

## **This Little Death log lines and synopses May 2018**

**Had six fingers when I was born – should've let me keep it – but they never**

**Wish there was another level – beyond sex – for the special people**

**Is there a level – beyond sex – for us . . . the truly in love?**

### **SYNOPSIS**

25 words

Erotically charged thriller for those of you truly in love, for whom sex is simply not enough, and are searching for another exhilarating, all-consuming level.

50 words

Sex and death vie for supremacy as Zoe and Mortimer go on their dangerous, spellbinding journey into this most adventurous love story. This Little Death an erotically charged thriller for those of you truly in love, for whom sex is simply not enough, and are searching for another exhilarating, all-consuming level.

100 words

Sex and death vie for supremacy as Zoe and Mortimer go on their dangerous, spellbinding journey into this most adventurous love story. This Little Death, an erotically charged thriller for those of you truly in love, for whom sex is simply not enough, and are searching for another exhilarating, all-consuming level. This film packs an emotional punch and dares venture where most shorts fear to tread; asking why do the French call an orgasm – 'la petite mort' why is the experience that makes Mortimer feel so alive likened to death and why is it not enough for the extraordinary Zoe?

500 words

Zoe was born with six fingers on one hand, disgusting they all thought and it was tied so the blood could no longer reach it and it turned black, died and fell off. Now her maths were right, she was symmetrical, but emotionally scarred and constantly on the quest to make herself whole again.

Mortimer is a gin-soaked poet brought back to life by Zoe's extraordinary, free and generous love.

Zoe moves in to Mortimer's house which he's inherited from a dying grandmother. At first her quirky, controlling behavior is charming, yet soon it becomes weird, then disturbing and finally terrifying.

This Little Death is a creative collaboration between writer Tom Van Can (Hush Your Mouth) and director Alex Hardy (Soldier Bee) who have been good friends and co-conspirators for eighteen years. Tom has made six shorts and a feature with Jay Simpson (Shifty) and a short with Sarah Bauer (Jean-Pierre Jeunet's Casanova). The fact that the central team all knew each other so well and had mutual trust and respect meant that they were ready and willing to take on Tom's challenging and dangerous screenplay which Alex has crafted, with great directing and editing skill and persistence into a genuinely arresting film.

Most average directors favour either the visual and are happy next to the cinematographer, or they are occupied with performance and actors – exceptional ones like Alex do both. Alex was trained as an actor and then as a director and editor, he can also draw his own storyboards and has been in a successful band so has a refined sense of rhythm and pacing and with composer xxxxx has produced a score that supports the story without directing the emotional response of the viewer. Alex has won several international prizes for Soldier Bee and has been called “xxxxxx” by xxxxxx.

With this story Tom, who has been called “an important British talent” by Empire’s Kim Newman, wanted to be more daring than in any of his previous films. He remembered what his mentor Stephen Cleary (Head of Development at British Screen/Film Council) said about the feeling a writer should aim for – ‘a sense that your actual fingers dare not type the action that you imagine, the stuff that is dredged from somewhere dark and deep in your unconscious that scares even you – when your fingers feel that feel – type and keep typing!’ Very influenced by early Polanski – *Repulsion*, *Knife in the Water*, *This Little Death* grew out of a dreamed narrative that is shot through with night terrors.

And so, just as in Polanski’s work, sex and death vie for supremacy as Zoe and Mortimer go on their dangerous, spellbinding journey into this most adventurous love story: an erotically charged thriller for those of you truly in love, for whom sex is simply not enough, and are searching for another exhilarating, all-consuming level. This film packs an emotional punch and dares venture where most shorts fear to tread; asking why do the French call an orgasm – ‘la petite mort’ why is the experience that makes Mortimer feel so alive likened to death and why is it not enough for the extraordinary Zoe?