

LOVE...
ON ONE
CONDITION



CHRISTIAN COOKE

HARRY McENTIRE

MADELEINE CLARK

UNCONDITIONAL

NORTON TON & BIRD, NORTON TON VENTURES, PRODUCTION CITY FILMS PRESENTS CHRISTIAN COOKE, HARRY McENTIRE, MADELEINE CLARK AND MELISSA HILL WITH JAMES BOLAN AND CHRISTOPHER JOHN SMITH
WRITTEN BY ANDREW PAUL PETER, COSTUME DESIGNER MICHELLE SMITH, HAIR AND MAKEUP DENISE REARD, PRODUCTION DESIGNER NICK McLEOD, EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GUY MCCORMACK AND JAMES BOLAN, PRODUCED BY
NORTON TON & BIRD, NORTON TON VENTURES, PRODUCTION CITY FILMS

Northern Film & Media
Northstar Ventures
present
A Stone City Films Production

UNCONDITIONAL

Starring
Christian Cooke
Harry McEntire
Madeleine Clark
Melanie Hill
James Bolam

Directed by
Bryn Higgins

Written by
Joe Fisher

Executive Producers
Clare Duggan
Tom Harvey
Sean Kelly

unconditional-themovie.com

Publicity Contact

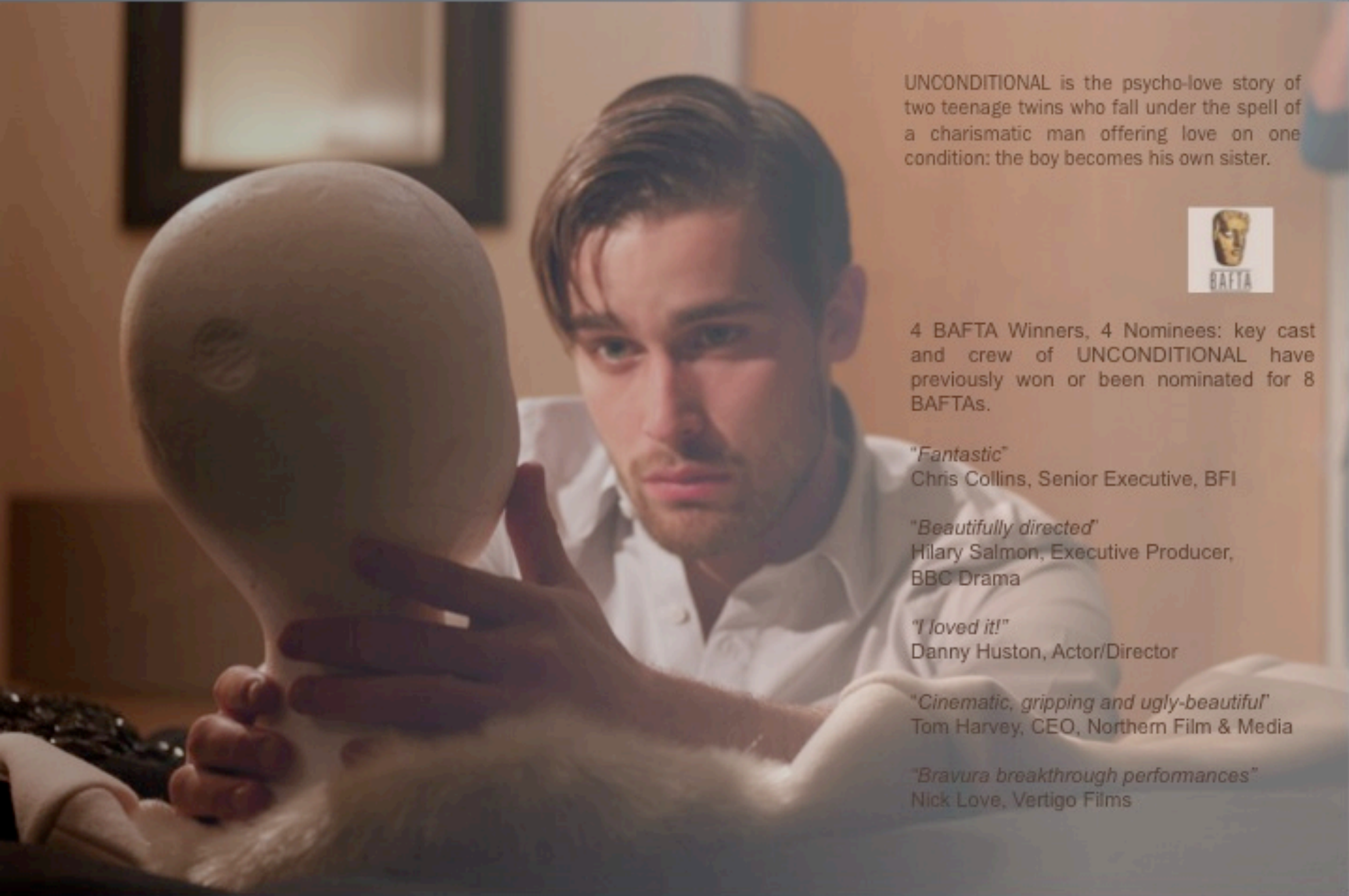
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92 min | Colour | HD | 1.85:1 | Stereo | UK



A man with dark hair and a light beard, wearing a white button-down shirt, is looking intently at a white, featureless mannequin head. He is holding the head with both hands, his fingers resting on its surface. The background is a softly lit room with a framed picture on the wall.

UNCONDITIONAL is the psycho-love story of two teenage twins who fall under the spell of a charismatic man offering love on one condition: the boy becomes his own sister.



4 BAFTA Winners, 4 Nominees: key cast and crew of UNCONDITIONAL have previously won or been nominated for 8 BAFTAs.

"Fantastic"

Chris Collins, Senior Executive, BFI

"Beautifully directed"

Hilary Salmon, Executive Producer, BBC Drama

"I loved it!"

Danny Huston, Actor/Director

"Cinematic, gripping and ugly-beautiful"

Tom Harvey, CEO, Northern Film & Media

"Bravura breakthrough performances"

Nick Love, Vertigo Films

SYNOPSIS

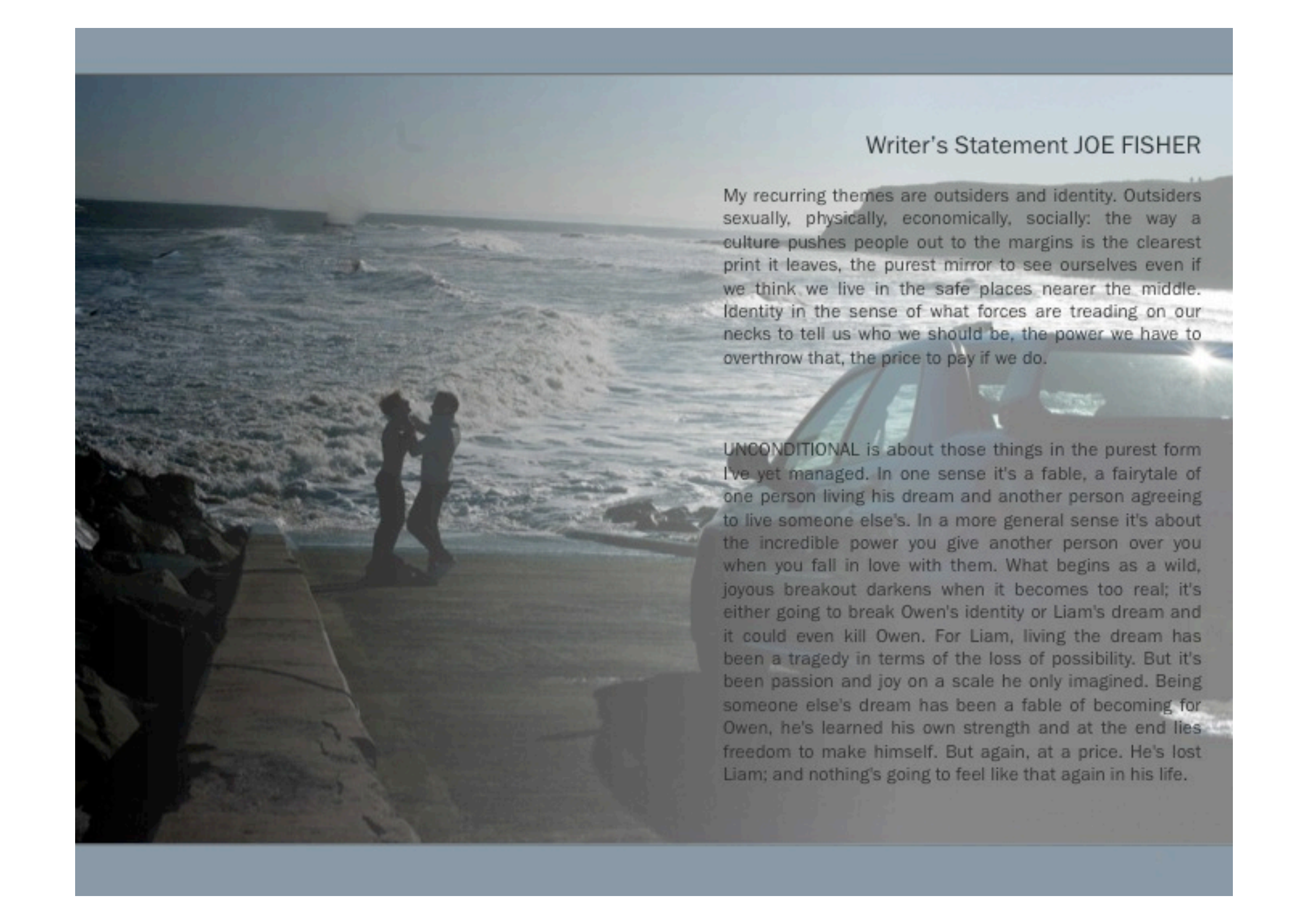
Seventeen year-old twins KRISTEN and OWEN are so wrapped up in their own world that they're misfits in the real one. Viciously witty, they spend their days caring for their mum MAUREEN and taking the piss out of their rough estate. They love Maureen but dream of murder and escape.

And along comes LIAM - twenties, tough, handsome, full velocity in a cobalt blue Subaru. Kristen fancies him with the intensity of someone in a fairytale. Then Liam takes Owen out drinking. Owen knows as much about pubs as Kristen does about men. After a terrible game of pool, Liam invites Owen back to his quayside apartment. Pissed and "just for a laugh", Liam suggests that Owen try on some designer women's clothes he happens to have.

It's a Cinderella moment. Previously invisible behind his dominant sister, Owen transforms into a beautiful, sexy woman and finds the world - and Liam - attracted to him. They drive into town, drink champagne. Owen has never known anything like it. Liam is a romantic, offering unconditional love. So what if he has to dress as a girl?

But the wiring in Liam's head is further out than first appeared. The condition on his unconditional love intensifies: Owen must take his sister's identity, become a new "Kristen". And Owen must be exorcised from himself.

Liam veers between adoration and menace until, after a bitter-sweet meeting with his parents that gets to the heart of Liam's troubles, Owen tries to escape. Trapped in Liam's hurtling car, they head for the North Sea and a surreal, frightening climax.



Writer's Statement JOE FISHER

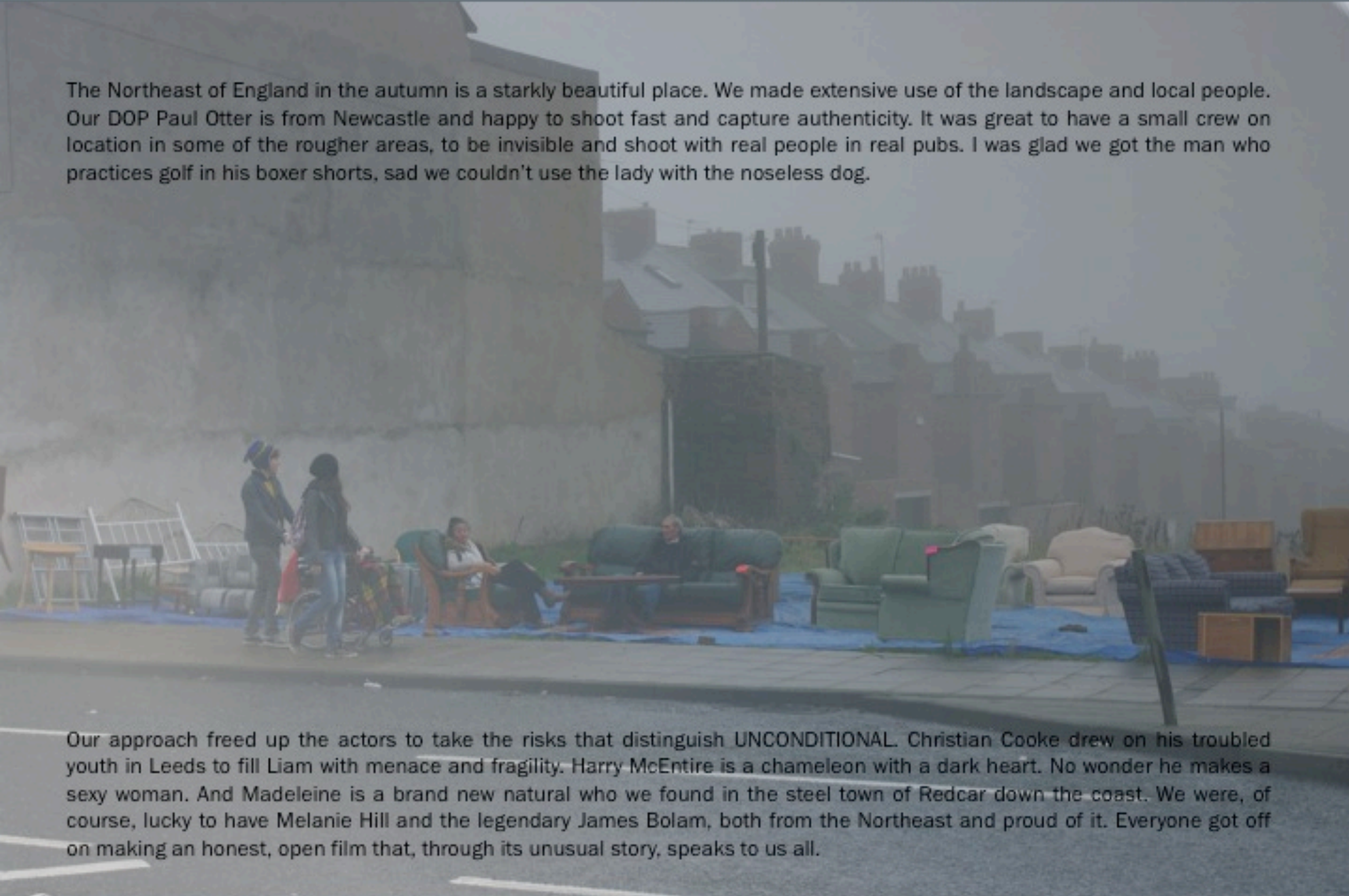
My recurring themes are outsiders and identity. Outsiders sexually, physically, economically, socially: the way a culture pushes people out to the margins is the clearest print it leaves, the purest mirror to see ourselves even if we think we live in the safe places nearer the middle. Identity in the sense of what forces are treading on our necks to tell us who we should be, the power we have to overthrow that, the price to pay if we do.

UNCONDITIONAL is about those things in the purest form I've yet managed. In one sense it's a fable, a fairytale of one person living his dream and another person agreeing to live someone else's. In a more general sense it's about the incredible power you give another person over you when you fall in love with them. What begins as a wild, joyous breakout darkens when it becomes too real; it's either going to break Owen's identity or Liam's dream and it could even kill Owen. For Liam, living the dream has been a tragedy in terms of the loss of possibility. But it's been passion and joy on a scale he only imagined. Being someone else's dream has been a fable of becoming for Owen, he's learned his own strength and at the end lies freedom to make himself. But again, at a price. He's lost Liam; and nothing's going to feel like that again in his life.



Director's Statement BRYN HIGGINS

I grew up on a dull London street near the river. Secrets behind blank front doors. I'm drawn to stories about ordinary people with raging inner lives and about how our search for love can get us into trouble. Joe's wonderful script rings so true. It's my ideal to make a film where all the decisions about shooting are dictated by the emotions of the characters. UNCONDITIONAL got close. As the twins and Liam take us for a ride on the wild side, I tried to bring the energy of my favourite punk love songs. I wanted to make the film as raw and stirring as possible but also highly cinematic and with a lot of humour in the tension.



The Northeast of England in the autumn is a starkly beautiful place. We made extensive use of the landscape and local people. Our DOP Paul Otter is from Newcastle and happy to shoot fast and capture authenticity. It was great to have a small crew on location in some of the rougher areas, to be invisible and shoot with real people in real pubs. I was glad we got the man who practices golf in his boxer shorts, sad we couldn't use the lady with the noseless dog.

Our approach freed up the actors to take the risks that distinguish UNCONDITIONAL. Christian Cooke drew on his troubled youth in Leeds to fill Liam with menace and fragility. Harry McEntire is a chameleon with a dark heart. No wonder he makes a sexy woman. And Madeleine is a brand new natural who we found in the steel town of Redcar down the coast. We were, of course, lucky to have Melanie Hill and the legendary James Bolam, both from the Northeast and proud of it. Everyone got off on making an honest, open film that, through its unusual story, speaks to us all.



CAST BIOGS

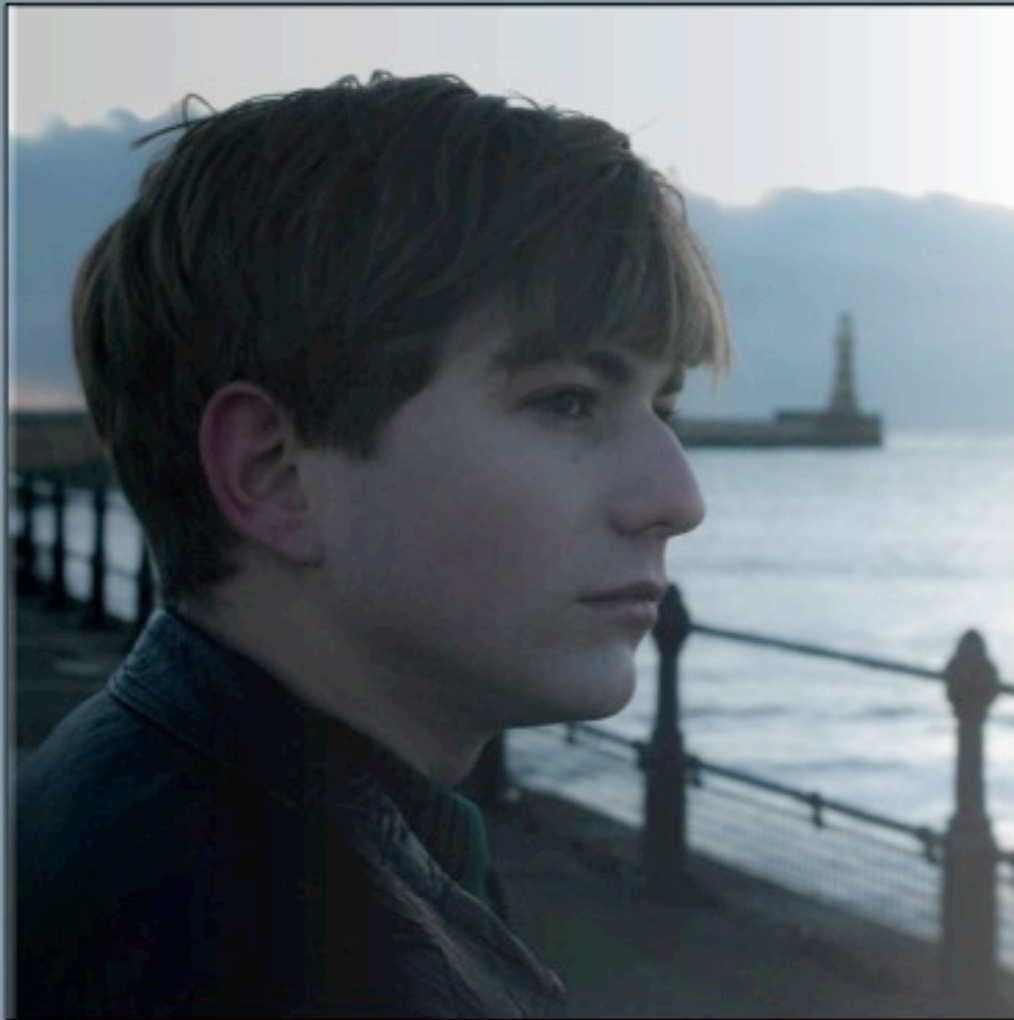
Christian Cooke (Liam)



Christian is one of Britain's most successful and promising young screen actors. He grew up in Leeds, dropped out of school and got into trouble in his late teens before getting into acting and writing. He retains strong links to the city of his birth and drew on his experiences in playing Liam.

"I knew blokes like Liam, some of them tough as fuck and the last people to be able to admit they might be gay. The little ticks they had because they'd took so much coke, the way they hunched over, I tried to put that into Liam. And underneath how desperate he is, really in pain, and doesn't know how to handle it".

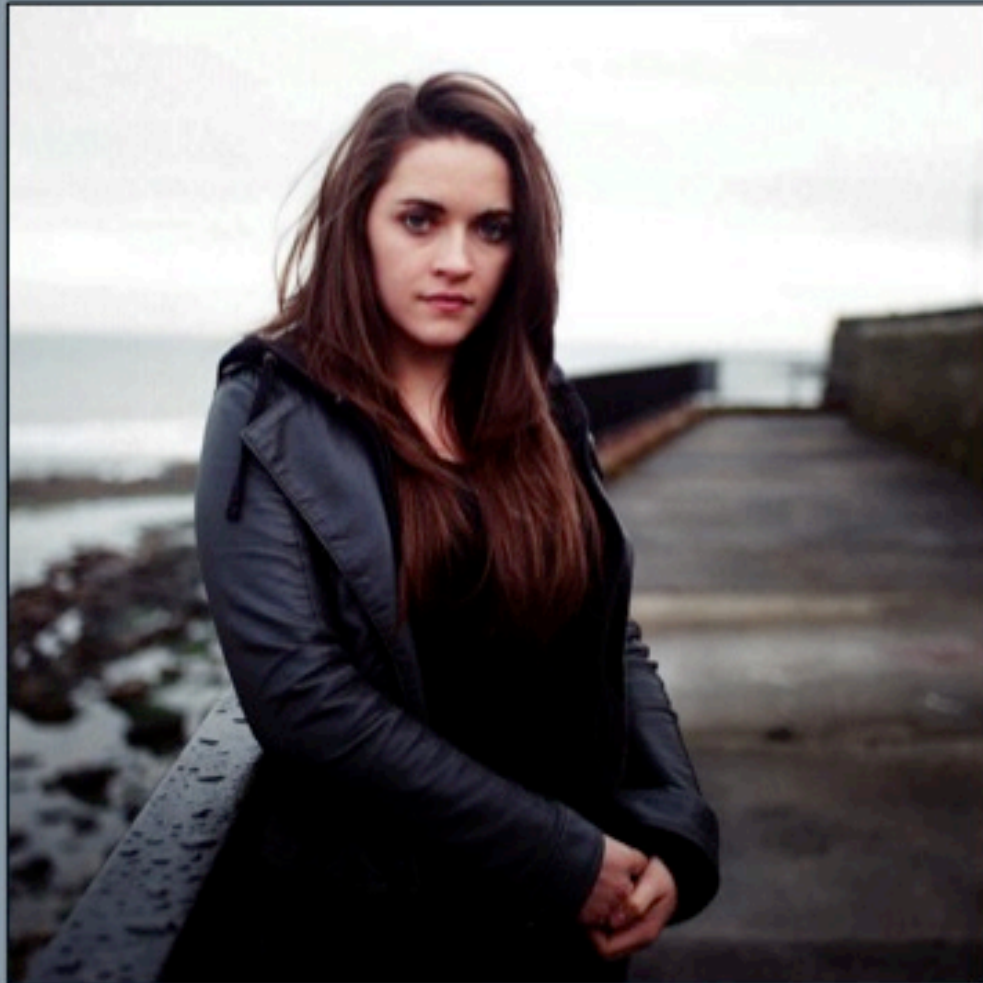
Christian is starring with Danny Huston and Jeffrey Dean Morgan in *MAGIC CITY*, a 13-part US series by Mitch Glazer (*SCROOGED*, *LOST IN TRANSLATION*), produced by Dwayne Shattuck (*MAD MEN*). In 2011 he starred in *DESTINATION WEDDING*, a rom-com for Paramount. In 2010 Christian had the lead in the BAFTA-Nominated series *THE PROMISE*. Before that, he was co-lead in Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant's feature *CEMETERY JUNCTION*.



Harry McEntire (Owen)

Harry is an exciting, risk-addicted, fast-rising star. He chooses challenging, headline-making drama on stage (PUNK ROCK, WINTERLONG) and screen (ERIC & ERNIE, TOWER BLOCK).

"I grew up in a really quiet town and couldn't wait to get out. When I first came to London I realized it was a chance to re-invent myself. That's what I think Owen feels like when he transforms into a woman – it starts as a drunken dare but he suddenly finds that he's being treated really well. Instead of being awkward and silly, it's a real eye-opener for him so of course it's attractive. He's quite innocent, caught up in someone else's nightmare."



Madeleine Clark (Kristen)

Madeleine was the last person among hundreds seen during casting. She heard about the film through a friend, rocked up – and turns out to be a hugely natural, gifted young actor. She lives in the seaside steel town of Redcar where she grew up. She also writes songs and has just recorded her first album. Like Harry, she gives a sensational breakout performance in UNCONDITIONAL.

"A close friend of mine got badly injured in a car crash about a year before the filming. I was out of work, trapped in my crappy seaside town, everything was doing my head in. I drew on all that sadness and frustration for the character of Kirsten. I tried not to think about things too much, just went with how I felt myself."



STONE CITY FILMS

Stone City Films' productions have won many awards including CableACE, Prix Europa and European Drama awards, and been selected for INPUT and Britspotting screenings. The recent BBC ONE series CASUALTY 1900s has been twice nominated for RTS Best Drama Series and been put forward by the BBC for a BAFTA.

Stone City Films productions have a proven track record of commercial and broadcasting success. In the last 10 years Stone City has created 5 original series for UK and North American broadcasters with a collective budget exceeding £25 million.

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER - BRYN HIGGINS

After the Royal College of Art Bryn went to the BBC making documentaries. He left to write commissioned dramas and has always tried to hang onto the idea of being a film-maker creating passionate projects with a small group. Bryn has been BAFTA-Nominated for Originality and has made high-profile dramas and docs with British, North American and European co-pro. His latest series for BBC ONE was twice nominated for an RTS (NW) Award for Best Drama Series and was selected for a BAFTA by the BBC. UNCONDITIONAL is his first feature film.

SCREENWRITER - JOE FISHER

Joe's first film feature was the acclaimed *The Tichborne Claimant*. Since then he has written for film and tv, including the BAFTA winning *Soundproof*. Films include: *ELECTRICITY*: Feature for Stone City Films (2009). *SAINT NAZAIRE*: Feature for Warner Bros (2009). *A SHORT HISTORY OF TRACTORS IN UKRAINIAN*: Adaptation for Ruby Films/FilmFour (2006). *WANTING IT*: A feature for Screen W Midlands/Century Films & P45 (2005). *BNP*: A major film for Blast! Films /Channel 4 (2003). *THE WRITER*: Feature for David Yates / BBC Films (2003). *MAKING IT*: A feature for BBC (2001). *THE TICHBORNE CLAIMANT*: Feature directed by David Yates. National release. Television works include *RITUAL*: Adaptation of Mo Hayder's novel for Sky One (2009). *NAME AND SHAME*: Three parter for ITV (2009). *CUCKOO*: Original four-parter for BBC (2008-09). *SOUNDPROOF*: A film for BBC. Winner of BAFTA Best Director 2007. *DICKENS*: Two-parter for C4 (2008). *THE ITALIAN BOY*: Adaptation of the book by Sarah Wise for the BBC (2007).

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - CLARE DUGGAN

Clare worked as a producer at the BBC for 6 years on award-winning series and has made films selected for the Royal Television Society and BAFTA awards. As Producer/reporter for Channel 4 News Clare won awards from the RTS, BAFTA, and the British Association for the Advancement of Science. For the last 8 years Clare has worked for Stone City Films as an Executive Producer on several acclaimed dramas for home and international broadcast. Clare has extensive experience in finding funding for projects, putting over £5million of production funding in place in the last 2 years.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - TOM HARVEY

Tom began working at David Puttnam's Enigma Productions then as an Assistant Director, Production Manager and Producer across a range of productions, including US and UK movies. Over the last five years Tom has raised £6m now invested in a range of projects from television dramas like *George Gently*, Joe Maddison's *War and Vera*, to feature films like; *Soul Boy*, *Brilliant Love*, *Self Made* and *Ways To Live Forever*. Tom is a Clore Leadership Fellow 2009, a graduate of Harvard Business School's course in Private Equity and Venture Capital and a Common Purpose Graduate 2003. He is a member of BAFTA, the Royal Television Society and Creative England.

DOP - PAUL OTTER

Paul grew up in Whitley Bay, close to Newcastle. He has an international reputation in documentary and drama, winning the BAFTA for Photography in 2006. He has also been nominated for an EMMY.

COMPOSER - JOHN LUNN

The haunting, soulful and terrifying score for UNCONDITIONAL was written by one of Britain's most accomplished composers. John has written for the biggest television productions, including *DOWNTON ABBEY*, *LITTLE DORRIT*, *GOING POSTAL* and *CRIMINAL JUSTICE*. John has also written for feature films including *ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE MIDLANDS*. He wrote the opera *MATHEMATICS OF A KISS* with Anthony Minghella, and has won numerous international awards.