



BODIES OF WATER

A short film by Biagio Gulino



Steamed Cheese Productions

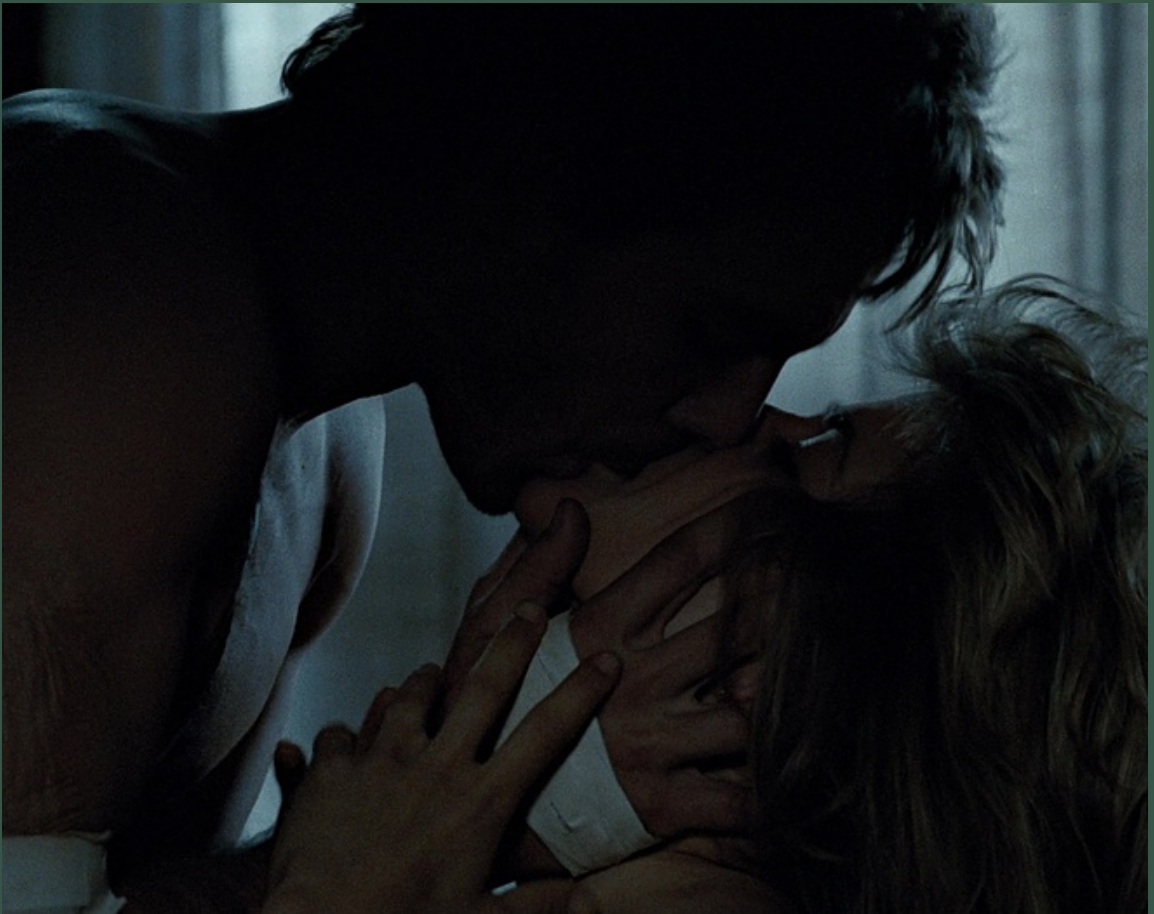
BODIES OF WATER IS A THRILLING BODY HORROR SHORT FILM SET IN THE PICTURESQUE COASTAL COMMUNITY OF FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

Mick, a former baseball player, struggles in the aftermath of a devastating injury that ended his career. His dreams shattered, he grapples with depression and isolation, drifting aimlessly through each day when he meets Aglaea, a magnetic woman who saves him from drowning after a near-fatal incident. Her intervention feeling like a second chance, Mick finds himself drawn to her, despite the eeriness that surrounds her.

As their connection deepens, Aglaea reveals glimpses of a truth that blurs the lines between love, obsession, and something more primal. But beneath her striking beauty lies a secret — a truth both mesmerizing and terrifying. Strange physical changes reveal her as something otherworldly, blurring the lines between reality and myth.

When Aglaea's true form emerges, Mick is forced to confront not only the depths of her power but the ghosts of his own past. In a harrowing moment of underwater struggle, Aglaea saves Mick in a way he never expected, forcing him to confront his demons, his sense of identity, and the possibility of redemption.

Bodies of Water is a haunting blend of eroticism and body horror, delving into themes of desire, body dysmorphia, and the aching need for purpose and belonging.





A PLACE WHERE DREAMS ARE MADE? OR WHERE THEY COME TO DIE?

Set against the backdrop of Fort Myers, Florida, *Bodies of Water* leverages its setting as both a visual and thematic anchor. Known for its pristine beaches, luxury lifestyles, and tourist appeal, Fort Myers is also a city shaped by the precariousness of its coastline and the struggles of its working-class communities. This juxtaposition of opulence and vulnerability mirrors the film's central themes—desire, transformation, and impermanence. The looming threat of the ocean, capable of erasing everything in a single storm, underscores the fragility of human constructs. Just as the city is built atop shifting sands, the characters navigate a world where appearances mask deeper struggles, and what lies beneath the surface threatens to upend everything.



KEY CHARACTERS



BODIES OF WATER

Steamed Cheese Productions



MICK

Mick is a former baseball player whose promising career was derailed by a debilitating injury, leaving him adrift in the wake of his shattered dreams. Battling depression and a fractured sense of identity, he spends his days on the Florida coastline, a shadow of his former self. Beneath his hardened exterior lies a yearning for purpose and connection, though his struggles with self-worth often push others away.

AGLAEA

A captivating woman with an otherworldly allure, Aglaea draws people in while keeping them at arm's length. Her sharp mind and uncanny ability to see through others' facades hint at a deeper, hidden truth about her origins. As her connection with Mick deepens, her presence becomes both a comfort and a source of unease, embodying the tension between beauty and danger that lies just beneath the surface.





The cinematography of *Bodies of Water*, led by Director of Photography Heath Gresham, aims to be as evocative and immersive as the story itself. Throughout the film, particularly during the intimate scenes, we will employ high-contrast lighting and bold color theory to heighten the tension between desire and dread experienced by our protagonist. Drawing inspiration from the steamy, atmospheric visuals of 1980s and 90s horror and erotic thrillers, a palette of blues, violets, and greens will dominate, creating an otherworldly yet deeply emotional tone. To further distort the line between reality and fantasy, we'll incorporate practical optical effects like filters, refraction, and layered imagery, immersing the audience in the protagonist's shifting perspective.

SHADOWS OF DESIRE: CONTRAST AND COLOR



CRAFTING FEAR: PRACTICAL EFFECTS AND PROSTHETICS

In *Bodies of Water*, erotic thriller and body horror combine to explore themes of body dysmorphia and the search for purpose. Practical and optical special effects play a key role in bringing these ideas to life, creating disturbing and tangible visuals that emphasize the story's emotional weight. Prosthetics and makeup captures the unsettling duality of fascination and revulsion, forcing viewers to confront the fragile and often distorted relationship we have with our own bodies, while optical effects heighten their otherworldly qualities. By blending tactile realism with surreal visuals, the film immerses audiences in a haunting exploration of identity, desire, and the longing to find meaning.

HAUNTING MELODIES: MUSIC AND SCORE

Music plays a vital role in *Bodies of Water*, drawing from the legends of the siren—a creature whose haunting melodies captivate and ensnare. Eddie Golden III's score will blend the lush, evocative sounds of the exotica genre, characterized by tropical instrumentation and ethereal textures, with the brooding intensity of electronic synthesizers. These rich sonic elements merge to capture the ocean's mysterious allure, layering it with a darker, ominous undertone. This dynamic soundscape reflects the film's exploration of beauty, danger, and transformation, immersing the audience in a world where seduction and menace harmonize.



"WHEN MY BROTHER BROKE HIS NECK IT CHANGED EVERYTHING"

Bodies of Water is a personal story for me on so many levels. It started as a conversation with my brother, Michael, in the summer of 2024. While I was pursuing my dream of being a filmmaker, Mike moved to Florida to pursue his passion as a professional baseball player. During a game in 2019, Mike dove head-first into home plate, colliding with the catcher's knees, and sustaining a C5 burst fracture. Mike survived, but when my brother broke his neck it changed everything.

"I don't know if you believe in God, but it's a miracle your son is alive"

That's what the doctor said to my father as Michael walked out of the hospital three days later. While Mike had made it through the most dire consequence, it was a long road ahead. Mike was in constant pain and questioned if he would ever play ball again, but decided to take control. Over the next year, Mike started from scratch training every day, rebuilding his strength, and correcting bad habits. Through training, he beat the odds and returned to baseball in 2021, but when he got back onto the field, he faced setbacks.

Mike got released right after spring training. He joined a new team soon after, but was released once again after another two weeks. I watched as this pattern continued over the years. Finally, Mike decided to retire in the spring of 2024. At the time, I was 31 and living in New York following a string of historic strikes in the film industry; struggling to find work. Mike and I talked on the phone for over an hour and we realized just how similar our stories were. So like Mike, I decided to take control and write a film that deals with our struggles for success, purpose, and desire.



CONTACT

BIAGIO GULINO
203-631-8818
STEAMEDCHEESEPRODUCTIONS@GMAIL.COM



THANK YOU!

Steamed Cheese Productions