

*Garath Griffiths*

*Astrid Conlan*

# *Iris and Auriel*

*A film by Ben Segneri*

*Justin Houghton  
Natalya Shehadeh  
Aimee Maycock  
Sethan Kenton-O'Meally  
Sojia Kipnis  
Sam Churchward*

*Maria Shabanova  
Gabiella Gaurra  
Jamie Fallon  
Jay Vanner*

*Merlyn Binoy  
Lucinda Segneri*



EPK

## IRIS & ASRIEL

WHEN AN ART GRADUATE IS DIAGNOSED WITH DEMENTIA AT A SHOCKINGLY YOUNG AGE, HE MUST FIND MEANING IN LIFE IN THE SHORT TIME HE HAS LEFT.

# IRIS & ASRIEL

## FILM DETAILS

**RUN TIME:** 27:20

**YEAR:** 2025

**COUNTRIES OF PRODUCTION:**  
England & France

**LANGUAGE:** English (with multiple  
language subtitles)

**GENRE:** Drama

**FORMAT:** MP4, DCP Available

**ASPECT RATIO:** 16:9

**SOUND:** Stereo

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**TAGLINE:** When an art graduate is diagnosed with dementia at a shockingly young age, he must find some meaning in life in the short time he has left.

**SHORT SYNOPSIS:** Iris and Asriel, two young art school graduates, live happily together. But when Asriel is diagnosed with dementia at a shockingly young age, he must come to terms with the meaning of his life, and his forever lost dream of doing something meaningful for the world. Meanwhile Iris must also decide how much of her own life and sanity she is willing to sacrifice in order to help him make his dream come true. Iris and Asriel is a poignant exploration of love, memory, and legacy in the face of devastating loss.

**LONG SYNOPSIS:** Iris and Asriel is the story of two art school graduates living happily together. Asriel is a painter, and Iris is a photographer. But their world is turned upside down when Asriel becomes one of the youngest people to ever be diagnosed with dementia. As Asriel is faced with his impending doom and the loss of his identity, attempting to come to terms with his lost dreams of changing the world through his paintings, Iris sinks into the crushing monotony of taking care of him while being unable to truly help him, ignoring her own dreams and career. But Asriel, well into his fourth stage, suddenly starts painting again frantically. Iris, confused by this sudden energy, decides to publicise his work in an attempt to raise money for charity, making Asriel's dream of changing the world come true. She succeeds, and enormous media attention is brought to Asriel's work. But as the auction nears, Asriel stops painting, and Iris is forced to move him to a permanent care facility. The auction raises more than half a million pounds for charity, but Asriel is too far gone to understand. Iris is devastated, until she finds Asriel's painting of a photo of the two of them, with written "The reason I lived" on the back. Asriel forgets Iris, but despite everything, the time they had spent together had made his life worth living.

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# BEN SEGNERI

## Director



**DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:** A few years ago, my grandmother died of dementia. As it was during the COVID pandemic, we weren't allowed to visit her. One day she stopped answering texts, and that was the end of it. I never fully processed it; until a writing prompt reading "Imagine a story where one lover forgets the other at the end of the story. What would the last line be?" made me come up with the last few lines of dialogue in the film, and I started writing. It was initially a much darker and surreal story, but as I finally went through my thoughts and feelings while writing, it became much more of a hopeful story. Some surrealist elements remain, especially surrounding the polaroids and Asriel's monologue, but the mixture of very naturalistic filmmaking with some sparse surrealist elements is very reminiscent of the Life is Strange series, my main stylistic inspiration. Not only did working with an absolutely wonderful and talented cast and crew elevate the film beyond any of my expectations going in, but making this film helped me come to terms with my experiences surrounding dementia, and I hope that it will help and speak to others who have been impacted by it as well. Dementia is the single most evil, horrible thing that can happen to a person, and as cases of early onset dementia remind us, it isn't a blight reserved for our parents and grandparents, but to any of us at any moment. Everything that can be done to facilitate dementia research should be done, and who knows who might see this film. Maybe, in one of our audiences there shall be someone who grows to be instrumental in defeating the illness. So as we hope to help people heal from past experiences, we also hope to help raise awareness, contributing to the fight that might one day finally make dementia something of the past.

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# BIOGRAPHIES

## BEN SEGNERI

**Director - Writer - Composer**

Ben Segneri is a 20 year old Franco-American filmmaker currently studying Film at the University of Kent. Having started making stop motion animations at just 10 years old, Ben continued writing short films and music pieces with his friends, graduating high school with a French Baccalaureate specialised in film, before moving to England where he participated in making a dozen short films, and won national awards in screenwriting, score composition, and directing in his time at university.

Having written and scored *Just Be Yourself*, an MGM-style musical, written an award winning score for the horror short *"Hungry and Hunted"*, managed special effects for the post-apocalyptic short *"Death at the End"*, written the script *"Johnny the Friendly Zombie"*, which was nominated for Best Screenplay at the BOBA Awards, and acted and crewed for many other projects, *"Iris and Asriel"*, which he wrote, scored and directed, is his most ambitious project to date; a deeply emotional short that explores themes of identity, memory, and the importance of art, winning the awards for Best Directing, Best Writing, and Best Score at the UKC Young Filmmakers Festival, an Honourable Mention at the Folkestone Film Festival, and most importantly, a Bronze for Directing at the National Student Television Awards (NaSTA) on top of being shortlisted for Writing and Drama.



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# GARETH GRIFFITHS

## Actor

Gareth Griffiths is a 26 year old actor and filmmaker based in Kent, UK. He is currently undergoing training at the Actor's Lounge in Canterbury. In addition to starring in Iris and Asriel, Gareth has also starred in "The Long Road Home" for a Canterbury Christ Church University student project, and "Maple" for a University of Kent student project. He has also worked as a boom operator and a runner for low-budget productions around Kent. Furthermore, Gareth has had roles in various theatre productions in Canterbury; including playing Edward Angkatell in Agatha Christie's "The Hollow", Curtis in Aphra Behn's "The Amorous Prince", and, most recently, the role of Sebastian in Shakespeare's "The Tempest" at the Canterbury Shakespeare Festival.



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# ASTRID CONLAN

## Actor

Astrid Conlan is twenty year old actress currently studying drama at the University of Kent. After having starred in various small theatre and film productions, she now lends her talents to Iris Jord in the award winning short film Iris and Asriel.



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# LORNA GAUVAIN

## Actor



Lorna Gauvain is a 23 year old Actor and Filmmaker from Norfolk, England. Having participated in various theatre productions since she was very young, she developed a parallel interest in filmmaking, getting into the habit of writing, directing and starring in her own films, including professionally produced *The Button* (2020), *How to Summon a Ghost* (2022), *If You Go Down To The Woods Today* (2023) and *Ascension* (2024). In parallel to achieving a bachelor's degree in psychology as Valedictorian at the University of Kent, she starred seven in T24 plays, and 3 KTV Films: *Kissing Bug* (2024), *ASTIGMATISM* (2024), and *Iris and Asriel* (2025). Despite her early diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis, she continues her studies in acting at ISDA in London, and will begin her masters degree in Drama and Movement Therapy at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in fall. She is now preparing to direct her most important film yet, *The War Within*, an allegory raising awareness to the fight she and others sharing her condition lead every day to live normal lives in spite of crushing chronic pain.



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# SOFIA KIPNIS

## Editor

Sonia (Sofia), a 20 year old filmmaker, specialised in Directing and Editing, has been taking filmmaking courses since she was 16, adding to more than 9 years of editing experience. Having directed and edited 5 shorts film, "ERROR" won the Grand prix at a the "ZROD, CAMERA, MOTOR" film festival for teenagers in 2022, and "ASTIGMATISM" won the awards for Best film, Best directing, Best editing and Best cinematography at the 2024 KTV Film Festival, the award for Best Cinematography at the 2025 NASTA awards, and was selected for the London Global Film Awards. Elected as Head of Film of KTV in 2024, she conducted screenwriting workshops for KTV members and helped select and produce 10 KTV Short Films over the year. In 2025, she lended her editing skills to "Iris and Asriel", which won three Gulbenkian Choice awards that same year.



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# CAST & CREW

- **Director:** Ben Segneri
- **Producers:** Lucinda Segneri, Laurent Segneri, Ben Segneri, Justin Houghton, Revati Nayana
- **Writer:** Ben Segneri
- **Lead Actors:** Gareth Griffiths as "Asriel" and Astrid Conlan as "Iris"
- **Supporting Actors:** Lorna Gauvain as "Arke", Kris Wilson as "Kris Wilson", Alexandra Brumwell as "The Reporter", Ben Segneri as "The Cameraman"
- **Editor:** Sofia Kipnis
- **Cinematographer:** Natalya Shehadeh
- **Assistant Director:** Justin Houghton
- **Executive Producers:** Imani Waweru and Malin Mihindukulasuriya
- **Lighting:** Sethan Kenton-O'Meally
- **Additional Photography:** Sam Churchward
- **Set Decorators:** Aimee Maycock and Justin Houghton
- **Composer:** Ben Segneri
- **Sound:** Jamie Fallon, Maria Shabanova, Jay Vanner, and Merlyn Binoy
- **Makeup:** Gabriella Gaura and Maria Shabanova
- **Color Grading:** Sam Churchward



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# FESTIVALS & AWARDS

National Student Television Awards  
(NaSTA) - March 27 2026, Loughborough,  
UK.

Won:

- Bronze for Directing

Shortlisted:

- Writing
- Drama

Folkestone Film Festival

November 3 2025, Folkestone, UK.  
Honourable Mention for Significant  
Contribution to Independent Cinema

UKC Young Filmmaker's Film Festival

April 4, 2025, Canterbury, UK.

Won:

- Best Director - Ben Segneri
- Best Screenplay - Ben Segneri
- Best Original Score - Ben Segneri



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