

A black and white photograph of three daisies in the foreground, slightly out of focus. The background is a dense field of foliage, creating a bokeh effect with bright, circular light spots. The overall mood is contemplative and artistic.

MEMINISSE (2013)

a film by John Eldridge

Synopsis

Meminisse is a dream... Meminisse is a mystery...
Meminisse is recall.

The story is a mystical romance comedy centred on the character of Ben, who is trapped within his own mind. He's created his own internal purgatory in which he cannot escape. Forced to relive the same day over and over again; the day he first met his wife, Cheryl. Yet with each day that passes, Cheryl always slips away from him. It's a loop narrative about pre-determination and questions whether we have control over our fate.

John Eldridge Writer/Director



John Eldridge began his journey into the film industry studying a BA Media Production degree at Northumbria University back in 2010. Prior to taking on the course, he directed his first short film back in 2009 called 'RETURNING HOME', which was screened regionally at various events. He has experience in and has gained vital skills in a variety of production roles including Sound recording/ Boom operating, production coordination, screenwriting and directing, as well as other technical roles. He still to this day remains a filmmaker with heart, scope and depth in his work. John is currently involved in an upcoming project which he will both script and direct. The production is called 'Meminisse' and will be released at various film festivals in 2013/14.

A black and white photograph of a deer in a field with a building in the background.

Filmography

Meminisse – Writer/ Director – 2013

Entrust – Director – 2012

Beyond the Limit (Feature screenplay) –
Screenwriter – 2012

Returning Home – Writer/ Director - 2009

Interview with Director

The Genres and themes of the film are a Mystery, Romance, Comedy, Time out of sequence, Dreams, Purgatory.

This film presented me with a new exciting opportunity. Like an avid explorer, the idea behind this film and the mix genre style is new territory for me as a filmmaker. I wanted to exercise my screenwriter skills which I had developed in my 2nd academic year at University in my chosen module: Specialist screenwriting. I also wanted to couple that writing skill with Directing as I've not had much opportunity to direct and both scripting and directing go hand in hand. I very much enjoy the process of both roles.

I hope that this film stands out from the rest, as an independent artistic film, both visually and in content. The script has caught the attention of many professional actors who all commend the work for being different and engaging. This film will help to launch both my screenwriting and directing careers in the field of independent low budget film production. Twinned with its unusual title, which is the theme behind the story, I'm sure it will be well received at the film festivals.

I'm hoping the film will be a surreal experience for the audience. More than anything, the plot of the story should give the viewers a sense of nostalgia and remind them of their most treasured memories in life. Everybody has a dear memory which they will never forget, and there is always a signifier in a person's life which reminds them of that memory.

I want the audience to question what they're seeing, very much like 'BEN' is. It's that 'is this a dream?' aspect that I want to capture. I want to raise as many questions as answers with the plot. I wanted to leave the film with an open ending so the audience can be subjective about how they've perceive the outcome.

I've always liked the idea of a dream within a dream scenario, and although nothing about this film is determined in the literal sense, I very much feel the tone of the film lends itself to the idea of that sense of déjà vu. Something is revealed subtly throughout the film and its this subtext of love and memory. My inspiration came from films like 'Groundhog Day' and an episode of *The X-Files* called 'Monday'.

I achieved this concept with a range of techniques such as filming in an unusual location i.e. a caravan in the middle of a vacant field, shooting and cutting the film in a non-linear fashion, having both the actors playing different ages is meant to create the idea that they're both in two different stages of their lives, but meeting for the first time. I kept the dialogue to a minimum and relied heavily of exposition to give the sense of a dream like state the characters are in. Even when the film is in the post production stages, I want to add a visual element to the film which will make the external scenes look overexposed with a soft focus filter.

John Eldridge – Writer/Director Mar 2013

Production Gallery



Cast

AMY BULLOCK – 'CHERYL'

Amy began her acting training as Aberystwyth University. After graduating a BA Honours in Drama in 2008, she worked as a 'Scare' actor' at York Dungeon and Warwick Castle. Amy did two UK tours of classical tales for Primary School children. She also spent 6 months touring Germany performing at schools and theatres for students learning English. She has also enjoyed acting in various films including 'Davy Wormwood', a film due to be released online in August 2013.



MICHAEL DUKES – 'BEN'

Michael first started acting in 1995 appearing in drama and comedy shows with amateur dramatics group, The Sedgefield Players. In 1999, he began working as a supporting artiste and his first job was appearing as a riot policeman in Billy Elliott. Other appearances involved both film and TV productions including Purely Belter, Take Me, Wire in the Blood, Inspector George Gently, Vera and The Paradise.

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MICHAEL DUKES BIO

In 2006 Michael started working in both independent feature and short films as lead actor. These projects involved working with both national and local production companies. Other credits include appearing in commercials such as Winn Solicitors, DFS and Red Driving School.

In 2007 he returned to the stage at The Gala Theatre appearing as a police officer in the play Maggies End and more recently he played the lead role of Reverend Charles Paternoster in Shall These Bones Sing at The City Theatre in Durham.

Michael has trained in America working with distinguished coaches such as Howard Fine, Amy Lyndon and Dee Wallace Stone. He continues to train in Leeds with Northern Drama covering scene study, improvisation and voice. Michael is a member of Spotlight and Casting Call Pro and hope to attain more quality work in film and television.

Crew Bios – Beth .N. Kennett (D.O.P)

Beth is a Northumbria University student studying BA (Hons) Media Production. She first studied Media, and Drama, at High School at GSCE which lead to Film Studies, Media Studies and Photography at A Level. During the summer of 2011, she took part in an acting group as a student teacher through the Act2cam scheme. She also helped to write a short script and worked with children in the acting group.

FILMOGRAPHY

An Artists Release (2011) Documentary Producer/ Editor

The Magician's Assistant (2012) Photo-Roman DOP & editor

Pub (2013) Short Producer/ lighting/ Editor/ DOP

Memnissime (2013) Short DOP

John (2013) Short DOP

ARYA (2013) Short/ Docu-drama DOP



Cast list

Michael Dukes – BEN
Amy Bullock - CHERYL

Crew list

- Writer /Director – John Eldridge
- Producer – Paula Vera Muldoon
- Co-writers – Rob Meek & Jess McWilliams
 - D.O.P – Beth Kennett
- 2nd Unit Camera Operators – Dan Clark & Jeffrey Kh
 - Sound – Klara Kristi
 - Editor – Sarah Burrows
- Photography – Kristina Leikaite

Format of Film

- Frame rate (HQ) 50i
 - HD 1920X1080
 - PAL
- Duration 09:23 mins
 - Quicktime MOV
 - Audio 16bit, 48Khz



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