



Press Kit 2016

Logline

Running late for work, an out of breath Jake begins a journey towards enlightenment and self-discovery. But he must overcome his own shackles if he is to reach his 'true' destination!



Brief Synopsis

Set to the backdrop of modern day London, *833* is a feel good short using comedy drama to get everyone cheering for our protagonist Jake.

Hopes and dreams have become a distant, seemingly unattainable thing of the past for Jake, and instead his life has unwittingly become nothing more than a mundane and banal existence. Destined to be forever single, and wound up in a dead end job where he answers to Mr Burrows... a bigoted bully of the highest order, Jake's future looks bleak at best!

But a morning journey to work throws up a much needed tonic in Mrs Miller, a wheelchair bound lady, who sees the world through different eyes.

Jake knows his destiny, and ultimate happiness lies in his hands... but can he find a way to break the perpetual cycle and channel his inner hero?!

Whilst the main theme of the film essentially focuses on the daily struggles of everyday men and women, an important element also touches on the issues of how people with disabilities are viewed in modern day society, and in particular discrimination within the work place.

Scene 97's premiere short film, made by the creative partnership of (Writer/Director) Vijay D. Varu and (Producer) Roger Woods.



Written & Directed by: Vijay D. Varu



Vijay D. Varu is a writer-director, British born and from Indian descent. Brought up in London, Vijay was able to take the opportunity to explore a vast array of diverse cultures and enrich his knowledge of life stories. A graduate in BA (Hons) Film & Television Production from the University of Westminster. Vijay is the founder of Scene 97, a production company established in 2015.

833 - Director Statement

Before I conceived the idea of 833, all that I knew was that there was certain key ingredients that I wanted to include in this story.

I was really keen to make an uplifting feel good film that had an essence of adventure.

A look at certain epics of everyday life. For many, getting to work on time can be an epic journey in itself, and I wanted to include this element within the story, which I hope complements the chain of events.

Most importantly I wanted the film to not only entertain audiences alike, but also touch on the subject of disability.

In the year 1988 my mother was taken ill into hospital. I was 7 years old at the time and remember thinking the doctors well cure her headaches through special medication and she would be home the next day. This would not come to be the case. After a prolonged stay in hospital, with 2 operations to remove a subdural haematoma, Mum was left severely disabled: wheel chair bound and requiring 24/7 care.

After spending 26 years in a nursing home my mother sadly passed away in 2015.

Throughout the years the immediate family would regularly visit her, however some relations wouldn't make an effort at all. Their excuse was because they felt Mum would not be able to recognise them or communicate coherently due to the effects the operations had on her mental capacity. They would then often relay what they thought to other people within the community. One aunty even once suggested that my mother had no sense.

This of course was not medically true. My mother clearly knew what was going on around her, and even though sometimes her responses weren't in line with conversation, she was still very emotionally abled with the clear ability to communicate.

One of the key characters in 833 is Mrs Miller, a wheelchair bound lady full of love and joy for life. Strong minded and full of wisdom. She is the key catalyst that drives our protagonist forward. It was important for me to have a disabled character of strength and not reliant on anyone. A true reflection of many people with disabilities, and against certain preconceptions that some individuals may have. With these elements combined I hope we have created something refreshing.

Produced by: Roger Woods



Roger Woods is an actor and film producer from London, UK. Born Roger Ratajczak in 1976, South London to parents Carol and Michael. As a child actor credits include among others: (for the BBC) Grange Hill, Eastenders, Look and Read and numerous adverts. In 1995 Roger became one of the founder members of boy band Code Red. The band were signed to Polydor Records and between 1995 - 2000 recorded 3 albums, selling over one million records worldwide, including 8 #1 singles in South East Asia. Between 2002 - 2005 Roger attended Rose Bruford College in Kent, studying classical acting. After graduating drama school in 2005 he changed his stage name to Roger Woods.

Producers Statement

Independent short filmmaking is a challenging art form, therefore as a producer I choose very carefully the projects I take on. Naturally we all have our individual taste when it comes to what we find dramatically interesting and entertaining, and often there is no written formula for what grabs our attention. From a professional point of view I try not repeat what I have done previously, but when reading screenplays I essentially trust my instinctive reaction to something that in some way 'moves' me. In the case 833, I felt this was an important story to tell from the aspect of challenging social stereotypes through a strong character driven narrative. Our protagonist JAKE I think very cleverly represents the 'everyday' man, battling his inner demons to find the courage to somehow change his life for the better. Like many situations in life, there is comedy to be found within the drama, which I also believe this film depicts in a charming way. I believe 833 will appeal to a wide international audience, and sincerely hope we get the chance to do that through our festival submissions.





Cast

Jake: Lee Drage - Flat 52, Missing Something

Mr Burrows: Rob Crouch - The Rack Pack, Sugar Girl

Mrs Miller : Maev Alexander - Death Defying Acts, Sutherland's Law



Lilly: Ashleigh Cordery

Crew

Director of Photography: Mike Lloyd - Whisper, Run

Art Director: Luke Tristan Haines - A Dark Reflection, Ellston Bay

Editor: Andy Kinnear - Top Coppers, Made in Chelsea, Facejacker, Balls of Steel

Sound Designer: Marco Baldassarre - Godless, Killing Eric

Music Composed by: Paul Farrer - The Weakest Link, 1000 Heatbeats, Judge Rinder