO DOP'D DOLLY WELLS' GOOD POSTURE, JESSICA HYNES' THE FIGHT, RHIANA YAZZIE'S A WINTER LOVE, ALICE LOWE'S PREVENGE AND SIX FEATURE FILMS FOR JAMIE ADAMS.

AWARDS / NOMINATIONS:

- BAFTA CYMRU, BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY WINNER IN 2014 FOR THE POET WHO LOVED THE WAR: IVOR GURNEY.
- BAFTA CYMRU, BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY NOMINEE FOR AMERICAN INTERIOR IN 2014, THE FIGHT IN 2019 AND GRAV IN 2022.
- BAFTA CYMRU, BEST FILM WINNER FOR GRAV IN 2022.

PRODUCER

LAURA SOUTHGATE

PREVIOUSLY IN MARKETING AT EVERYMAN CINEMAS, LAURA MOVED INTO FILM & TV PRODUCTION WHEN SHE RELOCATED TO CARDIFF. HER CREDITS AS PRODUCTION ASSISTANT INCLUDE THE BAFTA-AWARD WINNING DREAM HORSE AND THE SECOND SERIES OF BANG FOR S4C. SHE WORKS AS A PRODUCTION MANAGER FOR VOX PICTURES. HER CREDITS AT VOX INCLUDE KEEPING FAITH / UN BORE MERCHER, CYSWLLT, FFLAM, THE TRICK AND TWO SERIES OF DAL Y MELLT.

SHE IS CURRENTLY IN POST PRODUCTION FOR CLIFF EDGE PICTURES' LATEST FEATURE FILM, THE SCURRY.



WRITER/DIRECTOR STATEMENT

MOTHER'S DAY IS ABOUT NAVIGATING MENTAL HEALTH, COMING OF AGE, GROWING UP MIXED-RACE IN CARDIFF, AND A YOUNG BOY'S IMAGINATION.

THIS STORY IS ONE I HAVE WANTED TO TELL EVER SINCE I STARTED WRITING. THE INSPIRATION FOR THE STORY COMES FROM THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF MY PARTNER. HIS MUM HAS BIPOLAR DISORDER AND HE GREW UP NAVIGATING THE COMPLICATED AND GROWN-UP WORLD OF MENTAL HEALTH WHILST STILL TRYING TO BE A CHILD. WE GREW UP TOGETHER, SO OFTEN, WE REFLECT ON THE TIMES WE WERE CHILDREN AND SOME OF THE THINGS THAT BECAME 'NORMAL' IN HIS LIFE COMPARED TO WHAT WAS 'NORMAL' IN MINE.

WITH THIS FILM, I WANTED TO EXPLORE THAT COMING-OF-AGE MOMENT, WHERE YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO FEEL THE ABSENCE OF YOUR PRIMARY CAREGIVER, BUT STILL, PERHAPS, AREN'T OLD ENOUGH TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN ITS ENTIRETY.

WHY TELL THIS STORY NOW? MY MOTHER IS A PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AND OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, DURING THE PANDEMIC, WE WOULD OFTEN TALK ABOUT THE UNPRECEDENTED STRAIN THIS WAS PUTTING ON THE CHILDREN IN HER CLASSROOM AND THEIR FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY SINGLE PARENTS WHO HAD A LACK OF SUPPORT FROM OTHERS. ALONGSIDE THIS, THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SHE SAW STRUGGLE THE MOST WERE PART OF THE BLACK AND ETHNIC MAJORITY. WITH 1 IN 4 PEOPLE IN THE UK EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM EACH YEAR, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXPERIENCING A PARENT THAT'S STRUGGLING, WHO BECOMES ABSENT, WOULD ALSO BE INCREASING.

AND SO, EMRYS WAS BORN. A MIXED-RACE BOY, WHO WAS WILDLY IMAGINATIVE, KIND, INTELLIGENT AND GENTLE, WHOSE MOTHER WAS EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS. OFTEN, WE SEE THESE CRISES IN THE MEDIA AS DRAMATIC, VIOLENT, EXTREME, AND SCARY. BUT MY PARTNER'S EXPERIENCE WAS DIFFERENT, IT WAS SILENT, IT WAS SUDDEN, AND IT WAS SIMPLY THE PERSON HE KNEW AND LOVED DISAPPEARING FOR A WHILE, AND HIM WONDERING IF THERE WAS SOMETHING HE COULD DO TO STOP IT HAPPENING.

IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME THAT THIS FILM ALSO SPOKE OF MY CULTURE AND MY BAJAN HERITAGE THROUGH THE CHARACTER OF 'BETTY'. GROWING UP MIXED-RACE IN CARDIFF, I OFTEN FELT A PULL BETWEEN TWO CULTURES AND TWO IDENTITIES. I WANTED TO CREATE A SENSE OF BALANCE WITH THE FILM; EMRYS EXPERIENCES A FORM OF LOSS, BUT HE ALSO GAINS CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE, AN ASPECT OF HIS IDENTITY HE MAYBE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD OTHERWISE.

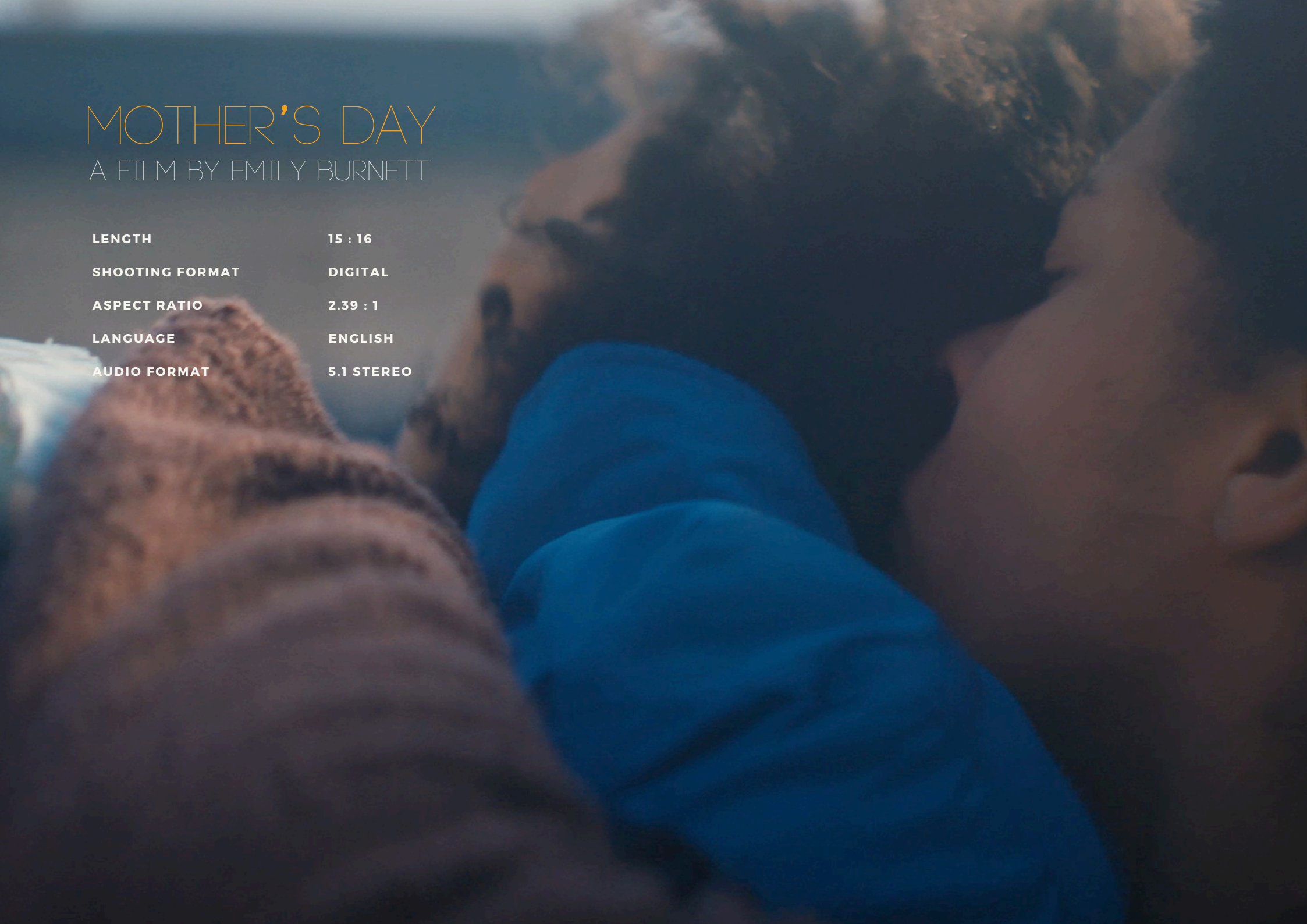
I AM CONSTANTLY INSPIRED BY FILM AND TV MAKERS THAT PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF GENRE AND ULTIMATELY MAKE THINGS 'BEAUTIFUL' WHATEVER THE SUBJECT MATTER. COLLABORATING WITH LAURA SOUTHGATE ON THIS FILM WAS A NO BRAINER. WE BOTH SHARE A LOVE FOR THOUGHT-PROVOKING, SOCIALLY RELEVANT, GROUND-BREAKING AND BEAUTIFUL CINEMA. MOTHER'S DAY CERTAINLY INSPIRED US WHILE WE MADE IT, AND WE HOPE THE SAME APPLIES TO OUR AUDIENCE WHEN THEY GET TO SEE IT.



MOTHER'S DAY

A FILM BY EMILY BURNETT

LENGTH	15 : 16
SHOOTING FORMAT	DIGITAL
ASPECT RATIO	2.39 : 1
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
AUDIO FORMAT	5.1 STEREO



MOTHER'S DAY



FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT
LAURA@VOXPICTURES.CO.UK