



Preparations

Press Pack

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A besotted couple go over the preparations for their wedding.
So why are they so sad?

Director: Josiah Williams

Producer: Tom Rawding

Production: Northern Film School UK

Drama | 16:9 | 1920 x 1080 | 2019 | Runtime: 9:58

English | Colour | 25 FPS | Stereo | QuickTime File

Mark and Alley are the perfect couple, whose love knows no bounds. As they go over the preparations for their wedding, she seems as happy as can be. So why doesn't he?

Synopsis

Mark comes home from work to find Alley at home, painting and waiting for him. She offers him a warm welcome home. They watch a film in content silence, until Alley asks to go over the preparations again. Mark initially resists, but he can't say no to the woman he loves.

They go through everything: the guest-list, flowers, song. She then tells him she's found the dress, insists that she show him, keen for his opinion. Again, he can't say no. She puts the dress on to show him. As he continues to watch TV, she comes downstairs, plays *their* song on the vinyl player.

The two of them dance an emotional slow dance. But Mark can't do it, he loses his cool and breaks. Alley remains strong though, comforts him. He questions her attitude towards everything, he thinks she's too casual, but she defends herself. They share a moments embrace.

She asks him if he made the final payment on the coffin.

He has. The mood is sombre. In an effort to lift it, Alley asks Mark which wig he thinks will get her into heaven. Tears in his eyes, he smiles.





Director's Statement

This story was important to me due to current circumstances that were going on in my personal life around the time of filming. I always felt disconnected from stories about loss, as I had never experienced it in my own life. However, around the same time of choosing our film scripts for university my grandma was diagnosed with a terminal illness. The news was utterly devastating and I found myself struggling to digest that reality. My grandma however had already made peace with her situation which I couldn't understand. She would talk so causally about what she wanted her funeral to be like, while the rest of the family still felt very uneasy. But I soon realised the strength and resilience she had to get to that place of peace. I saw the character Alley as my grandma. A strong woman assured of herself, keeping a brave face for the ones she loves. I then saw myself being able to relate to Mark in the film, trying to hide the pain I was feeling. Not wanting to accept his loved ones illness. The story shows the crushing truth that death is not a respecter of age or persons. This was a passion project that I poured my own experiences and feelings into, in the hope of create a compelling and real story. Everyday people have the same conversations with their loved ones just like Alley and Mark. Preparing for a day they never want to come and I wanted this film to shine a light on that. My hope was that audiences would feel a connection to the film as they may have faced something similar themselves and would find comfort in it.

"About Time" (2013) was my biggest cinematic influence going into this project. I always loved the authentic relationship between the two protagonists Tim and Mary. I aimed to capture that same real connect for our film which I believe we achieved. I planned for the pace of the film to be slow to reflect how both characters are savoring each moment they have left with on another, shown through longer takes. The soundscape also was heightened to portray the tension and emotion in the room. I dedicated the film to my grandma as a thank you for all she did for me and the inspiration she gave for the film.

Director's Biography



Josiah is a young budding director from Nottingham, England. His debut film with the Northern Film School, Heart of the House (2019) was nominated for a Regional Royal Television Society (RTS) Student Award. He began his film career creating YouTube shorts by himself and also working with local film production companies.

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Producer's Biography



Tom is a determined writer/producer from Portsmouth, currently based in Leeds. From a young age he's been obsessed with story and storytelling, making his beginnings in film as a screenwriter. Nowadays he tends to spend more time as a producer, where he specialises and thrives in bring ambitious drama to life, including recent short films Death and the Window, I See You and Candy Floss. Tom worked on 2018 short film "Argot" as a line producer, which recently received the RTS Yorkshire Student award.

Contact Details:

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Cast and Crew

Josiah Williams: Director

Leigh Mackay: 2nd Assistant Director

Max Fawcett: Production Assistant

Tom Rawding: Producer

Adam Hollin: Camera Operator

Magdalena Musialkiewicz: Locations Manager

Roanne Bardsley: Writer

Robert Hudson: 1st Assistant Camera

Georgia Adair: Production Manager

Lucy Litchfield: "Alley"

Jordan Baird: Gaffer

Lorina Mills: Make-up Artist

Will Tristram: "Mark"

Aidan Jones: Spark

Marc Gallagher: Editor

Alex Stagg: Director of Photography

Aled Williams: Grip

Ross Melling: Sound Designer

Eleanor Green: Production Designer

Kane Wilson: Script Supervisor

Olly Blake: Boom Operator

Willem Evans: 1st Assistant Director



*Production
Stills*



Behind The Scenes

