

Wilder Films Presents

RIPPLE

Synopsis

One small random act of malice forces an ordinary man off the safe road and on to a dark journey that he'll never forget.

Director's Statement

Ripple was inspired by one day in my life that went spectacularly wrong. None of the events are the same, but the build up of connected actions and the mounting sense of anxiety and frustration are horribly familiar and similar. (My day involved a violent lodger, a car accident, a stolen car and a wrongful arrest for drink driving).

Ripple is a black comedy about the randomness of fate and what ordinary people are capable of when put under extreme pressure. The opening of the film, the way the central character Martin is introduced, highlights the randomness of his fate. His story could have happened to anyone on the motorway. We wanted the audience to have the sense that this could be happening to me. Although essentially a comedy, we wanted the film to be very realistic and believable. The central character is an everyman, neither bad nor good. What happens to him is all possible if not probable. I directed it realistically so the bottom line is that all the events could happen.

When we cast Ben Crompton as the lead I had a surge of confidence that the film was going to work. He's a very convincing realistic actor and perfectly captures the everyman quality I was looking for. Almost the whole film was shot handheld. The photography and the editing reflect the way Martin is feeling at each stage of the story. I wanted the style of the film to create in us the same feeling the events of the film creates in the hero; a mounting sense of tension and anxiety. The music was another important narrative device. The songs by Detroit blues singer Jawbone were chosen to heighten our sense of Martin's alienation as he travels through unfamiliar countryside and to mirror his growing unease and frustration.

Ultimately Ripple sets out to entertain, to take viewers on an emotional rollercoaster ride. I tried to follow the advice of the great Billy Wilder: "I have ten commandments. The first nine are, thou shalt not bore. The tenth is, thou shalt have right of final cut".

I wanted to make a short film that never bored, that entertained by making the audience laugh and occasionally wince and flinch as they share our hero's downfall. Being self financed I also had the final cut.

Paul Gowers, *co-writer and director.*

Paul Gowers - Writer & Director

Biography

Paul first dreamt of a career in films when as a teenager he fell in love with Shirley Maclaine in 'The Apartment'. After working as an editor and a brief stint as a producer he started directing films and commercials through Imagination and Park Village for clients such as Ford, Coca-Cola and Ericsson.

In 1999 he was commissioned to write and direct a drama for the Football Hall of Fame on London's Southbank. The success of that film 'Hope & Glory' led to representation by Rochelle Stevens, more ads and a comedy pilot for Channel 4 called 'Anderson'.

In 2004, Paul formed his own production company to work across commercials, corporates and broadcast. In 2005, Paul's films helped London win the 2012 Olympics. Over the years he has won numerous industry awards in London and New York. Paul named his company Wilder after Billy Wilder the director of his favourite film 'The Apartment'.

Filmography

Drama

Ripple (2008)

Black comedy about the randomness of fate starring Ben Crompton.

Anderson (2000)

Channel 4 Comedy Lab starring Mark Williams and Mark Benton.

Hope & Glory (1999)

Short film about a young boy who dreams of becoming a professional footballer.

Starring Martin Delaney and Toby Jones.

Commercials

Ford S-Max 'Runner'

Coca-Cola 'Kiss'

Ford StreetKa 'Kylie'

British Gas 'Doing the Right Thing'

Ericsson 'Unsung Heroes'

England & Wales Cricket Board 'One Game'

Documentary

The People's Millions ITV1 (2007)

Richard Batty - Producer

Biography

Richard has over 20 years experience in production. He has worked with many of the world's leading commercial directors such as Daniel Kleinman, Jonathan Glazer and Spike Jonze on award campaigns such as Sony Bravia, John Smiths with Peter Kaye and the last 4 James Bond title sequences. Richard is now Managing Director and a producer at Wilder the company he formed with Paul Gowers in 2004.

Jim North - Writer

Biography

Jim began his career performing stand up. After rave revues as 'The Table' in Hudson and Pepperdine's 1998 Edinburgh show, Jim returned to Edinburgh in 1999 with the Arthur Dung show which he co-wrote. Jim has co-written and performed in three series of BBC Radios 'The Bigger Issues'. On television Jim has enjoyed roles in 'My family' and 'Small Potatoes' and is a writer on the award winning Fur TV series. Jim is an integral member of creative collective Wilder, writing scripts for commercials and films.

Cast & Crew

Director *Paul Gowers*

Writers *Jim North & Paul Gowers*

Producer *Richard Batty*

Co-Producer *Rob Mercer*

Cast

Martin *Ben Crompton*

Woman *Lucy Holt*

Angry boyfriend *Glenn Doherty*

Good samaritan *Bill Thomas*

Garage man *Tony Bluto*

Samaritan's wife *Sandy Walsh*

Martin's girlfriend *Abbie Hirst*

Crew

DOP *Brett Turnbull*

Editor *Russ Clapham*

Casting Director *Anna Kennedy*

Songs by *Jawbone*, Original music by *Michael Conn*

Production Managers *Mollie Halford, Polly Geogieva*

1st ADs *Justin Murphy, Greg Hobden*

Production Designer *Huw Arthur*

Art Director *Matt Street*

Hair and Make-up / Stylists *Noella Mingo, Tina Young*

Focus Pullers *Catherine Leathers, Fran Weston*
Clapper Loaders *Mathew Cole, Victoria Simpson*
Sound Recordist *John Hayes*
Boom Operator *Garie Kan*
Grips *Alex Hudson, Mark Morley*
Gaffers *Joe Allen, Phil Ker, Carolina Schmidtholstein, Ennio de Santolo*
Electricians *Leon Ker, Liz Calvert, Kevin Robertson, Duncan Riedl*
Location Manager *Tom Reeves*
Low Loader Driver *Karl Jones*
Dog Handler *Cindy Newman at Animals Galore*
Runners *Michele Difrancesco, Drago Dragostinov, Ben Burton, Dan Bright, Chris Jeffreys, Barty Dearden, Freddie Sandilands*
Colourist *Steffan Perry at Framestore*
Flame Operator *Alix Smith at Framestore*
Sound Designer *Andy Cole at Velvet*
Credits *Michele Difrancesco*

Technical Details

Duration: 18 mins
Format: 16 mm
Ratio: 16.9 FHA
Sound: Dolby 5.1 Surround

Production Notes

The film was shot in Cambridgeshire over 2 days and 4 nights in early summer when it became dark at 10 at night and light again by 4.30am. We had a cast of seven people, a dog, a chicken, a low loader, a small motor home, two dozen eggs, lots of torches, cartons of soup, a kettle and a dodgy smoke machine. In short it was exhilarating, frustrating, satisfying, exhausting, laughter inducing, the most rewarding experience of my career and a bloody nightmare. The only people to make any money were the Little Chef restaurant on the Baldock bypass.

Contact

Wilder

21 Little Portland Street
London W1W 8BT
t: 020 7631 3417

paulgowers@wilderfilms.co.uk
richardbatty@wilderfilms.co.uk

www.wilderfilms.co.uk
www.ripplefilm.com

Paul Gowers Agent

Rochelle Stevens

Rochelle Stevens & Co
2 Terretts Place
Upper Street
London N1 1QZ

T: 00 44 2073593900

e: rochelle@rochellestevens.com

