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# DEAR DAD

A **TRUE** STORY





## A SOCIAL-REALISM DRAMA

### LOGLINE

A recently divorced father of two struggles to get back on his feet as he gets dragged down by his ex wife.

## THE STORY

Mark is suffering from a life changing development in his life. His divorce has put him out of his home, penniless, pushed further away from his children. He tries to get back on his feet but is pushed down by his ex wife Kate and her family, degrading him from his efforts. He begins to feel weak and despite his attempt to build himself up again, he fails. Feeling hopeless and useless. But as he tries to end the suffering once and for all, something catches his eye. Memories of a better time with the children he loves. He begins to realise this whole time he hasn't been alone, and if he wants to make more memories with them, then he needs to be here.



# DIRECTOR'S VISION

Our Director Will says...

**Dear Dad** is a social realism short inspired by a true story. The emotional honesty of the story struck a chord with me and became the foundation for this film.

There's a cultural silence around male vulnerability, especially when it comes to fatherhood and family breakdown. Too often, men are portrayed as emotionally distant or absent in these narratives – or they're left out entirely. **Dear Dad** aims to explore what happens when a man, who once held his family close, finds himself on the outside looking in, unsure of his place or worth.

Visually and tonally, I was inspired by Aftersun, Normal People, and Channel 4's I AM series. These works use silence, intimacy, and naturalistic performances to allow emotion to breathe. That's the heart of **Dear Dad** – a quiet, emotionally driven narrative that doesn't rely on exposition, but on what's left unsaid. The camera often lingers in stillness, inviting the audience to feel what the character can't always express.

Creatively, we leaned into minimalism. Muted colours, natural light, and sparse production design reflect the internal state of the father – someone who feels emotionally stripped back, uncertain, and invisible. Dialogue is used sparingly, because real pain often hides in the gaps between words.

**Dear Dad** isn't just a story about divorce – it's about masculinity, mental health, and what happens when someone feels like they've lost everything they were supposed to be. My hope is that this film makes space for reflection, empathy, and conversation – especially for those who've never been asked how they're really doing.





# WRITER'S INSPIRATION

Our Writer Megan says...

This film came as an idea to me two years ago when I was back home in the summer and my father and I had one simple conversation. A conversation about mental health, which is talked about open and honestly in my family. This specific conversation however sparked a discussion within divorce and the unfair process of how Fathers can be stripped away from all their life normality.

I started to look into research on cases within court rulings for custody as well as non custody agreements and how fathers have been left in the dark without their family and realised that this is something that can be talked about and needs to be talked about. Many men suffer alone with the consequences of a decision either not made by them or made amicably. As my father told his story he told me how he never tells this to anyone, due to losing friendships since the divorce happened, and I realised I had the power to change that.

Not only tell his story but bring a community together who understand and have gone through similar situations either in the past or present. I wrote this film to bring a topic to the table that is brushed under the carpet. And not only did I write a love letter to my dad letting him see that I have heard his story and am proud of how far he's come, but the men to have guidance and know that they can pull through this dark stage of their life.





# THE CAST: OUR LEADS



**MAGNUS GORDON**

As 'Mark'

Magnus Gordon is a South West based actor with Scottish heritage. He trained at The Oxford School of Drama and has worked on stage and on screen. This has included two seasons of outdoor touring, fringe theatre and performances at the Arena Theatre and Soho Theatre.

He has shot numerous short films for the London Film School including 'Lo Sguardo' and has featured in the films 'The Critic' and '1 in 200'. He also featured in the Channel 4 drama documentary Bismarck: 24 Hours to Doom.

Initially drawn to the script by the honest portrayal of a father's determination to love and support his children despite the challenges, he is grateful to be part of this film and the message it teaches.

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Megan studied at Bath Spa University, graduating in 2019. Since then, she has taken on a variety of roles in film, theatre, commercials, and music videos, bringing versatility and passion to every project.

She was drawn to Dear Dad by the challenge of playing a character very different from herself, and because she was deeply touched by the story. Being close to her own family, Megan couldn't imagine facing the same challenges both Kate and Mark have.

With a keen interest in storytelling, Megan enjoys collaborating with dedicated teams to bring meaningful work to life.



**MEGAN HOLLIS**

As 'Kate'



# THE CAST: THE YOUNGER KIDS



**JAZMYN THOMPSON**

As 'Young Maggie'

With boundless energy Jazmyn loves all sports, animals, pink and sparkly things, family and breezes through life in song so naturally. Acting and singing was a perfect progression in joining the young creatives where she has performed in the 10 year anniversary of the production company, Shrek and many more!

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Lena is a natural storyteller who loves stepping into character and creating new roles. She has been acting with The Young Creatives since the age of four. Her roles include the crocodile in Peter Pan, Little Elsa in Frozen, Little Fiona in Shrek, and the daughter in the short film 'Land'.

Lena brings energy, imagination, and joy to every role. Outside of acting, Lena enjoys crafting, playing the piano, and exploring science. She's a proud member of the Winchester Science Centre's steering group and loves making things, seeing new places, and making new friends. She really enjoyed making new crew friends and playing the role of Harper in Dear Dad.



**LENA AMEY**

As 'Young Harper'



# THE CAST: THE OLDER KIDS



**SADIE WHITE**

As 'Older Maggie'

Sadie is a fun vibrant character with a real flair for singing, dancing and acting. At only 10 years old her Dream is to become a professional singer one day.

Since starting TYC 2 years ago she's been interested in anything at school that includes theatre production and she always auditions for main parts especially if there's a singing solo.

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Phoebe began acting at the age of seven and has been a dedicated member of The Young Creators for nearly four years. During this time, she has performed in numerous stage productions, including Mischief in Fairy Tale Land (as a witch), Frozen (as Anna), and most recently, Shrek Junior, where she played ensemble roles such as a skeleton and a Duloc villager.

Phoebe has also gained on-screen experience, appearing in the short film Papercut, a project created in collaboration with Portsmouth University graduates. Most recently, she played the role of Harper, the young daughter, in the short film Dear Dad.

Phoebe dreams of becoming a professional actress, with hopes of one day performing on cruise ships—entertaining audiences while exploring the world.



**PHEOBE LOUISE MORRELL**

As 'Older Harper'



# THE CAST



**RACHEL DOBELL**

As 'Nanny Trish'

Rachel loves film-acting, having had a lot of theatre experience in the past. She played Irene Coggins in The Mystery of Mr. E., both a musical and murder mystery. Also, Barbara Wilson in The Whip, a political thriller.

Other, shorter, projects include charity films, online commercials, training films and also some voiceover work.

Rachel enjoys working with students and offering moral support if a tripod goes missing (or similar!).

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Timothy Stone (Peter) began his career in the 1978 production of 'Oliver' in London. Subsequently he has played in adult roles in Stage, TV & Film to this present day.

In theatre, he worked at the Donmar Warehouse 1981 season, 'Y' at the Piccadilly Theatre and National Theatre. He toured with many large scale companies across the UK and Ireland and his writing has been performed in Rep theatres, London fringe, The Edinburgh Festival and last year his play 'Swimmers' was performed on Broadway.

His writing has regular broadcasts on BBC Radio. His TV work includes 'Boon' , ' Jupiter Moon' & many embarrassing adverts. His film career includes Richard Attenborough's 'Chaplin' & the Sc Fi cult hit 'Hardware'. He is still waiting for his big break!



**TIMOTHY STONE**

As 'Andrew'



# THE CAST



**NIKI MYLONAS**

As 'Nita'

Niki Mylonas trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. She has acted in all the performance genres; film, television, video, and radio, but most predominately on the stage both in the UK and abroad. Recent Film credits include: Iris in 'No Good Deed or The Dollhouse,' Nana aka The Lady in the Dark in 'I Sent My Therapist D\*\*k Pics' & The Doctor (Tea with Friends).

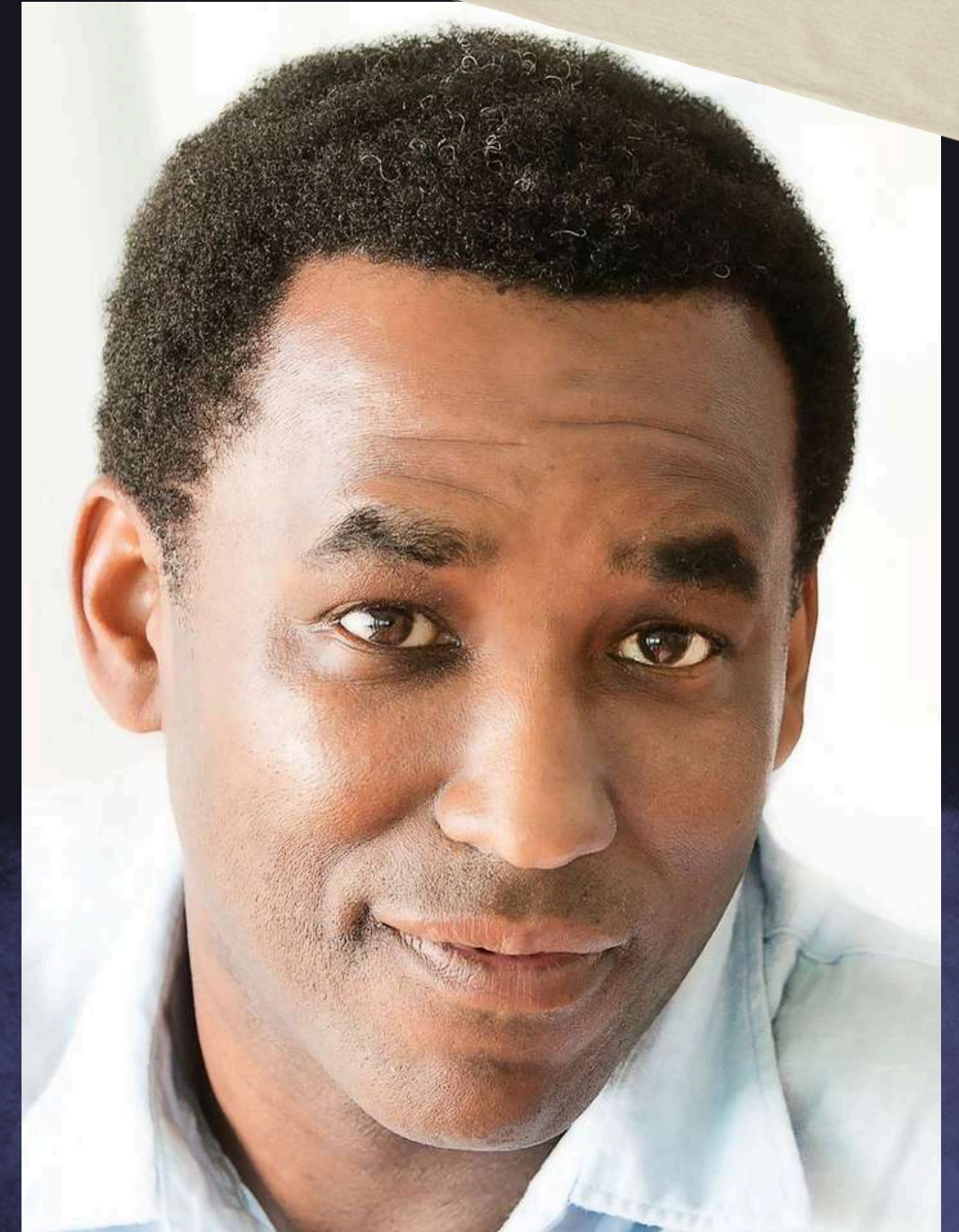
Niki is an avid writer of non-fiction, poetry, plays, an abridger of Shakespeare, an adapter of Dickens and a director, producer, and actor of companies she founded: Classical Radio Drama (YouTube), Original Radio Drama (YouTube) and Classical Stage Presentations.

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Christopher Moore has been working professionally in the industry for six years, driven by a deep passion for acting that's spanned over a decade. Inspired by the powerful performances of Denzel Washington and Christian Bale, he brings emotional depth and intensity to every role he takes on.

Christopher trained one-to-one with top acting coach Gary Condes, honing his craft with a strong foundation in character work and performance. A regular film and theatre goer, he remains committed to learning and evolving as an artist.

He was particularly drawn to this project because of its emotional truth—recognising that many fathers and children go through similar experiences. It struck a personal chord, making it an easy and heartfelt decision to be part of the story.



**CHRISTOPHER MOORE**

As 'Tony'



# THE CREW

William Blundell



I'm a driven creative with strong communication skills and a passion for honest, emotionally resonant storytelling. Most recently, I directed Dear Dad, a personal project that combined everything I love about filmmaking—thoughtful narrative, strong visuals, and close collaboration. The process deepened my commitment to every stage of production, from concept and pre-production to directing on set and refining in post. I bring clarity, care, and energy whether working with talent, managing a crew, or shaping a final cut. Dear Dad also allowed me to explore meaningful themes and grow as a filmmaker dedicated to impactful, human-centered stories.

Megan O'Loughlin



This film will always hold a special memory with me. Being able to give my father and many others out there a voice, and a chance to not feel alone in this experience.

Working on this film has provided me with multiple lessons, especially in managing authenticity within a story and keeping something true while having to make certain changes and risks for the sake of production that could alter that. But we as crew members did our very best to keep the story as it is. Real.

Bethany Curtis



Working on Dear Dad as the producer has been an insightful and invaluable experience for me. When I first heard about the story, I knew this storyline was something that I wanted to produce. I believe it's important to shed light on the mental health issues fathers may have during divorce. Within the world of film, men's mental health is rarely addressed, I felt it was important to produce a film that was highlighting this underrepresented theme.

Charlie Balchin



As the production designer for dear dad I was instrumental in making the film seem as authentic and as realistic as possible in the sense of making audiences believe it was shot during the early 2010s. I was happy to see the original plan and idea come to life and provide nostalgia to everyone on set and everyone viewing it in post. Furthermore, this film also managed to take me out of my comfort zone as I had never worked as a production designer before and I believe I did everything I could to make it as good as possible.



# THE CREW

Stephen Timney



Film is at it's best when creatives come together to make something that connects with it's audience, in this case, specifically relating to divorced dads and giving them a voice. I'm pleased to have had the opportunity to make something with a great purpose that will hopefully effect the audience in a positive way.

Harrison Butler



As the editor of Dear Dad, I helped shape its emotional impact and narrative flow. The film explores the male perspective on divorce and men's mental health—topics that are often overlooked. Through thoughtful pacing, sound design, and visual storytelling, I worked to highlight the vulnerability at the heart of the story and create space for meaningful conversation. I believe the outcome has been very successful and I hope that everyone who goes and watches this film is made aware of the male side of divorce and the struggles that come with it.

Lauren Massey



'Dear Dad' was a labour of love to divorced parents that really touched my heart from the very first concept, and i'm sure it will for many other people. I enjoyed seeing the original idea come to life with thorough planning, exploring locations and breaking down the script to see exactly what we needed to make this film happen. This project also expanded my horizons as I have never worked with child actors before, which was a highlight of my experience! I'm really proud of what we've made and Dear Dad's message about men's mental health will be everlasting.

Cameron Stewart



When I first read the script for Dear Dad, I immediately fell in love with the concept and was moved by the fact that it's based on a true story. I was genuinely excited for the opportunity to be a part of the project. As someone passionate about the camera department, I was thrilled to be offered the role of First Assistant Cameraman. Contributing to the visual storytelling, helping to convey the film's emotions and message through the lens, has been an incredible honour. This experience has taught me many essential skills for my future and has significantly boosted my confidence in my chosen field.



# CREW

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:** BEN THOMPSON  
**ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS:**  
JASON O'LOUGHLIN  
ANDREW CURTIS  
SARAH CURTIS  
PAT LOGAN  
SUE LOGAN  
PAT HAGGARTY  
ALASTAIR BIRD  
CHARLOTTE CURTIS  
**2ND AC:** RAGNAR GRIFFITHS  
**GAFFER:** JOE OLLIFFE  
**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:** PHEOBE MARTIN  
**ASSISTANT SOUND:** WILL LATHAM  
**ASSISTANT SOUND:** WILL COLLINS  
**MUSIC COMPOSER:** ALASTAIR BIRD  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR:** LUCA CICIRELLO  
**DIRECTOR'S RUNNER:** WILL ROBERTS  
**BTS PHOTOGRAPHY:** ALICE FOIS  
**RUNNER:** CAITY BRANDL

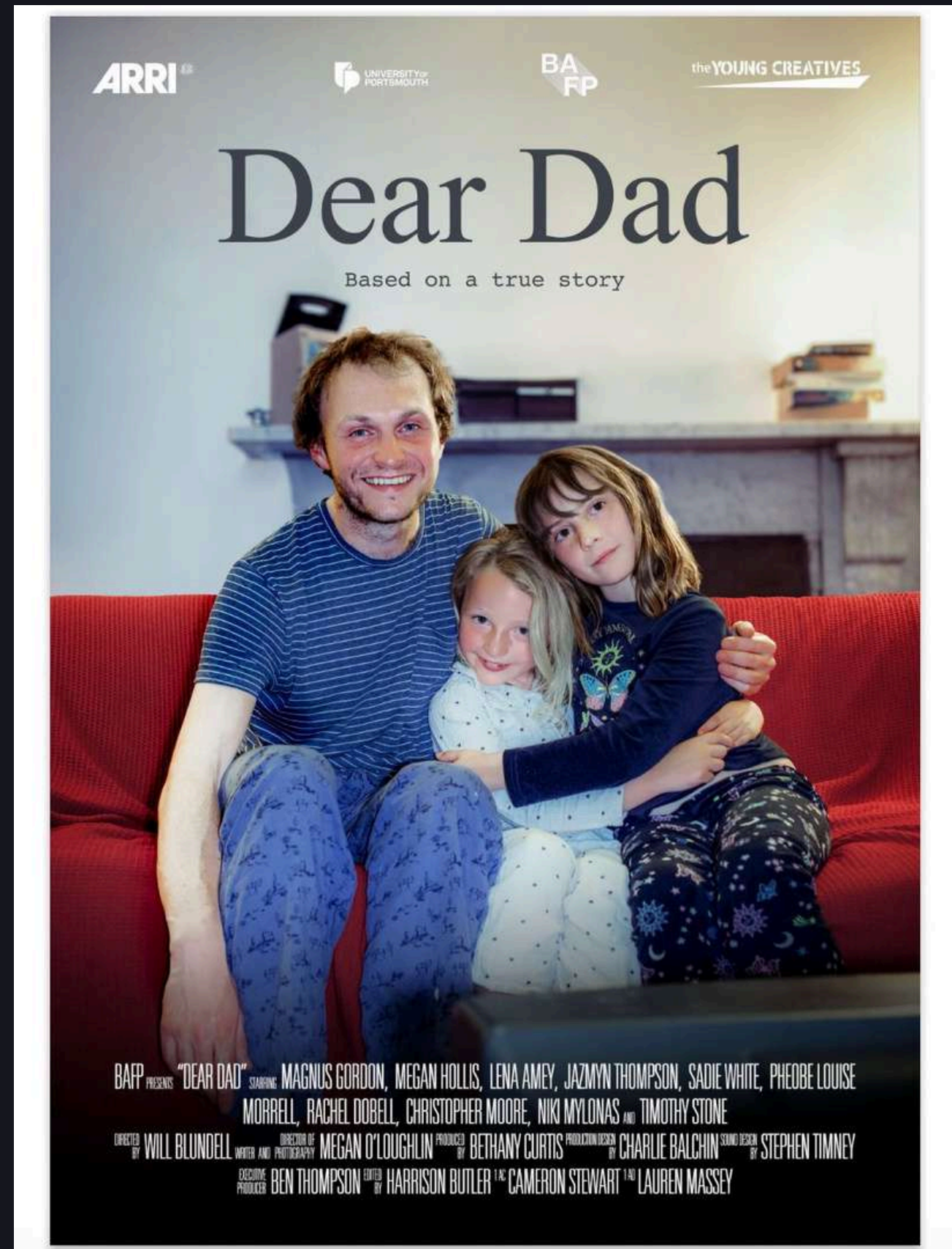
## A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONATORS AND SUPPORTERS:

Jacqui Atkey	Maria Valnarova–Boulter
Tim Atkey	Marie Boniface
Tom Atkey	Carol Timney
Jeremy Butler	Viv Haggarty
Kay Butler	Daniela Barlow
Paul Stewart	Lucy Pigram
Catherine Stewart	Euan Welstead
Richard Blundell	Tori Lane
Louisa Blundell	Kaye Barton
Helen Balchin	Jon Biggs
Peter Balchin	Molly Anscombe
Becky Warren	Eloise Doyle
Keith Warren	Ciaran Morris
Connor Magnall	Sharon Pasquini
Kate Abbey	Will Waterman
Wendy Boniface	Max Eccles

**LOCATIONS**  
Lennox Lodge:  
Asaph  
  
Luxury  
Apartment:  
Luke



# POSTERS AND ASSETS



**DOWNLOAD OUR ASSETS HERE**



WATCH OUR TRAILER HERE





A hand holding a clapperboard for the production 'Dear Dad'. The clapperboard is white with black text and a black and white striped top bar. It contains the following information: PRODUCTION Dear Dad, DIRECTOR Will Blundell, SCENE 5B, TAKE 2, ROLL A001, and DATE 17/04/25.

**STILLS AND BTS**

A man in a suit and tie, holding a camera, looking at it. He is standing in front of a car.

**[VIEW STILLS HERE](#)**

**[VIEW BTS HERE](#)**





**NYC MENTAL HEALTH  
& WELLNESS FESTIVAL**



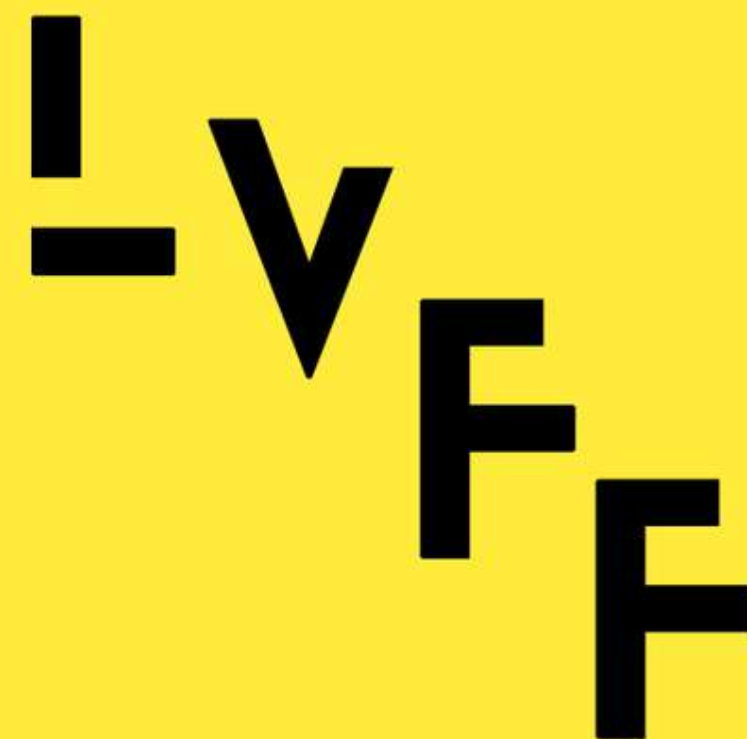
# OUR FESTIVAL MISSION

**Dear Dad** focuses on divorce and men's mental health, with a journey of self discovery. We want this film to connect to men who have been through this experience, whilst also connecting to men who are struggling with their mental health.

We have put a lot of effort into making this film, all our hard work will hopefully help us achieve success in our festival run. We hope that you all follow along on our journey and share our work with others. Our aim is to share the message of the film nationally and internationally. As part of our festival run, we are hoping to enter these festivals and be recognised for our contribution in raising awareness for men's mental health during the divorce process.

NYC Mental Health & Wellness Festival, Cork International Film Festival, Little Venice Film Festival, Go Mental International Film Festival Berlin, Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival and Make Mental Health Matter.

These are all the film festivals we are hoping to enter, they showcase films focusing on mental health. We will also be entering **Dear Dad** into national film festivals, which don't have a mental health focus, to spread and highlight the film's message to a larger audience.



**SCOTTISH  
MENTAL HEALTH  
ARTS FESTIVAL**





# OUR COMMITMENT TO MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

The film's development was informed by conversations with **Andy's Man Club**, a men's mental health charity that does vital work supporting men across the UK. Their insights into the emotional lives of men – particularly those navigating grief, loneliness, and the pressure to appear strong – helped ensure the story remained authentic and respectful.

Check out our interviews with them on our [website](#).



# #ITSOKAYTOTALK



# TECH SPEC



**Title:** Dear Dad

**Year:** 2025

**Runtime:**14:06

**Format:**MP4

**Aspect ratio:**16:9

**Sound Mix:**Stereo

**Country of Production:**England, UK

**Language:**English

**Production Company:** University of Portsmouth





## CONTACT US



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