



[The Film & Video Institute](http://www.theiac.org.uk)

THE IAC BRITISH INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FILM COMPETITION 2018

Judges' Comments

Title: Annie Waits
Number: 17110
Award: IAC Diamond and Best Comedy

The romantic comedy has always been a popular genre and *Annie Waits* contributes to the tradition with an interesting take of a modern woman looking (or perhaps not looking) for love.

The opening to this film feels like a pre-title to a Richard Curtis film; A voice-over from the protagonist explaining their complex views on relationships. If the main character had been male, you might expect the monologue to have been delivered by Hugh Grant. Instead we have the beautifully and ironically named Annie Waits.

Unlike *Notting Hill*, Annie's intimate voice-over continues throughout the film. Although this is generally effective, this device overstays its welcome a little and it's frustrating that we aren't given the opportunity to get to know the other characters.

However, there are some lovely moments of wry humour that will delight the audience. This is helped by small snippets of actuality that augment and blend with the commentary.

The camerawork, lighting and music are of an exceptionally high standard. There are some lovely shots using tracks that are rich in colour and employ a beautiful depth-of-field. These qualities raise the production values significantly above the norm.

But it's the way *Annie Waits* has been directed and edited that gives the film a pleasing slickness. In order to convey Annie's sense of ennui, shot-sequences are frequently mirrored and repeated. A great example is when we see her falling back on the pillow after making love in various states of satisfaction and dissatisfaction. What better way to summarise the health of a relationship?

The whole production is very sharp and well-acted. The nice little twist at the end of the story is particularly satisfying. Once again, there are strong echoes of Richard Curtis, as the protagonist reconsiders her life goals. Just as Hugh Grant decides that he is no longer interested in weddings, Annie decides that the idea of having a baby isn't quite so bad.

There will be no change of heart in our assessment of this film. This is a fantastic effort and will be a guaranteed crowd pleaser at the festival.

Paul Kittel on behalf of:

Judging Panel: Jeanne Glass, Simon Sumner FAcI and Paul Kittel