

EVERY SEAT HOLDS A DIFFERENT STORY

# DATE NIGHT

THE NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL PRESENTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROOTS UP PRODUCTIONS

AND MY PET HIPPO PRODUCTIONS "DATE NIGHT"

STARRING DOMINIC CARRINGTON SHIVANI CASSIDY DANIEL DUNSMORE

ALEXANDER KNIPE GABRIEL MANSOUR NEIL MARCHANT AND LUANDA YASMIN

MUSIC BY DOMINIC CARRINGTON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALEX SOLE-LERIS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SIMON BROADLEY JASON T. GAFFNEY AND SIMONA IORDANOVA

PRODUCERS JASON T. GAFFNEY AND ALEXANDER KNIPE

SCREENPLAY BY SIMONA IORDANOVA DIRECTED BY SIMONA IORDANOVA

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## SYNOPSIS

INSIDE A DARKENED CINEMA, LIVES BRIEFLY INTERSECT WITHOUT EVER TOUCHING.

ON SCREEN, A FILM PLAYS. IN THE AUDIENCE, FOUR STORIES UNFOLD: A COUPLE HELD TOGETHER BY YEARS OF UNSPOKEN UNDERSTANDING, TWO STRANGERS NAVIGATING THE FRAGILE HOPE OF A FIRST DATE, A RELATIONSHIP SLIPPING QUIETLY OUT OF REACH, AND A MAN SITTING ALONE WITH THE ECHO OF A LOVE THAT ONCE FILLED THE SEAT BESIDE HIM.

THE CINEMA DOES NOT KNOW WHO THEY ARE, WHERE THEY'VE COME FROM, OR WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY LEAVE. IT ONLY WITNESSES THEM IN THIS MOMENT: FLEETING, INTIMATE, AND COMPLETE.

# DATE NIGHT

# CAST



**DOMINIC TARRINGTON** & **ALEXANDER KNIPE**  
as SIMON

An actor and composer whose work spans performance and film scoring. Two short films he composed for, *Pickled* and *Left Behind, Still Standing*, were selected for Festival de Cannes in 2026.

**ALEXANDER KNIPE**  
as DANIEL

An unscripted television producer with a background in writing and performing comedy. In 2023, his stand-up performance won him the Chortle Comedy Award.



**DANIEL DUNSMORE** & **LUANDA TASMIN**  
as MARK

A writer and sound designer, specialising in foley, with a wide range of credits across film. *Date Night* marks his acting debut.

**LUANDA TASMIN**  
as JESS

An actor, model, and filmmaker known for *The 45* (2016), *Save Luna* (2021), and *An Imaginary Western* (2025).



**GABRIEL MANSOUR** & **SHIVANI CASSIDY**  
as TOM

An actor and producer. His screen credits include *The Power* (Amazon), *Choke*, and *Beltane*. He is currently producing *Monday Bloody Monday*, a comedic horror.

**SHIVANI CASSIDY**  
as ANNA

A model, presenter, and actor known for *Quarantine Leap* (2020), *Voidance* (2026), and *Follow the Dark* (2026).



**NIEL MARCHANT**  
as HAROLD

He began his career in theatre before returning to acting later in life, transitioning to screen performance with *Date Night*.

# DATE NIGHT KEY CREW

## SIMONA JORDANOVA

WRITER-DIRECTOR



A Bulgarian writer-director, who began her creative career in theatre before moving into film and television.

Her storytelling is rooted in a fascination with human relationships: how they form, shift, and quietly unravel. This sensibility carries through her work, from her debut short film *Grieved*, which won Best Short Film Director at the Golden FEM! Film Festival 2024, to her subsequent projects.

Alongside directing several short films, she has also worked as an assistant director, directed unscripted television pilots, and produced a live magazine show.

## JASON T. GAFFNEY

PRODUCER



An award-winning writer, actor, and producer whose earlier LGBTQ feature films include the romantic comedy, *The Perfect Wedding*, and the thriller, *Russian Doll*, both distributed by Wolfe Releasing. Among his other credits are *Out Of Body* and 2018's award-winning *Analysis Paralysis*, which he also directed.

His most recent project was season one of a six episode comedy series, *Marriage of Inconvenience*, which was released in 2023 as a Dekkoo Original Series.

## ALEXANDER NIPE

PRODUCER



An unscripted television producer specialising in format-led entertainment, with a deep love for quiz shows.

After receiving a degree from Durham University, he pursued an MFA from the NFTS. There, he develops quiz and reality concepts that prioritise pace, wit, and audience engagement. With an award-winning background in comedy and stand-up, *Date Night* is his first scripted drama.

## **Why set the entire film in the cinema?**

The cinema became the emotional and narrative anchor of the film. It's a place where people briefly exist beside one another without truly knowing each other's lives. The idea was to explore love through the perspective of a space that only witnesses people for a fleeting moment.

## **Was the cinema intended to function as a character?**

Yes. Although it never speaks, the cinema acts as the observer guiding the audience through the film. It only understands these characters within the time they spend in front of the screen, without context about what came before or after. So it shapes the narrative for us and even acts as a character in its own right.

## **Did the production process shape the themes of the film?**

Absolutely. The film was shot in a single day, which became part of the film's emotional texture and echoed the story itself. Like the cinema observing these characters for only a brief moment, we were capturing something temporary, small emotional fragments that existed only for an instant before moving on.

## **What drew you to telling multiple relationship stories rather than one central narrative?**

I was interested in the contrast between different forms of love existing simultaneously in the same space. A first date, a long-term partnership, the end of a relationship, and grief can all exist within a few rows of seats from one another. The film is ultimately about how different the overly familiar word 'love' can be to different people at different stages of it, and how completely unrecognisable it could look.



# DATE NIGHT

# FAQS

## How did you approach balancing warmth and sadness within the film?

The goal was never to present love as one singular emotion. Even within the same evening, love can feel comforting, hopeful, painful, or deeply lonely. The film embraces those contradictions without prioritising one over another.

## Harold's storyline is especially emotional. What was it important to include grief alongside romance?

Grief and loss felt like an essential part of the conversation about love. Harold's story reflects a relationship that still exists emotionally, even after loss. But importantly, he also feels hope, because of all the fantastic memories he shared with his person and he finds solace in thinking about her. Almost as if doing so, brings her back for a few seconds. So his presence also reframes the title Date Night in a more bittersweet way.



# TECHNICAL INFO



**Name:** Date Night

**Runtime:** 6 minutes & 27 seconds

**Format:** HD DCP, 16:9, 5.1 sound

**Country of origin:** United Kingdom

**Original language:** English

**Produced by:** Jason T. Gaffney and  
Alexander Knipe

**Directed by:** Simona Iordanova

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