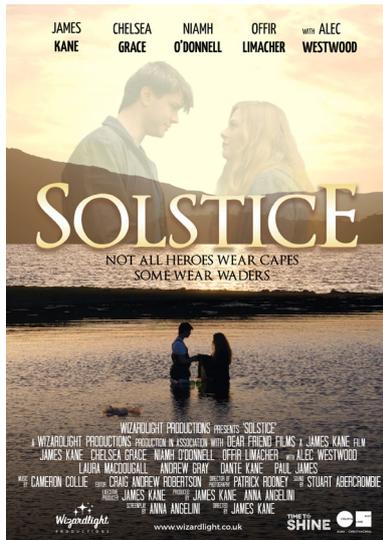


SOLSTICE PRESS RELEASE



LOGLINE:

Set against the backdrop of the coastal West Highlands of Scotland, 'Solstice' is a romantic drama with an environmental heart about saving our seas from plastic pollution and finding love.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

A captivating dream on Midsummer's Night leaves a lasting impression on young scientist Sandy (James Kane) and inspires him to come up with an idea to help reduce marine pollution. So when he meets local girl Mia (Chelsea Grace) and they discover a mutual love of the sea, together they take action to try and stop Mia's family polluting the environment with plastic packaging. It is whilst putting up protest banners

at the Solstice Festival - and when Sandy realises Mia may just be the girl of his dreams - that the plot takes a dramatic twist, leaving the strong-willed Mia uncharacteristically vulnerable and Sandy with a mission. Not all heroes wear capes, some wear waders...

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR:

James Kane, who makes his directorial debut on Solstice, said, "Although I have some experience working in film and on TV, this is the first time I have taken the production lead in a film. I am very proud of what we have achieved. I set out to make a film that would give our cast and crew a meaningful platform to showcase their skills. I brought together an excellent team, with an element of diversity as well as a very balanced gender split amongst creatives, cast, crew, post production and musicians. There were numerous challenges along the way, our budget was virtually non-existent and we only had a week to film yet by drawing the best out of the team we worked together to achieve a great deal.

"Written by Anna Angelini, who is based in rural Argyll, Solstice is a challenging screenplay to bring to life but I really wanted to tell this story and use the stunning scenery in the places I grew up as the backdrop to the story. Working outdoors in the changeable Argyll weather, on boats, on a loch, with a cast of nine plus a dog and a band of musicians, there was a great deal of work in putting together this production and a lot of plates to keep spinning. Local landowners and boat owners were highly supportive and Anna Angelini helped co-produce the production to help me keep the project on track.

"To take the project forward, I was delighted to be awarded the Time to Shine Nurturing Talent Fund in 2019. This is an initiative set up by the National Youth Arts Advisory Group and supported by Young Scot, Creative Scotland and Screen Scotland to help support young up and coming creatives in Scotland. Through my fledgling production company, Wizardlight Productions, I then started work to create a feel-good story with nostalgic overtones reminiscent of Local Hero but with a very important and current environmental message running at its heart.

"It was very important to me to run a professional yet enjoyable film set. To help everyone gel as team before the shoot I organised a few rehearsals which really helped build the chemistry between characters and helped the actors rehearse their lines as well as build a close rapport.

“I had already worked with DOP, Patrick Rooney, who is an accomplished young filmmaker and runs Dear Friend Films. The demands of producing a feature film were however uncharted territory for us both so we spent some time beforehand ensuring we had the same vision. After a couple of set backs with sound production, we found the ideal location sound specialists to complement our team; Stuart Abercrombie and Sophie Whiteford who were invaluable on set, dealing with with water, wind and boat engines over and above the usual sound considerations.

“Keeping the same ethos to bring in Scotland-trained young creatives on post production, I have been delighted to welcome Craig Andrew Robertson as Editor as I was impressed with his energy, vibe and passion for ‘Solstice’. For the music, experienced Musical Director, Cameron Collie, has composed and performed an original score including music performed by Rumskee to complement the film. I have to say it was especially challenging to complete post-production in lockdown but I am delighted with the result.

“After filming, I know that everyone in the cast took away a sense of real achievement and pride in their work. It was a very formative experience to produce feature length film on location in Argyll and has already helped cast and crew strengthen their confidence and use their experience as a springboard to further projects. I’m really hopeful that audiences will enjoy Solstice.”

Information about the Nurturing Talent Fund

“SOLSTICE is supported by Time to Shine, Scotland’s Youth Arts Strategy which is administered by Creative Scotland. Time to Shine is Scotland’s arts strategy for young people aged 0-25. Its core purpose is to enrich young people’s lives through arts and creativity. Scotland’s young people are leading the development of Time to Shine, creating an environment in which each and every person can thrive.”



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