



'Lé Viage'

THE JOURNEY

WRITTEN BY CAMERON CROCKER, MEGAN MCKENNA, TIARNI CAUVAIN

Introduction

The Journey is the story of triumph over adversity.

This is a story about AMBER's relationship with her horse, and how, despite a bad experience where she falls off, they are able to build back trust and try again successfully.

The message of this film is about how we all go through tough times in life and this is about one person's way to deal with it. A story about 'getting back in the saddle'.

The short film The Journey portrays the emotions and the journey of life. Its' about understanding for every problem big or small there will be a solution, you just don't know it yet. Self discovery is one of the main themes in this short film, the story emphasizes the qualities of trust, empathy, kindness, courage, and a reminder to never give up.

**Italics are from the creators*

The heart of the story

The Journey is about the times in life when things go wrong and we fail and we need to pick ourselves back up and get back in the saddle. One part of this is that our relationships can help us. In this case it is the relationship between Amber and her horse. The heart of this story is about finding inner strength.

The Journey is based on our experiences with dealing with strong emotions and challenges. The Journey combines our stories and the scenes embody how we felt during those harsh experiences. We wanted the viewer to almost be in Amber's brain and we used the classroom scene to depict that feeling of isolation from everyone else. The relationship between Amber and her horse personifies the struggle of understanding emotions and taking control of situations and the journey to find that, to find strength, courage and freedom.

Time and place

This is a film with it's heart in Jersey, Channel Islands and the words spoken will be in our traditional Jèrriais language. Nature and the natural landscape will be an important part of the story and we'll filming in the countryside and on the beach on our beautiful coastline and in the classroom.

The Journey is set in present day, with the story taking place at the stable and classroom. The classroom contains cold tones and a chaotic feel depicted by how the room is set out and the colours used within those scenes. The stable contrasts this artificial world by using warmer and natural colours .



Casting

As far as possible we will cast real people who are connected to the story. We like this style of ‘street casting’ as it’s often called, as you find more authentic and ‘real’ cast to bring the story to life. As it is a sensitive piece we want the cast to be connected to the story and the creators.

The relationship between actor and writer’s experience is very important, it will allow the actor to understand the meaning behind the story and to connect with the writers story. This will also help the horse being comfortable with actor and close production team.

Performance

La Passerelle students will write and produce the film. We want the film to feel authentic and so we have chosen cast connected to the story who are comfortable with horses and where we know everyone will feel comfortable with each other as we want natural performances.

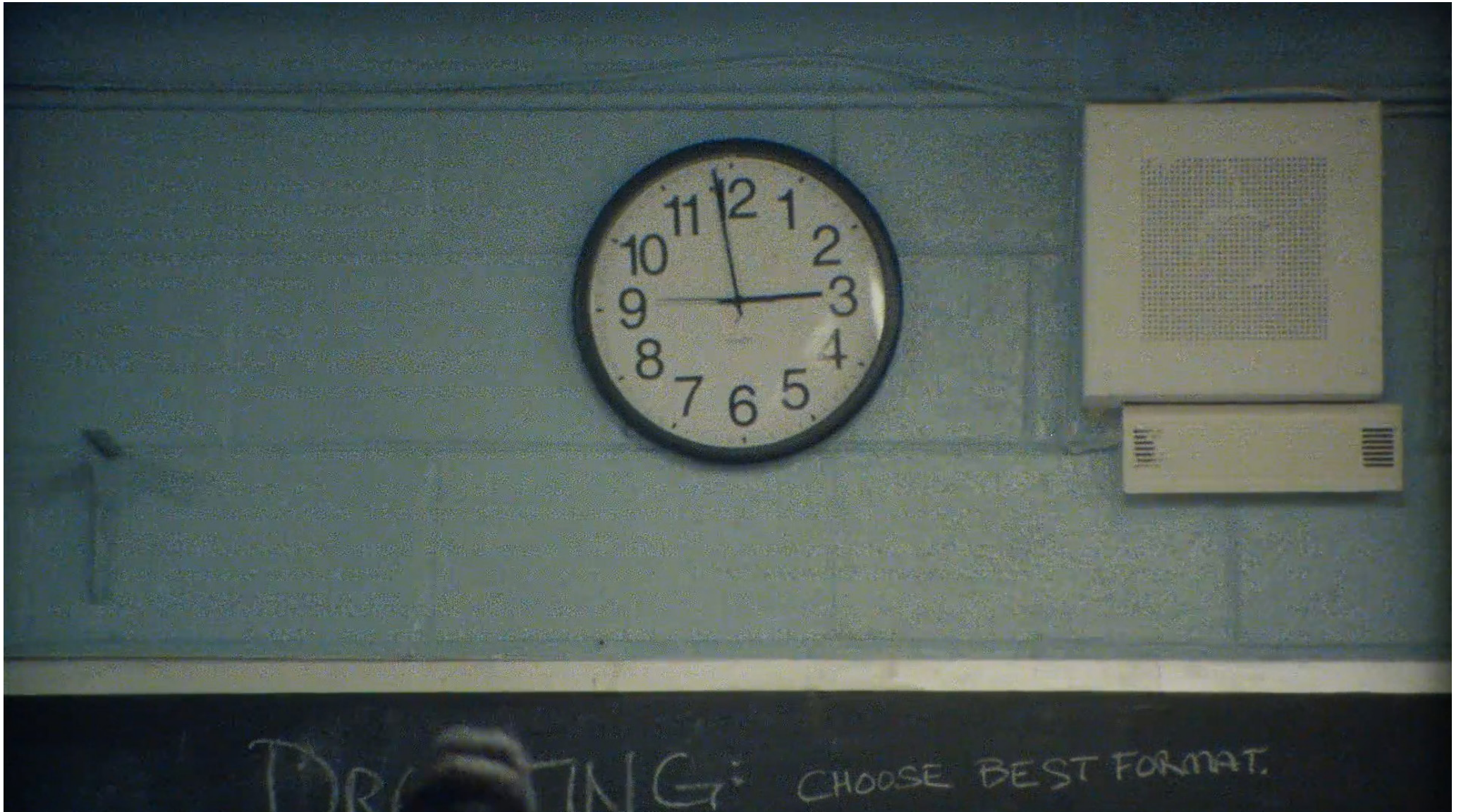


Visuals

We want to celebrate the beauty and majesty of the horse and our natural landscape. We'd like to shoot the key scenes in nature at sunrise and sunset, with a low lying natural light that will shine horizontally into the stable in the morning and at sunset to make the most of the beautiful changing colours of the sky and the beauty of the sunset. The classroom will be more grey / blue / green in colour and in contrast the tone and feel will be colder. The final scene will have the most spectacular sunset. We will create beautiful images using natural light, lens flair and silhouettes for the final scenes to capture the joy of succeeding in feeling happy again and feeling at one with nature.

Having a contrast between the classroom and the stables needs to be semi-led by the visuals. For example the classroom having grey or muted colours spread around but having the painting/calendar using 'natural' tones and colours, a contrast between the wall and the horse painting/calendar, which will make the 'image' look like it's 'speaking' to Amber. Try to avoid using sunset colours before the sunset beach scene, this will make it seem more eye opening and special than if we use it before.





In school, the classroom colour palette will be more cold, blues, greys and greens and feel more claustrophobic. We will see Amber daydreaming out the window and looking at the horse picture (which she only noticed once she walked to the front of the classroom, where it was staring her in the face).



Music and Sound Design

The music created by Cameron is already an excellent starting place to build the soundscape from and provides a good base for the edit and to layer sound effects and anything else on top to build the atmosphere. The sound design will be very important in this project so it will feel visceral to watch so we can really feel Amber's emotions: The heart beating, the horse panting and the sounds of them moving through the earth, the hooves and footsteps and this sound scape can be heightened to convey the emotions, such as anxiety and fear when remembering the incident. For example - the heart beat can quicken and the sound of the breathing can become more intense.

When Amber is falling off the horse the music is intense and strong representing how her emotions are almost engulfing her, and the music at the start, when showing her bond with horse to the viewers, sounds calming but you can tell something is going to happen / something is not quite right. During the classroom the music is chaotic and sounds including heartbeat, ringing, whispers etc.. can be heard, showing unfocus and how isolated someone can feel in a crowded room. At the final scene the music is harmonious and powerful showing strength, courage and freedom.

Your Connection to the story as director

I can relate to this story on many levels. I fell off my cousin's horse when I was young and so I can relate on a literal level, but more importantly I have faced many set backs and failures and had to pick myself up and start again. For me this personifies the moment where you have to face a fear and the feeling of needing to get back on the horse even when you don't want to. Facing your fears and doing it anyway.

Working with the other writer, we combined our experiences and stories of that feeling of isolation from everyone else and learning how to take back control of difficult situations and emotions represented by Amber and her horse. The beach is to show how that the journey with emotions will never be smooth, there will always be bumps, but it's learning how to always look forward and focus on the present. Our connection is through our stories and experiences, to show other people they aren't alone no matter how they feel.

About the director

Rebecca is an award-winning director who works in documentary and fiction, and is often attracted to challenging subjects and likes to explore the complexity of being human. Rebecca's feature documentary POINT OF CHANGE is currently on the film festival circuit and picked up five awards at the first four festival screenings in 2023 and will be released in 2024.

Rebecca has made many award-winning short films, including narrative shorts PRETTY BITCH, HARD TO SAY, JACK BLOND + PANTS and the documentary STEAMERS, which was commissioned by Channel 4 as part of the cult late night 'Shooting Gallery' screening platform for new talent. Rebecca tutors at the London Met Film School and Rebecca is a Berlinale Talent Lab alumini, a member of Cinesisters, Free The Work and DIRECTORS UK.







‘Come on, good boy. Be good’ -

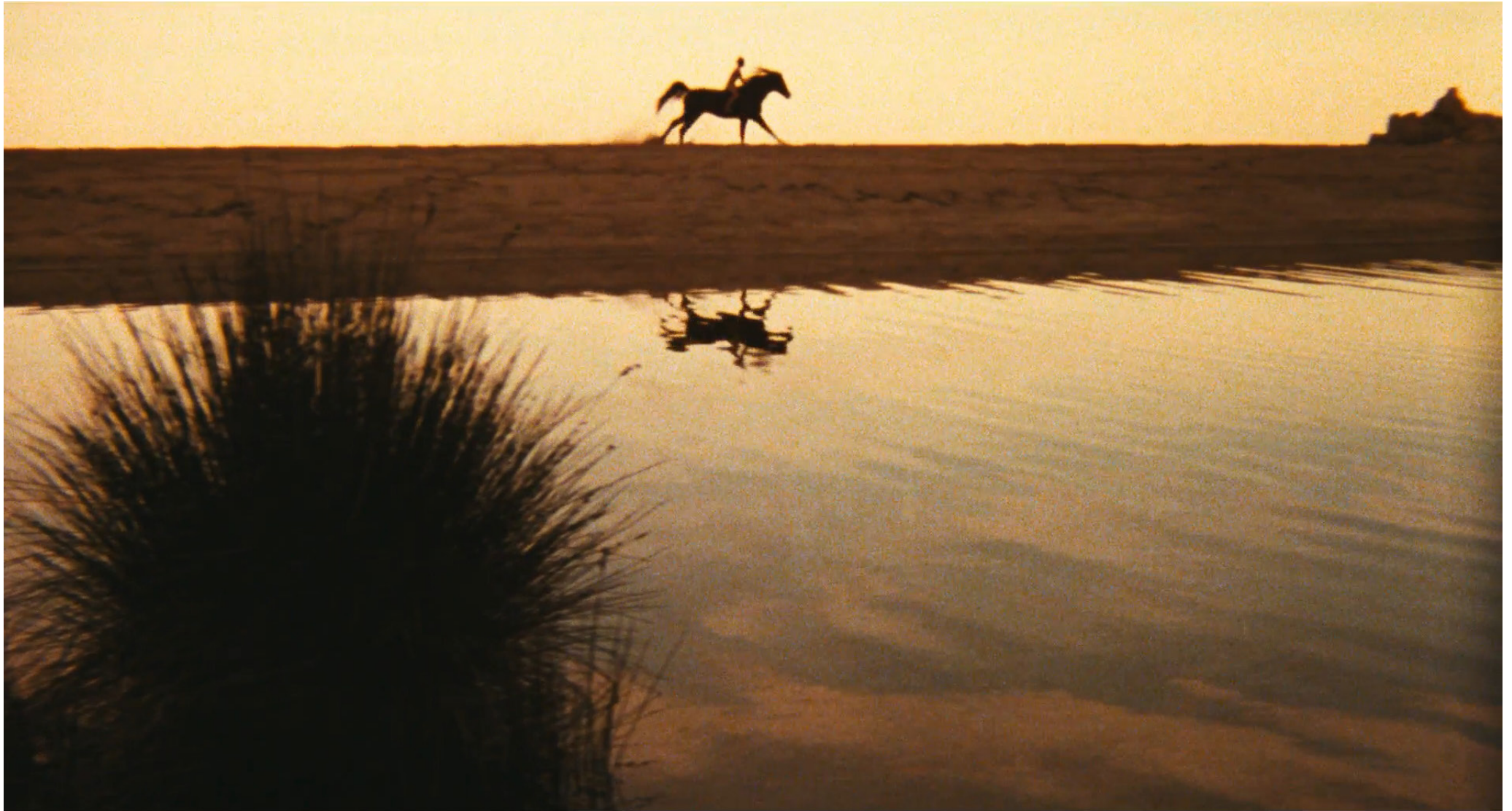
Huye, bouôn j’va. Comporte-té’

Language

We have chosen the local language of Jèrriais as we want to deepen the connection to nature, ancestral roots and the land.

The dialogue has been recorded so our actor just needs to listen and learn it.





Conclusion

This will be a beautiful and evocative short film which will show the unique tenderness of relationship between animal and human. This is about trust and intuition and is deeper than words, therefore the visuals and music can convey the emotion for us. This connects us to a universal theme and the human condition. We all want to feel connection and love and sometimes life is hard and we can falter, but this is about getting up again.



For the final shot we plan to shoot the 'sky of hope' and to capture one of those beautiful Jersey sunsets when the sky goes electric pink (like our final image selected by our students) and illuminates the clouds, although we cannot control this, we will make it a priority to shoot on clear days with little cloud, where there is a good chance of capturing this sunset.



THE JOURNEY BEGINS -
Lé Viage Quémenche

