

A Film by Matt R. Smith

The Parish

a VIDEOfeet production in association with Crowblack Films 'THE PARISH'. Alexander Cobb. Sam Parks.
Production Designer Rhian Smith. Camera Operator Joby Newson. Gaffer Matt Baxter. Sound Recordist Joe Martin.
Composers Alex Hyland, and Matt Smith. Visual Effects Richard Reed Sound Design Matt Smith.
Produced by Rhian Smith. Written and Directed by Matt Smith.

©VIDEOfeet Productions & Matt Smith 2024 - All rights reserved.





Joe tells Blake his dream (Film Still)

Log Line

Joe is consumed by a recurring dream that won't let him go, always threatening to surface in reality.

Technical Information

Title	The Parish
Year of Production	2024
Total Running Time	12:59
Country of Origin	U.K.
Genres	Thriller, Horror, Fantasy, WTF
Production Format	Blackmagic & RED 6k
Screening Format	DCP
Ratio	1.19:1
Language	English

Synopsis

At the end of a meeting in a village hall, Joe tells Blake about a recurring nightmare he is having which takes place there. The dream involves them both and a mysterious figure at the back of the hall consumed by a ravenous, uncontrollable hunger.

But when Blake is forced to leave the building and heads to the place where Joe's dream takes place, Joe finds himself faced with a nightmare that threatens to become reality.

It just doesn't turn out quite how he thinks.





The Parish Hall (Film Still)

Principle Cast

Joe.....Alexander Cobb
Blake.....Sam Parks

Principle Crew

Writer / Director / DP / Sound Design.....Matt R Smith
Producer / Production Designer.....Rhian Smith
Camera Operator.....Joby Newson
Gaffer.....Matt Baxter
Sound Recordists.....Joe Martin, Kate Papi
Original Score.....Alex Hyland, Matt R Smith
Visual Effects.....Richard Reed

Directors Statement



The Parish grew out of a desire to make something stripped-back, atmospheric, and very British - or at least the Britain that I know. We'd just finished another short and were in the early stages of a feature, and I wanted to create a film where atmosphere could really take the lead

From the outset, it was conceived as an homage to David Lynch - particularly 'that' diner scene in *Mulholland Drive*, which to me is one of the purest expressions of dread in cinema. Lynch's passing earlier this year gave that influence a new weight. What began as a nod became, for me anyway, a way of saying a big thank you to the great man.

At the same time, I wanted *The Parish* to stand on its own. The location - a scout hut endlessly stuck in the 1980s, near where I live, and the casting of Alexander Cobb and Sam Parks were central. The scout hut is unmistakably British: proper on the surface, but decaying just underneath, like something out of a J.G. Ballard novel. The script was shaped around that space and the cast, allowing the building itself to become a third character alongside them.

The film was also a personal experiment in restriction: one location, a tiny crew of five, and a focus on performance. Together we built a central scene that felt alive, unsettling, and a little disorienting - like a dream you can't quite hold onto when you wake.

The Parish is a small film, but it's my attempt to capture that strange, half-remembered feeling.



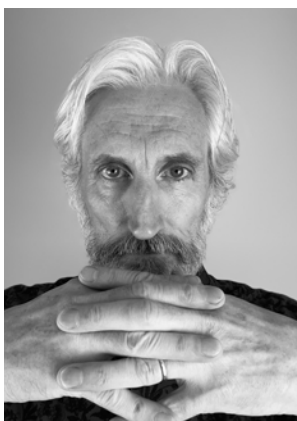
Principle Cast



Alexander Cobb (Joe):

Alexander Cobb is a British actor whose dynamic performances span television, film, and theatre. He is best known for his portrayal of Ian McLeod in Channel 4's *Indian Summers* (2015–2016) and J.B. in Marvel's *Moon Knight* (2022). His film credits include playing a British Officer in *The King's Man* (2021) and a Scientist in *Mary Shelley* (2017).

On stage, Cobb has delivered compelling performances, notably as Scarus in the National Theatre's *Antony & Cleopatra* (2018). He is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA).



Sam Parks (Blake)

Sam Parks is a British actor recognised for his diverse roles across film, television, and theatre. He portrayed Fred Dale in the BBC series *Silent Witness* (1996–1998) and appeared as Punter #6 in the psychological horror film *Last Night in Soho* (2021). His film credits also include *Les Misérables* (2012) and *Ammonite* (2020).

On stage, Parks has demonstrated his versatility with performances such as Vicomte de Nanjac in *An Ideal Husband* (2018).



Principle Creatives

Matt R. Smith (Writer-Director/DP/Editor & Co Composer):

Matt Smith is a filmmaker from South East England with a background in experimental filmmaking. His early short films played at BAFTA-recognised festivals before he expanded into digital media, theatre, and artist filmmaking, with support from Arts Council England, The Arts Council of Wales, and France's Drac Occitanie - Ministère de la Culture.

In 2021, Matt shot *Bugbear*, a no-budget short film that marked his transition into narrative filmmaking. The film received critical acclaim at the 2022 Cornwall Film Festival, where Matt won awards for both cinematography and score (shared with composer Alex and Cinematographer Sam Perry Falvey), cementing his reputation as a multidisciplinary filmmaker. His stories, often rooted in South East England, delve into unsettling realities and imagined histories, blurring the line between the real and the fantastical.

Matt's narrative filmmaking is deeply hands-on, reflecting his artist-film approach, where he frequently takes on roles including DP, sound designer, and composer. His latest film, *New Atlantis*, was backed by the BFI, and he is currently developing his first feature.

Rhian Smith (Producer & Production Designer)

Rhian Smith is an emerging narrative producer and co-founder of the micro-studio and production company VIDEOfeet, alongside writer/director Matt R. Smith. Rhian often collaborates as a production designer on their narrative works, earning recognition with a longlisting for Best Production Design at the 2023 British Short Film Awards for *New Atlantis*.

Rhian has produced several digital media projects supported by Arts Council England, blending film and live performance, and oversaw the UK tour of OBRA Theatre Company's official adaptation of Ted Hughes' *Gaudette*. She later co-produced a series of artist films in the Gers region of France. Most recently, Rhian produced the award-winning short *Bugbear* followed by BFI-supported short *New Atlantis* and is currently developing her first feature film with Matt.



Alex Hyland (Co Composer)

Alex is an award-winning composer and music producer with a BSc (Hons) in Music Technology. Known for electro-acoustic performances as *EXTRASUPER*, Alex has a history of innovative music-making dating back to 2004. Collaborating with director Matt R. Smith for over 20 years, their projects include the Arts Council-funded *Thadows Loom*, the BFI-backed *New Atlantis*, and *Bugbear*, which won Best Music (shared with Smith) at the 2022 Cornwall Film Festival.

Alex also designs handcrafted audiophile headphones under the name *Hyland Headphones*, blending exceptional sound quality with functional artistry. Their compositional work emphasises experimental systems for improvisation, combining hardware, traditional instruments, and advanced software to push the boundaries of musical expression.

Richard Reed (Visual Effects)

Richard Reed is an Emmy-nominated VFX Supervisor with 18 years of experience in the visual effects industry. His work spans iconic films such as *Pan's Labyrinth*, *The Dark Knight* series, *Inception*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, and *Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*. After starting as a compositor, Richard transitioned to VFX Supervision, leading projects like *Denial* for BBC Films and supervising visual effects for *Final Portrait*, *Black Mirror: Striking Vipers*, *The Watch*, and *Britannia*. Most recently, he was Emmy-nominated for his work on Paramount Plus' *The Man Who Fell to Earth*. During his tenure at DNEG, Richard contributed to award-winning teams recognized with Academy Awards, BAFTAs, and VES Awards, including accolades for *Inception* and the *Harry Potter* franchise.

Joby Newson (Camera Operator)

Joby Newson is an Emmy-nominated camera operator renowned for his work on the acclaimed documentary series *Welcome to Wrexham*.

A long-term collaborator with director Matt R. Smith, Joby has been instrumental in bringing to life all of Matt's narrative films, including award winning *BUGBEAR* and BFI-supported *New Atlantis*.

His expertise extends across various genres, with notable contributions to projects such as *Wait for Me* (2023) and *Dream Chasers: Garuda Select* (2018)



About VIDEOfeet Productions

VIDEOfeet are husband and wife team Rhian and Matt Smith who met at Dartington College of Arts (UK). On graduating they began to create experimental low-budget shorts on Mini-DV often blending a dark sense of humour with societal observations. After successful runs at international Film Festivals, VIDEOfeet successfully applied for Art Council England funding for several R&D projects exploring the line between live performance and film. With showcases at RICH MIX, TRESTLE ARTS BASE and the HORSE HOSPITAL this work lead to an ongoing collaboration with OBRA Theatre Company and a 5-year series of work entitled EX_SITU resulting in 10 moving image pieces alongside exhibition and heritage responses screened in France at Ciné 32, Centre d'Art et Photographie (Lectoure) and Le Théâtre Jacques Coeur among others. Several of the pieces were also selected for the London Short Film Festival and Aestica Film Festival (UK).

VIDEOfeet's approach to filmmaking is rooted in collaboration, using small teams and taking full creative responsibility for production and costume design, sound design, score, and practical effects. This approach was born out of the arts practice they developed at university, coupled with financial restraints from coming from low-income backgrounds with no access to traditional funding methods. This unique working style has allowed them to create a safe and inclusive space on set while ensuring creative integrity and environmentally sustainable productions. Since establishing VIDEOfeet, they have honed their approach to filmmaking outside of traditional preconceived notions of how sets operate, with an aim to discover new ways of working in film.





Blake Listens to Joe (Film Still)



Joe at the back of the hall (Film Still)



Blake Reassures Joe (Film Still)

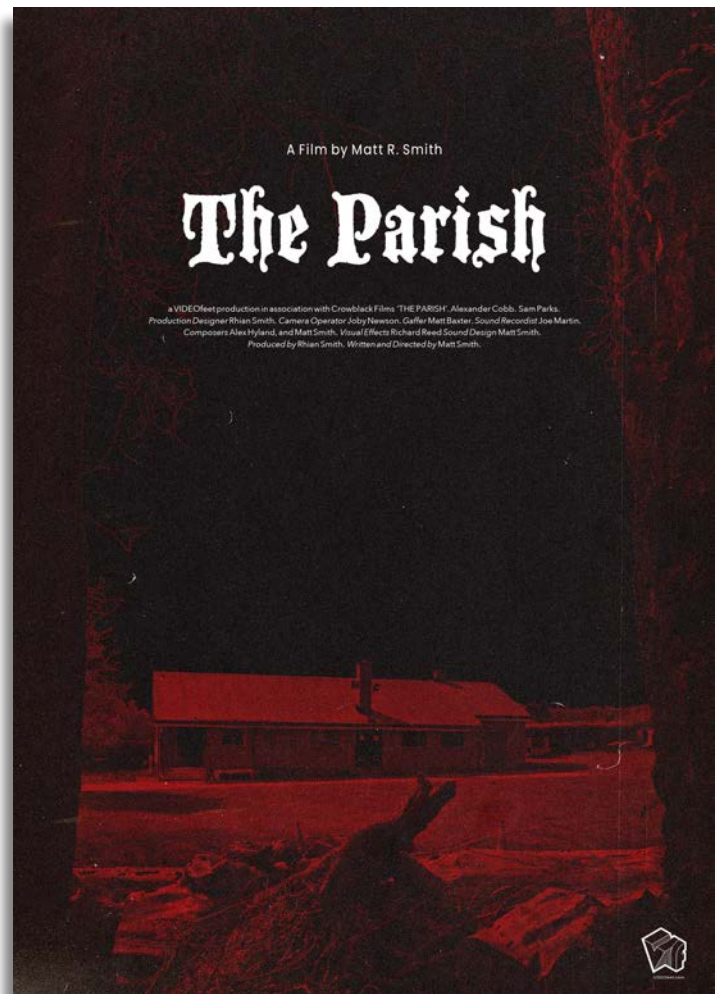
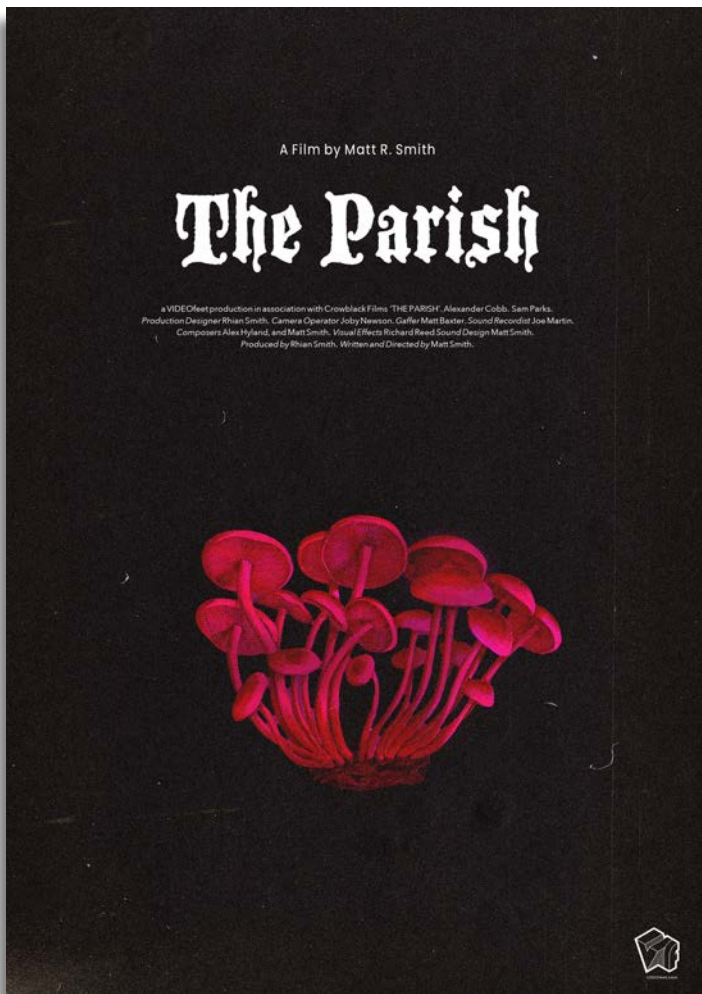
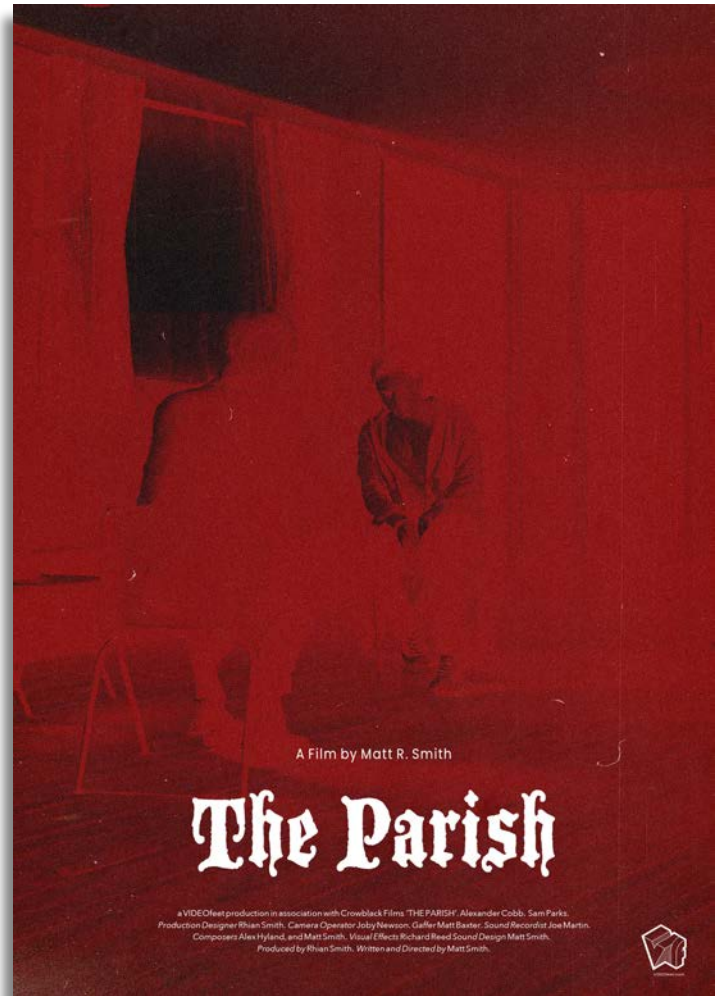
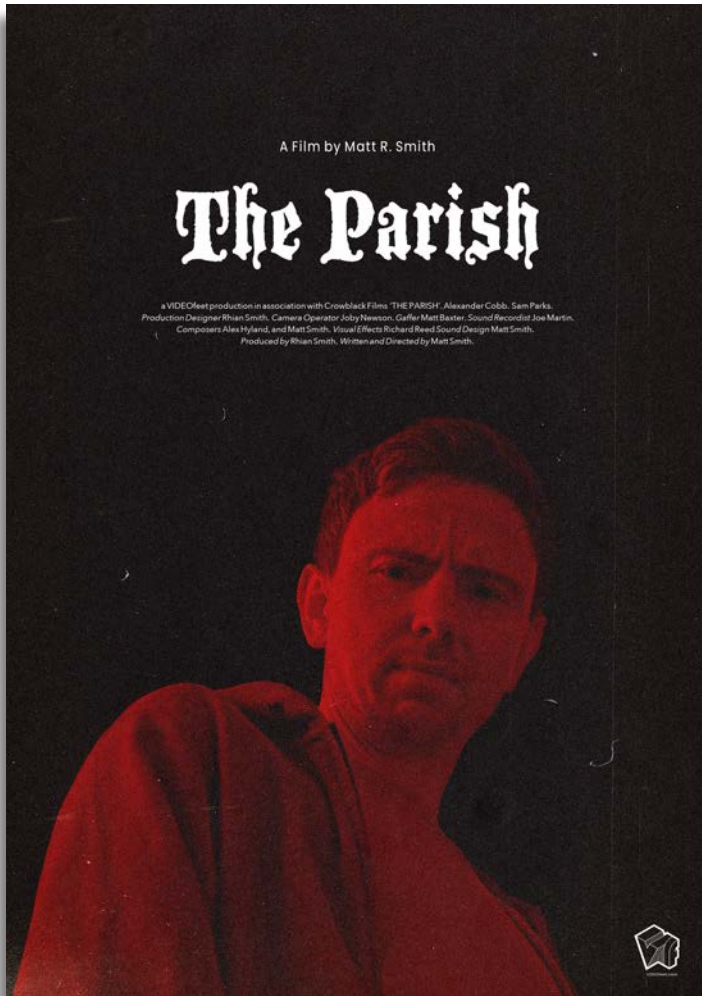


Joe discovers something Strange (Film Still)



Joe's end (Film Still)

Poster Variants



Contact

Rhian@videofeet.com

+44 (0) 7814730074

www.videofeet.com

www.exsitucollective.org

Instagram:

[@VIDEOfeet](#)

[@mattsmithfilm](#)

[@rhiandesborough](#)

Twitter:

[@VIDEOfeet](#)

Facebook:

[@VIDEOfeet](#)

Behind the scenes photography: On Request

Film Stills: On Request

For all photography please credit VIDEOfeet.com

*All images in this pack Copyright © Matt R. Smith, Rhian Smith & VIDEOfeet Productions 2024
All Rights Reserved.*

