

The word "Edith" is written in a stylized, cursive script font.The words "mini productions" are written in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

CHRISTIAN COOKE DIRECTORIAL DEBUT: SHORT FILM "EDITH" - SHOOTING DECEMBER 2015

For immediate release (September, 2015)

Actor Christian Cooke is set to shoot his directorial debut short film Edith in December of this year. Cooke (*The Art of More, Stonemouth, Love Rosie, Cemetery Junction*) who is widely known for his successful acting career, has brought together a strong line up of talent to create a film that tackles the issues of bereavement in old age. Cooke comments: *"Edith was exactly the type of short I was looking to make. It's a film that has cinematic scope and the potential for huge visual creativity but it's also a personal, character driven story. It is about the ultimate sadness that people are faced with in life: the loss of a loved one; but crucially, is it is about how we find strength to deal with the sadness and move forward from it."*

The film stars the BAFTA and multi-award winning Peter Mullan (*Trainspotting, Tyrannosaur, War Horse*) and Game of Thrones star Michelle Fairley (*Game of Thrones, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*). Produced by Sara Huxley and April Kelley at Mini Productions and executively produced by Fiona Neilson and Mat Whitecross of Mint Pictures, who was brought to the project as they "...had worked previously with Christian as an actor and admired his hard work and creativity in front of the camera." Neilson says *"He approached me with a great script by Ray Robinson and had just as much drive as a Director as he had shown in his acting, which made me join up without hesitation"*

Edith is an original screenplay written by the talented Ray Robinson who first won attention in 2006 with his debut novel, *Electricity*. It was shortlisted for both the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and the Authors' Club First Novel Award. The film adaptation of *Electricity*, starred Agyness Deyn, Tom Georgeson and Christian Cooke and made its world premiere at the BFI London Film Festival 2014. Key crew for the film includes Director of Photography Si Bell, who has also recently been featured in the 'Meet the New Wave' section in *British Cinematographer*. He shot the second series of BBC Three's 'People Just Do Nothing' and is now in preproduction on the opening feature length episode of *Ripper Street Series 4*.

Running alongside the project is an Indiegogo campaign to support raising the crucial funds needed to make the film. Producers April and Sara say *"It's a joy working with such a talented team and as is the nature of short film, they have been drawn to it because they have a love for the project. This film is an ambitious one and we need the support of an audience to make sure we can deliver it to the highest possible quality it deserves."*

Edith is set against the beautiful barren landscape of Northern England and explores the life of Jake, played by Mullan, an elderly man coping with the death of his wife Edith. Robinson comments: *"Like most of my work, Edith started out as a short story, a narrative piece about grief, in particular the loss of my grandfather. We were very close and I don't think I'll ever get over his death. I saw him three times after he passed, and it wasn't a pleasant experience. I don't believe in the supernatural, but he was definitely hanging around – in my head, my memories, in my inability to let go."* *Edith* deals with the issues of love, regret and bereavement in old age, a popular topic at the moment with articles such as *'The Top 5 Regrets of the Dying'* being published by the Guardian. With a stellar line-up and moving storyline this film promises to be something very special.

Follow all the film updates on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Christian-Cooke-151748031836122/timeline/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Mini_Prods

Mini Productions: <http://miniproductions.co.uk/portfolio/edith/>

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About Mini Productions

At our core, Mini Productions believe in the power of storytelling and the magic that lies behind escaping reality and diving into the world of another. We serve to inspire.

Mini Productions is a London based production company specialising in film and theatre. It was founded in 2012 by April Kelley with a mission to nurture creative talent and bring stories to life on screen. In 2013 Sara Huxley joined the company and together they expanded into production for theatre. With a wealth of contacts at their fingertips and a focus on the power of storytelling, they bring together the best team possible for each project and intelligently craft new ideas into innovative and exciting realities, with their personal touch. Our recent credits include: **'Soror'** by James Webber (*Driftwood*) starring Rosie Day (*The Seasoning House, Sixteen, All Roads Lead To Rome*), Sian Breckin (*Donkey Punch, Tyrannosaur, Starred Up*), James Alexandrou (*Eastenders*) and Kate Dickie (*Game of Thrones, Red Road, Prometheus, Flith*). Michael Beddoes, **'Flotsam'** a psychologically thriller starring Sikander Malik (*Hollyoaks*). **'Tea for Two'** directed by Mark Brennan starring Amanda Barrie (*Carry On Cleo, Coronation Street, Bad Girls*) and John Challis (*Only Fools and Horses*). After an extremely successful BAFTA screening, **'Tea ForTwo'** now embarks on the festival circuit.. **'The Vertical Hour'** at Park Theatre, directed by BAFTA winner Nigel Douglas and starring Peter Davison (*Dr Who*). The London revival went on to receive five star reviews in national press. Most recently we shot gruesome horror, **'The Prey'** by James Webber starring Sam Gittins (*Mr Selfridge, Call The Midwife, Driftwood*) & James Alexandrou (*Eastenders*) will be distributed by exciting, new online platform **Findie**.

About Mint Pictures

Mat Whitecross began his career making music videos for various artists, including Coldplay, The Rolling Stones, Take That and Jay-Z. In 2009, he travelled to Thailand to film *Moving to Mars*, a documentary about the Karen tribes people, which won the prestigious Grierson Award for Best Documentary in 2010. Whitecross's next feature *Sex&Drugs&Rock&Roll* – a surreal biopic of punk legend Ian Dury - was released to critical acclaim, and nominated for Best Actor and Music at the 2010 BAFTAs. His following film *Ashes*, a road movie thriller about a man with Alzheimer's, starred Ray Winstone and Jim Sturgess. He has just completed *Spike Island*, a coming-of-age drama set against the backdrop of the Stone Roses' era-defining gig of the same name. This year saw the release of *Fleming*, a 4-part drama about the life of Bond author Ian Fleming, starring Dominic Cooper. Upcoming projects include *GB84*, an adaptation of the seminal novel by Red Riding author David Peace; and *Masquerade*, based on the children's classic. Fiona began her career in film in the 1990s at director Michael Winterbottom and producer Andrew Eaton's Revolution Films. From 1998 – 2002. She was initially Head of development working on all of Revolution's productions, moving up to producing through the company.

Fiona was a producer on Winterbottom's *IN THIS WORLD* which won the Golden Bear at the 2003 Berlin Film Festival and the 2004 Bafta for Best Foreign Language Film. In 2004 Fiona established Fiesta Production and was selected as one of Screen International's "Stars of Tomorrow". In 2009 Fiesta was a recipient of the prestigious UKFC Vision award. In 2011 Fiona Produced *ASHES* directed by award-winning director Mat Whitecross, starring Ray Winstone, Jim Sturgess, Lesley Manville, Jodie Whittaker and Luke Evans. For CinemaNX and the band Coldplay. In 2012 her second feature with Whitecross, *SPIKE ISLAND* premiered at the London Film Festival and was released in the UK in June 2013 by Universal/vertigo. The film won best screenplay at Dinard 2013. *HELLO CARTER* produced in 2013 starring Charlie Cox, Paul Schneider & Jodie Whittaker directed by Anthony Wilcox premiered at Dinard 2013 and The LFF and will be released Autumn 2014 in the UK. In February 2013 Fiona left Fiesta to set up Mint Pictures with Director Mat Whitecross. The company will produce Whitecross's films and for other talent as well. The company has an active slate with awards from BFI, Creative England and JLB amongst others.