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Synopsis

Made up entirely of stills, *Paintbrush* presents portraits of ten users of a fictitious online social networking website. By detailing the information given by each user on their profile, the film explores themes surrounding identity, while also serving as a satire of online social networking.

Director's Statement

The intention behind *Paintbrush* is to explore issues of identity and persona, and to do so using the language of social networking. While the film is intended to serve as a satire of the social networking experience, the idea of social networking is first and foremost being used as a metaphor for the way in which we all, as individuals, present ourselves in public. At its heart, the film explores the clash between 'public' and 'private' personas, essentially detailing that the way we present ourselves to others in public is often not representative of our 'true' or 'real' selves (if indeed there can ever be such a thing). In fact, the film even goes so far as to suggest that our public displays of identity often deliberately misrepresent or fictionalise our own private personas. By using social networking as a metaphor to explore these issues, the film of course inescapably and inherently also comments upon social interaction in the digital age and the interconnectivity of our lives.

Alex Barrett
London, March 2008

Production Information

Genre: Satire

Shooting Format: Assembled from stills

Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1

Sound Mix: Stereo

Running Time: 7 mins, 42 secs

Country of Origin: UK

Production Overview

Although the first draft of *Paintbrush* wasn't written until January 2008, the project began life in October 2007 when director Alex Barrett struck upon the idea of fusing an exploration of identity with a satire of social networking websites. Barrett immediately began to discuss the project with the film's eventual producer and co-writer Rahim Moledina, and over the next couple of months the pair continued to develop characters and ideas for the film. By the time they met to write the script they had come up with far more characters than the script could accommodate.

The script was written quickly, and the filmmakers immediately began approaching friends to feature in the film. The script itself continued in the unconventional vein Barrett used on his last film *Canbury*, and consisted of an introductory page explaining the ideas and intentions behind the project, along with an outline of how the film would be made. While this was followed with a draft of the narrator's voice-over, the script encouraged the cast to send in ideas for their characters and for the film in general, thus allowing for an open collaboration. As the film was to be made up entirely of stills, the filmmakers set about casting the project by looking through their friends' online profiles. The final cast ended up being an eclectic mix, including actors (Rachel Bright, Charlotte Coy and Lachlan McCall, all of whom also featured in *Canbury*), filmmakers (Joe Swanberg, *Hannah Takes the Stairs*, *LOL* and Peter Harmer, head of the freelance company *Stories - Projects in Film*), musicians (Sanj Surati, front man for *Anonymous Tip* and Vanessa Govinden, guitarist with *Cutting Wires*), a textile designer (Jessica Hymas) and a trainee lawyer (Alex Adams).

The cast provided images based solely upon the outlined script, as Barrett saw this as their chance to provide their 'performance', and thus have direct creative input into the final film. Although the photographs featured in the film were largely pre-existing, the filmmakers readily admit to cheating in one instance. For the character of Malcolm, the filmmakers set about taking their own set of photographs, as they felt that they would never be able to find what they were looking for in the 'real world'.

With the photographs assembled, the filmmakers rewrote the script to accommodate the images more specifically. The voice-over for the film was performed by Sarah-Louise Young, who had worked previously with Barrett on *Andrew*, and who the filmmakers felt was the perfect choice for the film. Once the voice-over was recorded, Barrett then set about editing the photographs to fit the recording. The final touches for the film were then added by Andrew Gill's logo and Jason Creasey's sound design.

Full Production Credits

Featuring

Alex Barrett as Malcolm
Joe Swanberg as Danny
Rachel Bright as Marisa
Charlotte Coy as Jean
Sanj Surati as Ryan
Vanessa Govinden as Nicole
Peter Harmer as Harvey
Jessica Hymas as Shelley
Alex Adams as Matthew
Lachlan McCall as Jack
and the voice of Sarah-Louise Young as the narrator

Also Featuring

Alice Haughton
Amy Steel
as Marisa's Friends

Benedict Buckley
Jolyon Coy
Chloe Hannah
Naomi Hannah
Hannah McKechnie
Sophie Ommanney
Baruch Spiegel
Sam Taylor
as Jean's Friends

Directed & Edited by Alex Barrett
Written by Alex Barrett & Rahim Moledina
Produced by Rahim Moledina
Voice-Over Recording by Jason Creasey
Sound Design by Jason Creasey
Paintbrush Logo Designed by Andrew Gill
Extra Special thanks to: Martyn & Annette Barrett
Vanessa Govinden
All those who helped in someway

The events, characters and incidents portrayed in this short motion picture are fictitious. Any similarity with actual persons, places, buildings, products, companies, corporations, institutions, websites, events or circumstances is entirely coincidental and not intentional, and no identification with any of the above is intended or should be inferred.

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About TIGA KALI STUDIO

TIGA KALI STUDIO is a new media production company founded by Alex Barrett, Maulin Patel and Andrew Shau Seong Yap in Autumn 2005, with the primary goal of producing fresh, uniquely recognisable and thoughtful independent short films. In addition, they have created a website which acts not only as a source of information and publicity about their films, but also as a host for original online art galleries. All three founding members have achieved an individual level of recognition and success, and believe that they can capitalise upon this through dedicated teamwork, both with each other and with the network of freelance talent they have built up around them. The company intends to continue to create distinctive and innovative products targeted at a wide and intelligent audience.

TIGA KALI STUDIO's debut fictional short *Great & Small* has recently been seen at film festivals, while their current co-production with ROLL WITH IT PRODUCTIONS LTD – *Andrew* – is expected to be seen playing on the festival circuit over the coming months, as is their recently completed short film *Canbury*. In addition, the storyboards for their film '...' are featured in the latest edition of the influential book 'The Guerrilla Film Makers Handbook' by Chris Jones and Genevieve Jolliffe. For more information on the company, its founders, and its films, please visit www.tigakalistudio.co.uk.

Contact Details

To contact any of the cast and crew of *Paintbrush*, please email tigakalistudio@googlemail.com

