



RASPBERRY SORBET

SHORT FILM

by Biser Jonev

Synopsis

An isolated teenager (MICKEY) loses his older sister (SOPHIE) in the November 2015 Paris terrorist attacks. The next summer he sets out to avenge her death by detonating a handmade explosive device in the central mosque in Sofia during prayer. On his way there he stumbles on a girl from his class which he has a crush on (LENA) and she invites him for a raspberry sorbet. Mickey rejects her invitation but she discovers his plan and tries to convince him to stop. He doesn't listen and enters the mosque. Lena follows him inside with a risk for her own life. Suddenly amongst the anonymous antagonists is a person Mickey knows and cherishes. Nevertheless, his mind is made and he starts the timer of the bomb. Lena stays in the mosque and as Mickey is walking away, he gets a grand vision of melting raspberry sorbet flowing around and under his feet. This display of guilt and affection convinces him to turn back and disarm the bomb just before the explosion. Later that day Mickey and Lena are sharing a raspberry sorbet and he starts opening up about his loss.

Project description

Logline

An isolated teenager grieving his sister's death at the 2015 Paris terrorist attacks, tries to avenge her by blowing up a mosque in his hometown in Bulgaria.

One young and innocent boy's sense of powerlessness evolves into a plan for a terrorist attack - in response to another one in Paris in 2015. Through his tragedy, Raspberry Sorbet juxtaposes two methods of operating in a polarised world where heroes and villains often look the same - that of violence and that of dialogue. The short film is a social drama but functions as a thriller saturated with suspense.

While Mickey is ready to avenge his sister's death, Lena risks her own life to save Mickey. The story told through the eyes of two young lovers carries a bittersweet aftertaste as the viewer realizes that even the most innocent and pure falling in love is tainted by hatred as distant as it is contagious.

Although the roots of the story are painfully entwined in reality, we will create an image that is at odds with it. It will resemble a Magritte painting rather than have a realistic look. It will be stylized and have a sense of magic. We'll create bold and minimalistic compositions, including only what is necessary for the narrative and leaving wide empty spaces. Sometimes we will deliberately hide elements of the story to evoke curiosity and focus the viewer's attention. The main image of the film is when Mickey is walking in the river of melting raspberry sorbet. Something so innocent as the ice cream is now so much bigger than him. This visual exaggeration must leave a feeling of an impasse - no matter how much he runs Mickey must face the reality of his situation.

From a production point of view, Raspberry Sorbet is intended as an international co-production. To this end, the plan is to attend pitching forums and development labs in parallel with securing production funding. The financial plan includes funding from national sources in Bulgaria as well as an international partner to facilitate the scenes that take place in Paris and to support the scenes that require special effects. The total budget is 75,000 EUR, of which 58,000 EUR are expected from the Bulgarian side. The production strategy entails five shooting days, one of which is to take place on location in Paris.

"Raspberry Sorbet" is a memorable and bold project that has the potential to appeal to festival audiences. Its social and youth themes make Berlinale Generation the target for its international premiere. Other target festivals include Locarno, Sarajevo, and the French Cannes and Clermont Ferrand festivals. A concrete calendar plan will be developed in collaboration with the project's distributor New Born Short Film Agency.

Provocative, defiant, taboo - it's hard to talk about revenge, religious hatred, and anger, but this is the power of cinema - to tackle sensitive issues and dissect them through the cinematic lens. This is why it is important to tell stories such as Raspberry Sorbet and allow young artists to open up the public dialogue.

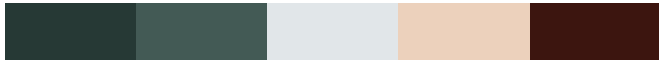


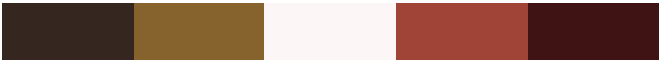
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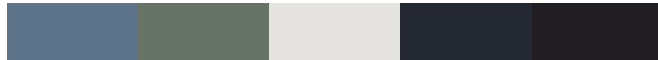
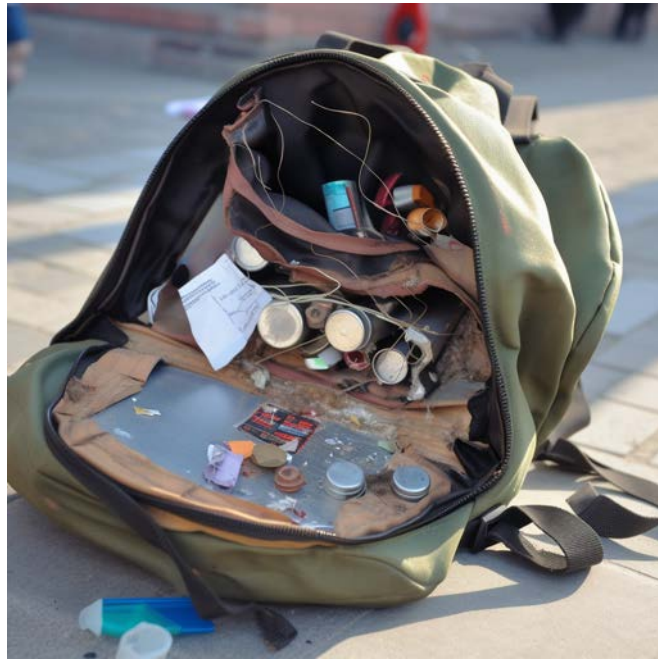
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