

CARL MACKENZIE

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PROFILE: Carl is an ambitious and visionary filmmaker who aims to make fresh and dynamic high-concept films with commercial appeal and a social commentary of British society. In 2014, after a successful career in the city, Carl made the decision to make a full-time career change to the industry to work as a writer, director and producer. Carl began collaborating on short films and other projects with the industry's top up and coming talent while learning the craft before his directorial debut 'The Interrogation of Olivia Donovan'. He is now in Pre – Production for his debut feature film 'Unseen Scars'

In addition, Carl is also the founder and CEO of the Chelmsford Film Festival, which he launched in 2017. Chelmsford city's first ever film festival, Carl is the first and final decision maker on the full running and organisation of the festival. The festival, which is predominantly located at the Everyman Cinema, focuses on promoting local and international talent. Through Carl's work with the festival, he has strived to inspire and educate the next generation of filmmakers in the local community, by working with the film colleges and universities.

Carl is a member of BAFTA Connect & Directors UK.

EDUCATION:

2019 The Open University:
The Business of Film – Certificate

2012 - 2013 Raindance Film London:
Director - Foundation Certificate
Producer - Marketing and Selling Film
Producer - Movie Money and Distribution

1996 - 1998 Colchester Chamber of Commerce:
GNVQ Administration & Business

FILM DIRECTING HISTORY:

Unseen Scars	Feature Film	
2022	Writer, Director	Pre-Production

Unseen Scars will be Carl's debut feature film and is to be an original and powerful film, which highlights the issues faced by returning veterans and those who are suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Having seen first-hand the issues that affect those suffering from PTSD, this film has a personal connection for Carl. The story follows military veteran, James, who on his return from service, has difficulty adapting to civilian life. With the world now very different, James is eventually forced to seek help from psychologist, Dr Simon Kirby.

The film is to be produced by the highly regarded Garth Jones. Throughout his career Gareth has represented, sold and distributed more than one hundred independent feature films, including 'Withnail And I', 'Mona Lisa', 'Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels' and Sundance winner, 'Secretary'.

CARL MACKENZIE

Just a Day
2018

Promo – Short
Writer, Director, Producer

Completed / Released

Commissioned by new and innovative leadership development company, SmartSpace Learning, to write, produce and direct a promo short film exploring the lack of empathy in people's everyday lives.

The film has now has been distributed internationally through Amazon Prime.

The Interrogation of Olivia
Donovan
2017

Short Film/ Tv Pilot
Writer, Director, Producer

Completed / Released

The Interrogation of Olivia Donovan is a disturbing story exploring child abduction and Stockholm Syndrome. Following the arrest of Bradley Donovan for the abduction of Katie Fenwick, police officers set out to Donovan's house in the hope of finding the missing schoolgirl. When they arrive, they are greeted by Donovan's worried wife, Olivia. With Olivia's state of mind in a very vulnerable place, the police officers must use all their experience and tact to try to encourage Olivia to cooperate. Throughout the interview, Olivia defends her husband, refusing to believe any of the accusations. However, what the police officers do not realise is that Olivia has an agenda of her own. As a strange game of cat and mouse ensues, we begin to ask ourselves if everything is as black and white as it seems.

Written, produced and directed by Carl Mackenzie and starring Eva Pope, Ellie Paskell and Cristian Solimeno.

Despite working on a minimal budget, the team was able to create a unique film with high production value and stand out performances. The film was screened in a special showcase at BAFTA 195 and was aired as part of the Short Film Show on Showcase TV, where it was awarded Best Fiction/Drama. It was also awarded the Jury Special Mention for Outstanding UK Film at Manchester Film Festival in 2017 and went on to receive nominations for Best Supporting Actress (Eva Pope) at the California Women's Film Festival in Hollywood, and Best British Short, Best Screenplay and Best Actress (Eva Pope) at the Southampton Film Festival.

The film has now has been distributed internationally through Amazon Prime.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS:

My Eyes Are Up Here
2022

BFI Short
Covid Supervisor

Completed

Deep Cuts
2019

Television Series
Series Producer

Completed

Winter Ridge
2018

Feature Film
Development Consultant

Completed/ Released

Spark
2016

Short
Producer

Completed/ Released

Shadows
2015

Short
Line Producer

Completed/ Released