



THE THISTLE IN THE KISS



FELT LIKE RUNNING
PRODUCTIONS



GETTING DUMPED ON CHRISTMAS DAY WAS JUST THE BEGINNING

DECLAN HAS HAD NO LUCK WITH THE HOLIDAYS: HIS GIRLFRIEND STEPHANIE BROKE UP WITH HIM ON THE WAY TO CHRISTMAS DINNER.

HE'S MANAGED TO KEEP IT SECRET UNTIL NEW YEAR'S DAY, WHEN HIS CAR BREAKS DOWN AND HIS SISTER RACHEL SHOWS UP TO HELP HIM FIX IT.

CRUMBLING UNDER HER RELENTLESS CURIOSITY, DECLAN IS NOW ON A CRASH COURSE TO CONFRONT THE POOR DECISIONS OF HIS LIFE.

THE THISTLE IN THE KISS

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FELT LIKE RUNNING PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "THE THISTLE IN THE KISS"

LEONORA COOKE SARAH COYNE CRAIG ANDREW ROBERTSON SOUND BY JACK DEMPSEY & ALBA ATENCIA DE PABLO
SOUND MIX BY JON YUELL MAKE-UP SAMUEL MAMMONE MUSIC BY AIDAN SMITH FILM EDITING BY C.J. LAZARETTI
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CALUM MENZIES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALISON ROBERTSON PRODUCED BY REECE STEEL
WRITTEN BY CRAIG ANDREW ROBERTSON C.J. LAZARETTI & LEONORA COOKE DIRECTED BY CRAIG ANDREW ROBERTSON

FILM BACKGROUND

'The Thistle in the Kiss' is the feature film debut of Scottish-Canadian filmmaker Craig Andrew Robertson and is the first project produced by independent Scottish film production company, Felt Like Running Productions.

'The Thistle in the Kiss' was originally envisioned and filmed as a short film that transpires entirely within a car journey and focuses on an arguing couple, Declan and Stephanie, who are visiting Declan's family for Christmas.

This became the short film, 'Into The Bleak' (2020). However there was so much footage leftover that Craig and his editor C.J. Lazaretti deemed was too good not to use. This inspired them to write a feature film to expand on said footage, thus leading to 'The Thistle in the Kiss'.

CRAIG ANDREW ROBERTSON – DIRECTOR / CO-WRITER / “DECLAN”

Craig is a Scottish-Canadian filmmaker who has been making films for over fifteen years.

The Thistle in the Kiss is his directorial debut feature film.

“This has been a labour of love for a while now. I love telling stories through film and I am so looking forward to sharing this one with as many people as possible.”



LEONORA COOKE - CO-WRITER / "STEPHANIE"

Leonora is an actor working across stage and screen.

"It's been an unexpected delight to see this film develop. When Craig approached me to work on this project way back in 2019, the idea was to create an improvised short film about a couple breaking up during a car ride. While we created loose backstories for Stephanie and Declan, all the dialogue was improvised. However, it was more than a year later when Craig told me that he and C.J. Lazaretti had used the footage from the short to develop a scripted feature length film! It's been amazing to see how they have taken this footage - which depicted fragments of a romantic relationship at its most fractured - and turned it into such a warm and uplifting story about the joys and complexities of sibling relationships."



SARAH COYNE – “RACHEL”

Sarah has been appearing on stage and in short films throughout the UK for over ten years.

“Working on this film was a huge privilege. The character of Rachel interested me because I am passionate about Queer women being represented in film. I also wanted to delve into the mindset of someone who would probably be considered ‘unlikable’, who is capable of exhibiting real offensiveness and nastiness and working out the circumstances that may have led to her being that way and how she could go on to grow and develop as a person.

Relationships between siblings are often complex and it was very enjoyable exploring the bond between this pair of adult siblings who both still have a lot growing up to do! And who doesn't love a good Christmas film?”



REECE STEEL – PRODUCER / ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Reece is the Co-Founder and the sole founder of the respective film production companies 9:39 Cinema and Felt Like Running Productions respectively. 'The Thistle in the Kiss' marks his first feature film as a Producer.

“When Craig and C.J. pitched to me that they wanted to expand their wonderful short film Into The Bleak into feature film I was almost immediately on board. Having not yet worked on a feature film I was excited (and nervous) at the prospect of the giant responsibility I would have to produce it due to the many constraints we faced such as our small budget and having to film during the pandemic.

At the very start of my involvement in the project, I have to admit to having some reservations about Craig C.J.'s ambitious ideas for the film such as filming the entirety of the present day scenes in the extremely remote, but breathtaking, Menck Pass and Craig having the challenging but doable task of co-writing, directing and starring in the one of the lead roles.

However I am very pleased to say that time and time again any worries I've had were constantly dissuaded thanks to Craig's, C.J.'s and everyone else's collective skill and determination to make 'The Thistle in the Kiss' a film to be proud of.”



C.J. LAZARETTI - EDITOR / CO-WRITER

C.J. Lazaretti is a film editor based in Glasgow. Since his debut co-editing the documentary *The Gospel According to St Derek* (featuring Tilda Swinton), he has worked mostly on British shorts and TV shows.

“As one of three screenwriters in the project, I had a priceless opportunity to collaborate with many passionate filmmakers. Seeing a project through from its earliest days is not something I get to do on most projects I've edited. *The Thistle in the Kiss* speaks to and from a time when all our certainties get challenged every day. With great uncertainty comes great anxiety – this is something all of us can relate to. And with great ambition comes great collaboration: that's what has made this coming-of-age yarn so much fun to make, and to watch.”

CALUM MENZIES – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

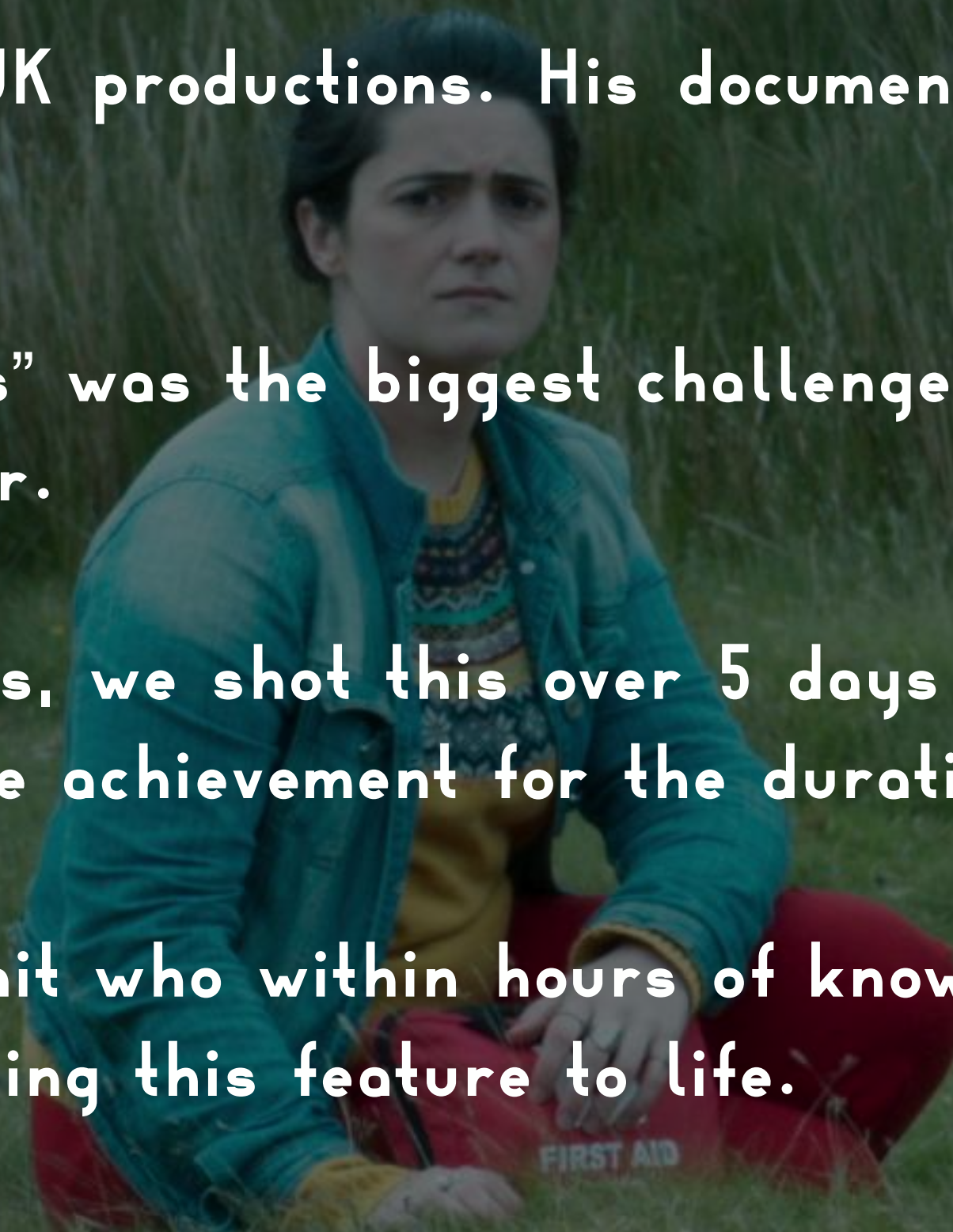
Calum has worked on many major UK productions. His documentary, M.S., Mexico and Me has been acclaimed around the world.

"Working on "The Thistle in the Kiss" was the biggest challenge I have faced in my personal cinematography/camera career so far.

Together on location at Mennock Pass, we shot this over 5 days and 3 weekends which I personally think is a very impressive achievement for the duration of this piece.

The crew chosen by Craig were a unit who within hours of knowing each other, bonded and got on with the job in hand of bringing this feature to life.

It was genuinely an absolutely pleasure working with all of the crew and I miss working with this excellent team."



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