

Sex Scene – Press Kit (text)

Director's Statement: Sex Scene began life as an experiment, a quest to achieve an unprecedented level of realism and honesty that I felt was lacking in many contemporary British films. I wanted to portray a relationship in an intimate and original way, devoid of all the romantic clichés we are bombarded with by the media. However, as I was writing I found myself casting an eye over my previous relationships (looking to steal potent exchanges) and realising that, in written form at least, they came across as stilted and derivative. From this point the film mutated into an exploration of two people so weighed down by clichés and preconceptions that they cannot create a single unique or original moment such as the one I was originally trying to capture on film.

Biography/Filmography: I shot my first film aged ten. Immeasurably inspired by Coppola's Apocalypse Now – which altered irrevocably my view of cinema as a creative medium, so far removed from the blithe, narrative-driven films I had previously been exposed to – I purchased a cheap camcorder and launched myself into a series of short sub-Hitchcock 'slashers', with limited results. In the following years I have persevered in filmmaking, teaching myself how to construct a scene through scrupulous study of my favourite films, and subsequently each project has enjoyed a noticeable improvement in quality and technique, to the point that I find myself at now, being able to achieve a considerable level of professionalism.

Most of the productions I have been involved in can, at best, be considered 'Independent' (in the true sense of the word) productions, and at worst 'student productions'. However I have no interest in mediocrity and have used as many artistic grant schemes as I can find, working with the most likeminded individuals I can, to create something that transcends my budgetary limitations. My films should be watched with an open and impartial mind, and hopefully, through the power of the moving image, something will connect.

TAKE (2008, dir. Rob Savage)

Running Time: 8 minutes approx

Synopsis: Two film students attempt to shoot a short film in a single unbroken take, with pretensions of entering into the pantheon of master Directors such as Béla Tarr and Martin Scorsese. However, the lines between fiction and reality begin to blur as the inspiration behind the film becomes apparent...

Roles: Writer, Director, Cinematographer, Editor

Visit (2007-2009, dir. Rob Savage)

Running Time: N/A (still in production)

Synopsis: A highly personal and experimental documentary/mood-piece, heavily influenced by the Dogme 95 manifesto, both ideologically – in terms of capturing a spontaneous moment, devoid of its narrative implications – and aesthetically.

Roles: I have acted as Director, Cinematographer and Editor on the project, which is still ongoing, and which may require further roles in the future.

Misadventure (2009, dir. Anthony Williams)

Running Time: 21 minutes approx

Roles: Cinematographer, Editor

Synopsis: A lonesome journalist (Kevin Bagnall) investigates a notorious and ongoing murder trial involving an out of work actor (cum transvestite), a dead repairman and a video audition for a major motion picture. As he interviews the key players in the mysterious thespian's life, the writer begins to live vicariously through their tales of fame and excess. The film is a witty and cynical critique of our celebrity obsessed culture, posing serious questions about how far people will go in order to achieve their fifteen minutes.

Sex Scene (2009, dir. Rob Savage)

Running Time: 6 minutes approx

Roles: Writer, Director, Cinematographer, Editor

Synopsis: A short film exploring sex and what we get out of it: security, validation, ownership? Do we all perceive sex differently? A teenage couple (played by real life couple Kyle Arrowsmith and Cheryl Jones) openly discusses their attitudes towards sex and towards each other during, each trying to cultivate a perfect individual experience whilst failing to acknowledge the other's needs and insecurities. Can we ever drop the act? Or are we so influenced by preconceived ideas of what sex should be? Will it always just feel like a Sex Scene?

Cage (2009, dir. Joe Berry and Rob Savage)

Running Time: 3 minutes approx

Roles: Writer, Co-Director, Cinematographer, Editor

Synopsis: A short vignette exploring inarticulate adolescent rage and challenged masculinity as a schoolyard fight escalates into horrific violence.

Act (2010, dir. Rob Savage)

Running Time: 3 minutes approx

Roles: Writer, Director, Cinematographer, Editor

Synopsis: An intimate conversation is played out direct to camera – but what are the real motivations at play here?

Filming Accounts:

"We were stuck in a swelteringly hot room, sizzling under huge studio lights and being made to repeat a scene over and over. But we persevered, I had faith in what Rob was trying to achieve, even if his storyboards looked like a five year old playing with crayons." – Kyle Arrowsmith, Lead Actor

"The aspect of the filming I enjoyed the most was the improvisation – we had certain key lines we had to remember, and a beginning and end point for the scenes, but Rob would let us try out ideas and just made us feel like part of the creative process. It was bloody boiling in that room after eight hours filming though!" – Cheryl Jones, Lead Actress