

DAVID AUSTEN: END OF LOVE

11 December 2010 - 20 February 2011

End of Love is the latest in a series of films by the artist David Austen (b. Harlow, 1960, lives and works in London). Austen's practice encompasses painting, drawing, sculpture, and more recently film, and shows an unceasing fascination with people through myriad observations of thoughts, actions, relationships and performances, reaching from the tender to the absurd. These depictions appear in diverse form from swift studies to intense narratives, but all resonate with a directness and rawness that typifies Austen's practice. Imbued with a nostalgic quality and steeped in the languages of 19th and 20th century film and literature, and crime and science fiction novels, Austen's work emerges as something wholly original.

In recent years Austen has produced short films; whilst formally distinct, they run in close parallel to his work in other mediums. The ambitious new film *End of Love* created for his Stanley Picker Fellowship at Kingston University, embraces themes of human impulse and emotion explored in two previous films: *Smoking Moon* and *Crackers*, 2007. Austen describes *End of Love* as 'a musical without music, performed at the end of the world'. The location is the stage of a London theatre where there is no audience. We meet twelve characters that all seem desperate and suffering, marginal figures who are homeless or wanderers and who present themselves in a vulnerable and exposed way. They may sometimes appear brutal, but like the human figures in Austen's drawings they are also fragile, childlike and tenderly depicted.

Referencing theatre, literature, expanded cinema and performance, as well as the artist's personal practice, *End of Love* is a poetic expression of love's elusiveness, the non-linearity of time, and fleeting facets of personal memory. A stellar cast including Vicky McClure (*This is England*, 2006; *This is England '86*, 2010), Elliot Cowan (*Macbeth*, Globe Theatre, 2010) and Joseph Mawle (*Red Riding*, 2009) are amongst the professional actors that appear in *End of Love*.

Austen's exhibition extends into The Yard, with the evocatively titled *Smoke Town*. The walls are clad with giant billboard posters of the film's protagonists and short enigmatic texts that read as film titles or characters' names, which stem from such sources as the gothic novels of American writer William Faulkner and the graffiti on a Dublin cemetery wall. Illuminated by a series of spectacular hanging lights fabricated from concentric rings of steel, The Yard is transformed into an atmospheric space resonant of an other-worldly station platform or the threshold to a gothic theatre.

A fully-illustrated catalogue has been produced to accompany the exhibition. David Austen will be in conversation with Nicolas Roeg, director and cinematographer, on Wednesday 26 January, and Austen has also selected a rich programme of film screenings. Please see our Programme Guide for full details of these events.

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Credits

Cast

Dark Angel ... Vicky McClure
Dandy ... Joseph Mawle
Moon ... Liam Smith
Petty Criminal him ... David Leon
Petty Criminal her ... Mia Austen
Homeless Man ... Paul Anderson
Fat Man ... Elliot Cowan
Nobody ... Obi Abili
Trapeze Artiste ... Jenn Murray
Astronaut ... David Austen
Prisoner of Love ... Mia Austen
Jack ... Richard Bremmer

Crew

Director of Photography ... Benjamin Pritchard
Editor ... Simon Cozens
1st Assistant Director ... Dominic Asbridge
Casting Director ... Lesley Beastall
Costume Designer ... Kate Forbes
Hair & Make-up Designer ... Robert Frampton

Focus Puller ... Rupert Hornstein
Clapper Loader ... Rob Gilmour
Camera Trainee ... Peter Jeffery
Grip ... Malcolm McGilchrist
Black & White Film ... Sam Austen
Stills ... Sam Austen, Peter Georgallou
Sound Recordist ... John Currie
Boom Operator ... Mike Hasler
Boom Operator ... Gavin Marshal
Continuity ... Jon Frame
Runner ... Nick Bamigboye
Runner ... Ben Murray

Make-up Artist & Hairdresser ... Annabel Reeves
Hair & Make-up Assistant ... Bethan Owens
Hair & Make-up Assistant ... Liz Patey

Wardrobe Assistant ... Alex Rathbone
Prisoner of Love Dress ... Gabrielle Taylor
City of Love & Fear Trolley ... Peter Georgallou
Sound Editor ... Jennie Evans
Sound Mixer ... Matthew Gough
Score ... The Leg
End song 'butter' ... Vicky Steer

Post Production ... The Mill
Post Producer ... David J. Phillips
Colourist ... Aubrey Woodiwiss
Smoke ... James Pratt
Titles ... Fraser Muggeridge studio

Production Accountant ... Rob Appleyard
Production Insurance ... Mark Good, Stonehouse Conseillers
Camera Equipment ... Arri Media
Lighting Equipment ... Panalux
Film Lab ... Soho Film Lab
Online Post and Grade ... The Mill
Film Supplied by ... Fujifilm

The Rose Theatre:

Head of Production ... Wayne Parry
Stage Supervisor ... Matthew Robinson
Lighting & Sound Supervisor ... David Starmer
Production Technician ... Jennifer Chatfield
Production Technician ... John Osmond
Production Technician ... David Lam

Commissioned by the Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston University

Produced by Partizan Films

Production Assistant ... Jackie Thomas
Production Manager ... Mags Milan
Producer ... Christopher Goulder
Executive Producer ... David Falkner
Executive Producers ... David Stewart, Madeleine Sanderson, Georges Bermann

Written and Directed by David Austen

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