



DOWN

A SHORT FILM BY GARRY CRYSTAL



HIDDEN DOOR PRODUCTIONS presents "DOWN" with AMANDA DONOHOE JAMES EELES PAUL BARBER
Director of Photography GARETH MUNDEN Edited by JASON SAVAGE & GARRY CRYSTAL Production Designer JORDANA FINKEL
Music by SHERIDAN TONGUE Produced by KAREN NEWMAN Written and Directed by GARRY CRYSTAL



HIDDEN DOOR PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
A GARRY CRYSTAL FILM

DOWN

Production Type.....	Short Film
Runtime.....	12 Mins 26 Seconds
Genre.....	Drama / Comedy
Completion Date.....	December 2018
Production Budget.....	£30,000
Language.....	English
Country of Origin.....	United Kingdom
Country of Filming.....	United Kingdom
Format.....	1:85:1 24fps
Sales / Distribution.....	Hidden Door Productions – enquires@hiddendoorproductions.co.uk Garry Crystal - garry@garrycrystal.com
Links.....	Official website IMDB Twitter Facebook Instagram

SYNOPSIS

Two strangers are trapped together in a lift; one is slowly dying, the other is dying to escape.

Ed has just attempted suicide and his life is slowly bleeding away. Alice has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and is torn between her desperate phobia of blood and her overwhelming desire to save his life. Is it possible that through this unfortunate and unlikely meeting they can help each other?



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



DOWN is a dark comedy about suicide, OCD and mental health, set entirely inside a lift. The action takes place in real time. Films are inherently powerful and effective mediums for encouraging education and bringing about change. You only have to look at the success of the British Oscar winner "The Silent Child" to realise the potential and the impact they can have.

By utilising humour we are hoping that people will engage with what is essentially a difficult subject matter. "Down" underlines that a person might seem fine upon appearance but this is often a veneer disguising profound internal turmoil; forcibly hidden away owing to society's conventions.

During my final year at university, I directed a play at the local theatre. During the interval, the audience vacated the auditorium to head to the bar. As I was heading in the direction of the dressing rooms to talk to the cast, I heard banging coming from the elevator opposite the entrance. The doors opened to reveal a man, saturated in his own blood, emanating from his wrist. I applied first aid whilst we waited for an ambulance to arrive. All he said to me during that time was that he was sorry. He was taken to hospital and I called the next day to find out how he was. I was told that he was stable and would make a full recovery. However, I was unable to learn anything further about this man and what subsequently happened to him. Clearly, this is an incident that has never left me and I often wondered what drove this him to this act.

Throughout the years, mental health has affected a few people close to me and tragically I have known a couple of young men who have taken their own lives. Today, mental health and suicide amongst men, are topics that are still often avoided in discussion. However, they are more common than many people would like to admit. I wanted to explore these subjects in a short film. Often "serious subjects" deter people from engaging with them. Therefore, by adding a comedic element to the film, albeit a darkly comedic one, I'm hoping to encourage people to learn more about these themes rather than ignoring them.

Garry Crystal

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT



In December 2012 my best friend took his own life by hanging himself from the stairwell of his flat. He was 44 years old. A talented actor with plenty of great friends, a stable job and a happy home. He was in a good place ... or so we all thought. Beneath the bubbly, positive veneer was a fragile, broken soul whose battle with the black dog had become all too consuming.

I had spoken to him just 48 hours earlier, as he selected a tie for a friends wedding later that day. Two days later he was gone. When the kind but green behind the ears PC called me I acted out my own movie scene, I hit the wall and howled. I'll never forget that phone call, the searing pain, the unanswered questions and the terrible guilt. Because it truly doesn't matter how many times people tell you it's not your fault ... deep down you never actually believe them! My friend hid his illness well, never wanting to be a burden. And that's what depression is, an illness! It's not a feeling, nor a whim that requires you to simply pull yourself together! Untreated and unnoticed it can have devastating consequences.

In 2015 there were 6639 suicides in the UK and republic of Ireland and the highest suicide rate in the UK was for men aged 40-44. Male suicide rates remain consistently higher than female suicide rates across the UK and Republic of Ireland – most notably 5 times higher in Republic of Ireland and around 3 times in the UK.

Depression isn't necessarily something that we can see and it can take many guises so it is easy to miss. Slowly we are breaking down the stigma of mental health but there is still a long way to go.

OCD is a serious mental health condition ranked by the World Health Organisation as one of the top ten most debilitating illnesses. A condition that is often dumbed down when we refer to people as being a "bit OCD" because they have their books and CD's in alphabetical order. It ruins lives and the average amount of time for a sufferer to get help is 12 years.

We need to do more to bring about awareness of mental health issues, to teach our children that it is nothing to be ashamed of and to offer support to our peers already suffering. It could happen to any one of us, at anytime, anywhere.

Karen Newman

CAST



AMANDA DONOHOE

Alice

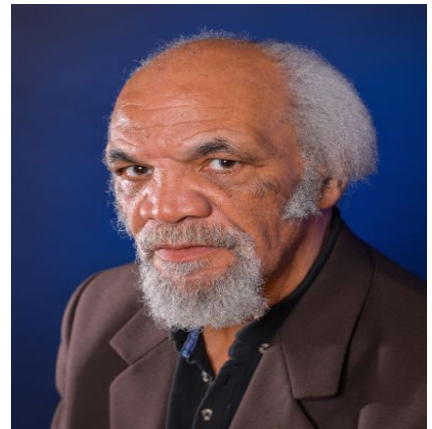
In a career spanning more than 30 years Amanda has appeared in a variety of productions in stage, screen and television. She won a Golden Globe for her role in the multi award-winning TV series "LA LAW", co-starred in the Oscar winning film "The Madness of King George" and won rave reviews for her stage work including her portrayal of Mrs Robinson in the West End comedy hit "The Graduate".



JAMES EELES

Ed

James is a graduate from Rose Bruford School for Acting and is best known for "Peaky Blinders", "Darkest Hour" and "Black Mirror".



PAUL BARBER

Dennis

Paul is an actor from Liverpool. In a career spanning more than 30 years, he is best known for playing Denzil in "Only Fools and Horses" and Horse in "The Full Monty".

CREW



KAREN NEWMAN

Producer

Karen Newman is an award-winning producer from the UK. She is currently producing several projects including "Thirst", an Australian and UK co-production with Australian Producer Owen Johnston (Crow Films). Karen also has numerous other projects at various stages of development including four features and two television series. Her slate of short films includes "[Lady M](#)" starring Samantha Bond and "[Bertie](#)". Her latest feature film, "[Just Charlie](#)", has won many awards including the prestigious Audience Award at the Edinburgh International Film Festival and the Grand Prix at the Cannes Ecrans Juniors. It has been sold to many territories around the world including Amazon in the USA and most recently to SKY cinema in the UK. Karen is president of the Timothy Welling Bursary, an award and mentoring scheme set up with E15 Drama School.

www.hiddendoorproductions.co.uk



GARRY CRYSTAL

Writer/Director

Garry Crystal is a multi award-winning director and writer; his short films "[Bertie](#)", "[The Fox and the Rabbit](#)" and "[Bobby](#)" have been selected for numerous Academy Award and BAFTA qualifying international film festivals. Garry also works as a freelance documentary editor and has edited BAFTA, EMMY, Grierson and RTS winning and nominated documentaries and films. The subject matters for which range from current affairs to observational documentaries and have included Danny Boyle, Banksy, Stephen Hawking and Tracey Emin. Garry also used to be a TV actor and was regularly typecast as a hospital patient in leading UK dramas such as "Children's Ward" and "Peak Practice".

www.garrycrystal.com

CREW



GARETH MUNDEN

Cinematographer

Gareth Munden is a cinematographer from the UK. A graduate from the London Film School Gareth has shot commercials and feature films around the world. Following an award-winning career as a stills photographer working on advertising campaigns for the likes of Guinness, Waitrose and Hewlett & Packard and shooting stills for the Harry Potter Films and Tim Burton's "Charlie & The Chocolate Factory", Gareth transferred his success and talents to cinematography. He has shot the critically acclaimed and award winning feature films, "Lotus Eaters" and "The Receptionist". Gareth's latest feature, "Highway", shot in New Mexico and with a cast including Josh Hartnett ("Pearl Harbour") Lucy Fry ("Bright") and Eiza Gonzalez ("Baby Driver"), is currently in post production.



JORDANA FINKEL

Production Designer

Jordana Finkel came up through established Art Departments, contributing to franchises such as Harry Potter, James Bond and the Dark Knight trilogy. In recent years, she has been Art Director on the new Star Wars features - "The Force Awakens" and "Rogue One" - and most recently Kenneth Branagh's "Murder on the Orient Express" and Bad Robot's "Overlord". She is currently working on Disney's "Artemis Fowl". Jo has recently made the progression into Production Design, overseeing the look of the short films "51 States" (starring Jack Gordon and Elliot Langridge) and most recently "Origami" (written by Sumerah Srivastava and starring Pearl Mackie).



SHERIDAN TONGUE

Composer

Sheridan Tongue is a BAFTA-nominated British television and film music composer. He has written and produced music for many television shows including the BBC's "Wonders of the Universe" and "Wonders of the Solar System", "Silent Witness" and "Spooks", the score for which achieved a BAFTA Television Craft nomination for Best Original Television Music; he has also engineered records for artists such as Blur, Beverley Knight and The Verve.

REVIEWS AND MEDIA

"Down" is featured in an 8 page article in [Digital Filmmaker](#) in its 68th edition



"I watched "Down" and very much enjoyed it- mysterious, yucky and funny. Amanda Donohoe is very good and gets her character across well, physically and emotionally. The beats were well timed and made me wince. A cracking, atmospheric little short, where body horror meets social realism and secrets lurk behind the scuzzy doors of a public car park lift. And like the lift, it works on several levels"

Jason Solomons, Film Critic, BBC News, BBC Radio 4, The New European, BBC Radio London & Virgin Atlantic @JasonCritic

"We were lucky enough to see DOWN last year. Using dark comedy, this striking short film tells the story of an unexpected meeting between two people both struggling with mental ill health. Looking forward to seeing where it goes in the future!"

OCD ACTION UK, @ocdaction

"I loved it... It was honest and funny, and I think a really good example of how to talk to someone who is #suicidal. Also, I fell in love with Amanda Donohoe"

Dese'Rae L. Stage, suicidologist @deseraestage

PAST SCREENINGS



May 2019 – World Premiere



May/June 2019



June, 2015



July 2019



September 2019



August 2019



August 2019

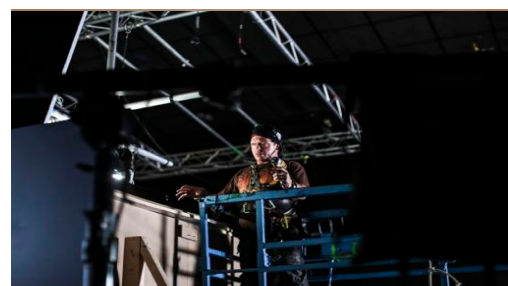
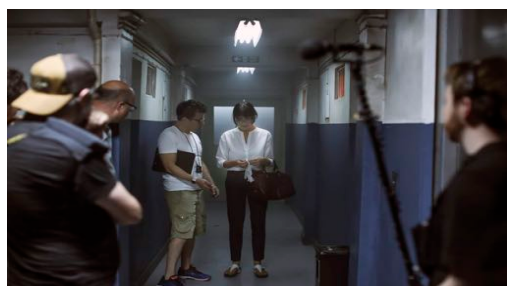
CREDITS

CAST

Alice	Amanda Donohoe
Ed	James Eeles
Dennis	Paul Barber
Paramedic 1	Howard Gossington
Paramedic 2	Jake Reid
Voice of lift	Karen Ellenburr

CREW

Director/Writer	Garry Crystal
Producer	Karen Newman
Executive Producers	Bill Arthur & Louisa Arthur
Editors	Jason Savage & Garry Crystal
Director Of Photography	Gareth Munden
Production Designer	Jordana Finkel
Original Music	Sheridan Tongue
Sound Design	Dan Weinberg
Production Manager	Chris Paul Walton
First Assistant Director	Paolo Guglielmotti
Sound Recordist	Joel Carr
Makeup Designer	Ian Massa-Harris
Costume Designer	Natasha Billingham
Colourist	Greg Fisher



CREDITS

CAST

Alice – Amanda Donohoe

Ed – James Eeles

Dennis – Paul Barber

Paramedic 1 – Howard Gossington

Paramedic 2 – Jake Reid

Voice of Lift – Karen Ellenburr

CREW

Producer – [Karen Newman](#)

Writer/Director – [Garry Crystal](#)

Cinematography – [Gareth Munden](#)

Music – [Sheridan Tonque](#)

Film Editing – Jason Savage & Garry Crystal

Production Design – Jordana Finkel

Makeup Department

Ian Massa-Harris - Make Up Designer

Gloria Peñaranda - Key Make Up Artist

Production Manager

Chris Paul Walton

First Assistant Director

Paolo Guglielmotti

Art Department

Miranda Keeble – Assistant Production Designer

Kimberley Treen – Art Assistant

Sound Department

[Joel Carr](#) – Sound Recordist

Alex Preddy – Boom Operator

Dan Weinberg – Sound Design

Special Effects

Prosthetics – Theodore Salisbury

Camera and Electrical Department

[Simon Bennett](#) – Stills Photographer

Philip Aubery Pascoe – Key Grip

Matt Choules – First Assistant Camera

Sonia Rodriguez-Serrano – Second Assistant Camera

Daniel Salter – DIT

Simon Mills – Gaffer

Set Lighting Technician - Chris Parker

Costume & Wardrobe Department

Natasha Billingham – Costume Designer

Editorial Department

Greg Fisher – Color Consultant

Other Crew

Diana Solomko – Catering

Charlotte Monkhouse – Assistant to Ms. Donohoe

Production Accountant – Malcolm Newman FCA

Supervising Transport Manager – Malcolm Bradburn

Production Assistants – Jake Reid & Olly Rogers

PARTNERS

