"INDEPENDENT FILMS ARE A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE FUTURE OF FILMS. THEY BRING ABOUT NEW IDEAS, NEW WAYS OF TELLING STORIES, AND NEW WAYS OF SEEING THINGS."
- MARTIN SCORSESE

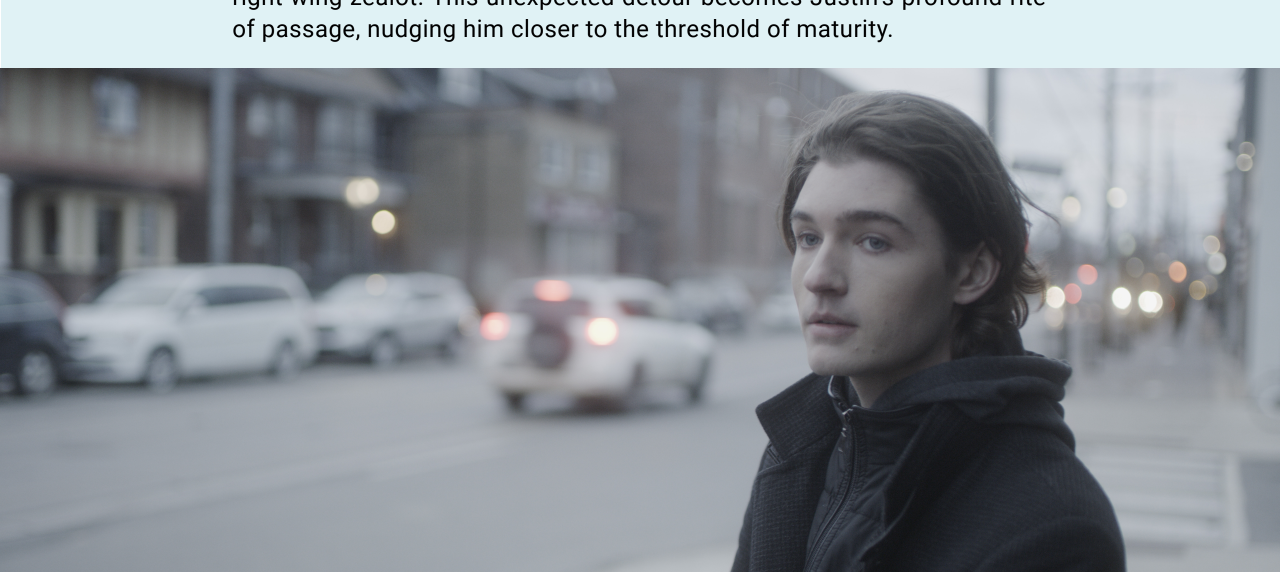
A GILMAN CONTENT FILM

AFTER HER SMILE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
MORTFOTOUHI

SYPNOSIS

AFTER HER SMILE delves into the tumultuous journey of Justin, an aspiring singer-songwriter, adrift in the uncertainties of life. When he finds solace in moving in with Mary, their contrasting worlds collide—his financial instability clashing with her high hopes for their future. This delicate bond is strained further when a chance meeting with Tanya, an intriguing train passenger, introduces the possibility of a new love and a world full of excitement. However, a conflict with Tanya's ex thrusts Justin into an unplanned adventure. Stranded without a lifeline, he navigates interactions with a diverse group of individuals, from a fervent environmentalist to a staunch right-wing zealot. This unexpected detour becomes Justin's profound rite of passage, nudging him closer to the threshold of maturity.



CAST

We're excited to introduce a stellar cast who have not only matched but arguably surpassed the performances of A-list actors. Their passion and dedication have brought an extraordinary level of authenticity and vibrancy to the screen. While some may have started as amateurs, their performances are nothing short of professional, breathing life into their characters with remarkable depth and realism.

MEET THE CAST OF **AFTER HER SMILE**

MEGAN BLACK as *Roxanne*
MADELINE LEON as *Mary*
BEN BRISBON as *Justin*
JD LESLIE as *Elizabeth*
LAUREN FIELDS as *Jennifer*
EMIL GLASSBOURG as *Mason*
MARCELLO RANIERI as *Sam*
VICTORIA DUNSMORE as *Krista*
COREY ELIZABETH JACKSON as *Barbara*
SAM WHITE as *Lawyer*
TRACEY WOODS as *Lectiophile*
DOMINIQUE BELA as *Tanya*
WILL JEFFS as *Andrei*
MATTHEW BANIAK as *Alex*
BRANDON O'NEIL WILLIAMS as *Peter*
JOHN GAUTHIER as *Woodsman*
JOANNA SAUL as *Pamela*
MAÏZA DUBHÉ as *Suzanne*
JULIETTE LOUIE as *Lisa*
ASHLEY SAMLALL as *Julie*
KONSTANTINA MANTELOS as *Scarlett*
SHAHAB PIERRE as *Driver*
MINI CHHABARIA as *Driver's Wife*
PETER HODGINS as *Ron*
CHRIS POTTER as *Biker*

EACH ACTOR HAS UNIQUELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FILM'S NARRATIVE, MAKING **AFTER HER SMILE** A COMPELLING AND MUST—WATCH CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE.
THEIR PERFORMANCES ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE FILM'S COMMITMENT TO AUTHENTICITY AND EMOTIONAL DEPTH.

CREW

In the making of **AFTER HER SMILE,** we were fortunate to have a team of exceptionally talented individuals, each bringing their unique expertise and passion to the project. While they may not have been household names, their dedication and skill were paramount in bringing the film to life. From the visionary direction of Mort Fotouhi to the captivating cinematography of Roger Singh, each member played a vital role. The film's musical landscape was masterfully crafted by composer Tim Beck, while Kazunobu Sano's expertise in editing and visual effects added depth and finesse to the final product.

KEY CREW MEMBERS

MORT FOTOUHI | Writer/Director
ROGER SINGH | Director of Photography
TIM BECK | Composer
KAZUNOBU SANO | Editor/VFX Supervisor

Each of these artists, though not widely recognized, displayed a level of professionalism and creativity often associated with the industry's best. Their collective efforts resulted in a film that is not only a testament to their talents but also an inspiration for future projects.
AFTER HER SMILE stands as a brilliant example of how passion and dedication can bring cinematic visions to life, regardless of mainstream recognition.

A MESSAGE OF INSPIRATION AND INNOVATION.
AFTER HER SMILE IS MORE THAN JUST A FILM; IT'S A CALL TO AUDIENCES TO TAKE THEIR OWN LEAPS, STAY TRUE TO THEIR INSTINCTS, AND ANSWER THE INNER CALL TO CREATE, INNOVATE, AND INSPIRE.

THIS FILM INVITES VIEWERS ON A JOURNEY OF LOVE,ART, AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF LIFE, AS SEEN THROUGH A CINEMATIC LENS AND A UNIQUE VISION.

OUR STORY : AFTER HER SMILE—A VISIONARY APPROACH TO FILMMAKING

Founded in 2018, Gilman Content embarked on its cinematic journey with the ambitious project **AFTER HER SMILE**. The company, stepping away from mainstream commercial constraints, is committed to crafting unique art that offers a refreshing alternative to conventional narratives. This commitment is evident in their dedication to producing **AFTER HER SMILE** in Canada, showcasing their distinctive independent voice.

MORT FOTOUHI: A JOURNEY FROM ENGINEERING TO FILMMAKING

The brainchild behind **AFTER HER SMILE** Mort Fotouhi, transitioned from a career as a Pharmaceutical Engineer to filmmaking, a testament to following one's passion. Mort honed his skills at a film school in Michigan and quickly made a mark in the industry with several short films. His work received recognition for its direction and cinematography, setting the stage for his feature film debut with **AFTER HER SMILE**.

THE INSPIRATION AND EVOLUTION OF "AFTER HER SMILE"

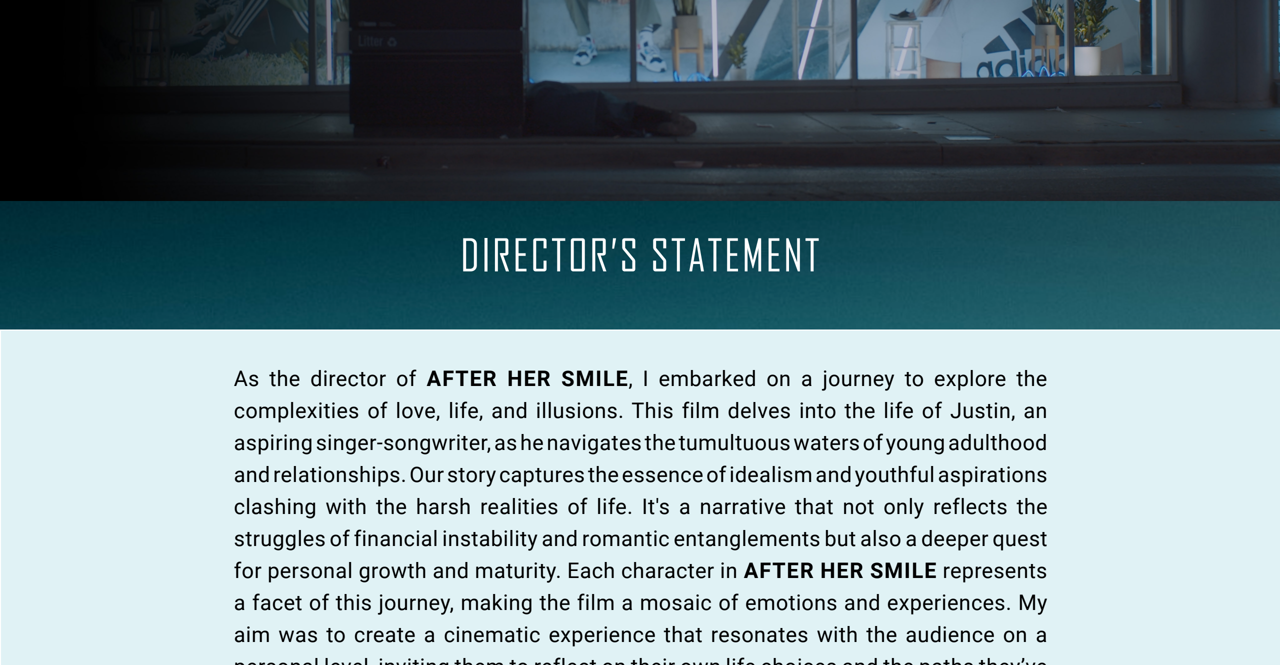
The film's concept originated from Mort's viewing of "The Second Circle" by Alexander Sokurov and was initially drafted in 2010. Over the years, the story evolved through Mort's daily train commutes, where he fleshed out the main character's journey, reflecting the shared experiences of many individuals grappling with life's uncertainties.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES: THE MAKING OF A MICRO-BUDGET FILM

Creating **AFTER HER SMILE** was a journey filled with challenges, including a demanding winter filming schedule and unforeseen production conditions. However, these challenges were met with unmatched creativity and vigor by the cast and crew. The filming in genuine locations under these conditions infused the film with organic realism, allowing audiences to connect deeply with the characters and their struggles.

ARTISTIC INFLUENCES: ITALIAN NEOREALISM AND FRENCH POETIC REALISM

The film draws inspiration from the charm of Italian neorealism and French Poetic realism, weaving together various genres like comedy and noir. It explores themes of love, lust, and the pursuit of fame, set against societal expectations and political ideologies. This stylistic choice pays homage to cinematic masterpieces and brings a unique flavor to the narrative.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As the director of **AFTER HER SMILE**, I embarked on a journey to explore the complexities of love, life, and illusions. This film delves into the life of Justin, an aspiring singer-songwriter, as he navigates the tumultuous waters of young adulthood and relationships. Our story captures the essence of idealism and youthful aspirations clashing with the harsh realities of life. It's a narrative that not only reflects the struggles of financial instability and romantic entanglements but also a deeper quest for personal growth and maturity. Each character in **AFTER HER SMILE** represents a facet of this journey, making the film a mosaic of emotions and experiences. My aim was to create a cinematic experience that resonates with the audience on a personal level, inviting them to reflect on their own life choices and the paths they've taken. This film is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of life's unexpected challenges.

GILMAN VISION

At the heart of our brand is a commitment to originality. Every movie we create is born from a unique vision, untainted by the commonplace. Driven by the belief that authenticity is often masked in today's world, we strive to tell stories that peel back the layers of pretense, revealing the raw, unfiltered truth of human experience. With a filmmaker with comprehensive knowledge of every aspect of the craft, we assert complete creative control over our projects. Our films are reflections on the bittersweet symphony of life, exploring the intricate dance of joy and sorrow. And in this pursuit of artistic truth, timelines are not dictated by clocks but by the moment a film feels complete. Our brand is not just about making movies; it's about creating cinematic experiences that challenge, enlighten, and resonate deeply with every viewer.

FAQ

1
HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO FUND THE PROJECT?

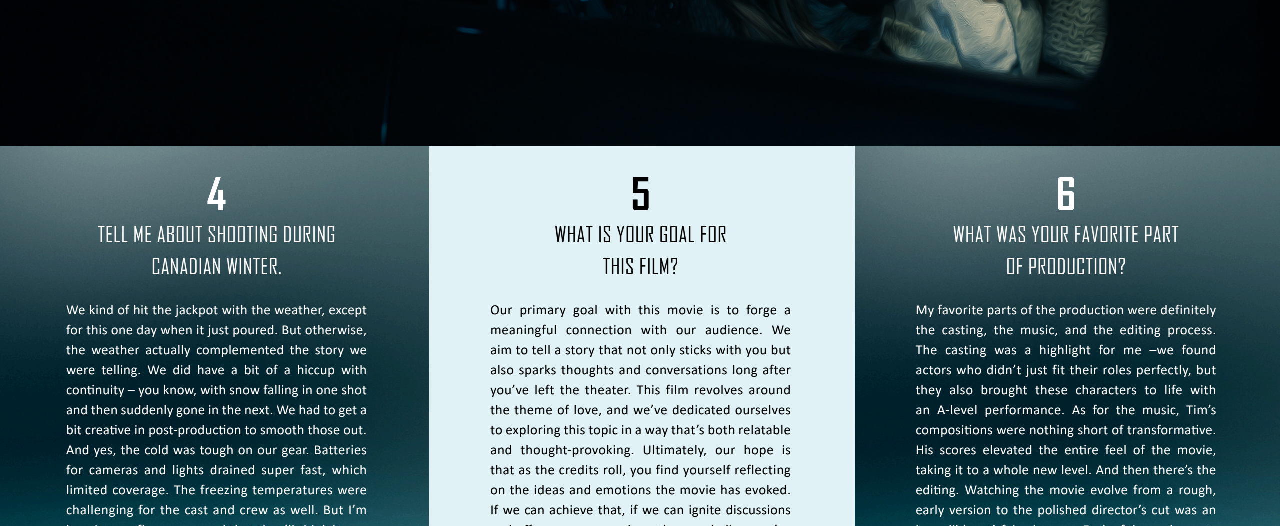
We kicked off the project with my savings or company funds – no outside help, not even a penny from the government. It was all self-financed. Things got a bit tight near the end of post-production, when I racked up 30K in credit card debt and couldn't afford the rent. But then, a friend stepped in. For the last bit of post-production, we stretched out the costs related to the mixing and mastering of the audio, marketing, and DCP (Digital Cinema Package) over 16 months. It meant I could work on the side and handle the bills as they came in. It wasn't an easy ride, but hey, we got through it on our own terms!

2
WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THIS FILM?

I wanted to shine a light on the issue of youth neglect, especially the economic hardships we've imposed on the younger generation. This film is also a bit of a reality check. It pokes holes in the common belief that we live in a caring environment. What I'm hoping is that it gets the audience seeing things from a new angle, and reflecting on what's really going on around them.

3
HOW LONG DID THE PROJECT TAKE?

It began with the screenplay and saving efforts, which spanned about seven years. Pre-production lasted about 2 months. The actual shooting of the film was completed in just 21 days. Picture editing took 18 months, and sound editing took 3.5 years. From the start of pre-production to the first official screening, the entire process took approximately five and a half (5.5) years.



4
TELL ME ABOUT SHOOTING DURING CANADIAN WINTER.

We kind of hit the jackpot with the weather, except for this one day when it just poured. But otherwise, the weather actually complemented the story we were telling. We did have a bit of a hiccup with continuity – you know, with snow falling in one shot and then suddenly gone in the next. We had to get a bit creative in post-production to smooth those out. And yes, the cold was tough on our gear. Batteries for cameras and lights drained super fast, which limited coverage. The freezing temperatures were challenging for the cast and crew as well. But I'm keeping my fingers crossed that they'll think it was all worth it once they watch the movie.

5
WHAT IS YOUR GOAL FOR THIS FILM?

Our primary goal with this movie is to forge a meaningful connection with our audience. We aim to tell a story that not only sticks with you but also sparks thoughts and conversations long after you've left the theater. This film revolves around the theme of love, and we've dedicated ourselves to exploring this topic in a way that's both relatable and thought-provoking. Ultimately, our hope is that as the credits roll, you find yourself reflecting on the ideas and emotions the movie has evoked. If we can achieve that, if we can ignite discussions and offer new perspectives, then we believe we've successfully hit our target.

6
WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF PRODUCTION?

My favorite parts of the production were definitely the casting, the music, and the editing process. The casting was a highlight for me –we found actors who didn't just fit their roles perfectly, but they also brought these characters to life with an A-level performance. As for the music, Tim's compositions were nothing short of transformative. His scores elevated the entire feel of the movie, taking it to a whole new level. And then there's the editing. Watching the movie evolve from a rough, early version to the polished director's cut was an incredibly satisfying journey. Each of these elements brought the film to life in the way I had not envisioned.

7
WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR DISTRIBUTION?

We're really excited to get this film out to movie theaters all over the world. It's got what it takes to earn recognition. We made this movie with the big screen in mind. We want the audience to get the full experience, the way it was intended, in a theater. Also, we think this film could be useful in an educational setting. Imagine it being used in schools or universities for character studies or sparking some really hot discussions. And, I'm hoping this film opens some doors for me. I see it as a stepping stone to introduce what I can do in filmmaking. So, fingers crossed it turns out to be a good calling card for the next project.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Video Quality: 4K (4096 x 1716 pixels)
Aspect Ratio: 2.38:1
Audio Format: Dolby Atmos (7.1.4)

AHS
AFTER HER SMILE