

PORTRAIT

based on interviews
conducted with 21 models

GENERA
FILM FUNDING

HYDRAHOLIX PRODUCTIONS & GENERA PRESENT PORTRAIT
STARRING SORCHA GROUNDELL WILL NASH NINA YNDIS ISABELLE BONFRER STEPHANIE SIADATAN AMANI ZARDOE
DIRECTOR KEIR SIEWERT PRODUCER ALIX AUSTIN WRITERS KEIR SIEWERT & ANONYMOUS 2nd ASST CAM ARIANNA CAVALENSI
SOUND RECORDIST ELLEN VERSLUIJS MICHAEL CHUBB EDITOR KURT SCHNEIDER COMPOSER THIBAUT CHAVANIS

PORTRAIT

A FILM BY HYDRAHOLIX

Winner of the Genera grant, Portrait is a tense drama built on research from interviews with 21 models about their experiences overcoming sexual abuse in the photography world.

The film starring up and coming Actress Sorcha Groundsell (BBC3's Clique, Netflix's 'The Innocents') whom you can read about in her interview with Vogue here:

[vogue.co.uk/article/sorcha-groundsell-the-innocents-interview](https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/sorcha-groundsell-the-innocents-interview)

The story is deeply personal to the Hydraholix team, as it shines a light on the manipulative behaviour and power dynamics that models, and other creatives are subjected to on a daily basis.

LOGLINE

Based on real accounts, a model takes matters into her own hands to expose a serial predator in the photography world.

SYNOPSIS

Rhetta, an industrious model, sets up a shoot with a predatory photographer, notorious for his coercion tactics and aggressive behaviour. However, little does he realise that Rhetta has orchestrated this meeting as a sting, to expose his flagrant and inappropriate behaviour on an online video live stream.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



PORTRAIT was a truly eye-opening experience for me, not only as a filmmaker and photographer, but also as a man. The genesis came from a casual conversation I was having with a model I was collaborating with on a photoshoot. She told me about an incident where a photographer she was working with, on a paid shoot involving nude photography, had paused the shoot and gone to the bathroom. At first, she was just confused. This quickly developed into being horrified when she realised the photographer was pleasuring himself over the photos he had just taken of her.

It was a story that I just couldn't get out of my head, so I started actively asking more models who were willing to talk about any bad experiences they'd had on shoots. I was disturbed by the amount of casual, coercive and flat out abusive behaviour I heard about.

Portrait is very much an attempt to give voice to those stories, shining a light on and condemning the behaviour of those who abuse their power.

Though the characters of the models are played by actresses, I purposefully cast women who had personal experience within the modelling world and could relate directly to the frustrations being voiced by the accounts of the real women.

Not all abuse has to be physical to have long-lasting detrimental effects. My only hope is that it does the models justice, who were generous enough to share their stories. I hope audiences will gain some more insight in the same way I did on that shoot a couple of years ago. The overall aim is to contribute to the dialogue surrounding the Me Too movement and encourage people to continue to speak out against perpetrators of abuse in all forms.

FILM STILL IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST





THE CREATORS



KEIR SIEWERT – DIRECTOR & WRITER

Keir Siewert is an American/British filmmaker who is partial to making visceral and genre-bending films.

He is the Writer/Director of award-winning horror short 'RETCH', which toured 30 festivals, including London Short Film Festival and the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival.

He also won Best Film with '#conniesflat' (Edinburgh, 2013) and 'JC's Honeytrap' (London, 2014) at the 48hr Film Project. Other films include MMA short film 'Duchess' and Genera Films grant award winner 'Portrait'.

Short Film Reel: <https://vimeo.com/187675080>

Music Video Reel: <https://vimeo.com/181495384>

www.keirsiewert.com

THE CREATORS



ALIX AUSTIN – PRODUCER

Alix is an award-winning Filmmaker and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Alum.

She has produced, written and directed music videos and short films including Best film winning *#conniesflat* and Raindance shortlisted Webseries *Jess & Tess Solve Shit*.

In 2016 she directed *True Value*, which was funded by the Bruce Millar Award, starring Red Madrell (*Kidulthood*), touring festivals such as Underwire, LIFF and BFI's Women of the World Festival.

Most recently she produced short horror *RETCH*, which screened at over 30 festivals, winning Best Horror Short at the Cinefantasy Film Festival in Brazil.

CAST



SORCHA GROUNDSELL as RHETTA

Credits include *The Innocents* (Netflix), *Clique* (BBC), *Grantchester* (ITV), *The Crucible* (Yard Theatre) and she can soon be seen in *Far From the Apple Tree* (Tartan Features).



WILL NASH as DIXON

Trained at Drama Studio London, credits include *Hurricane* (David Blair), *Just Ask for it* (Jacquie Drager), *Funny Money* (Little Sheringham Theatre) and *La Ronde* (White Bear Theatre). Voice over work includes Jaguar and World Rugby.

SUPPORTING CAST



STEPHANIE SIADATAN as Mel

Trained both in London & at the Margie Haber studios in LA. TV and Film credits include *Silent Witness*, *Venus Vs Mars*, *The Hike*, *Payback Season* and *The Midnight League*.

Most recently she has reprised the role of Tanisha for BBC Radio 4, which can be heard on iPlayer.



AMANI ZARDOE as Tara

Trained at Mountview Academy. Credits include *Doctors* (BBC), *The Kill Team* (Temple Hill Productions), *WILL* (TNT), *Victoria and Abdul* (Focus Features); Theatre includes *All-Female POSH* (Pleasance Theatre), *The Spoils* (Trafalgar Studios).



NINA YNDIS as Nessa

Trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, credits include *Peaky Blinders* (BBC Two & Netflix), *Call the Midwife* (BBC One & Netflix), *Casualty* (BBC One), *X Company* (CBC), *Five by Five* (BBC Three).



ISABELLE BONFRER as Anya

Isabelle trained in Meisner at the Actor's Temple. Her credits include *Pandora* (the CW), *Autopsy* (ITV), *All of Them* (G59) and *In Cube* (Breaking Point Flix).

CREDITS

Director:

Keir Siewert

Producer:

Alix Austin

Writers:

Keir Siewert & Anonymous

Executive Producer:

Christian Parton (General)

Director of Photography:

Keir Siewert

2nd Assistant Camera:

Arianna Cavallensi

Sound Recordist:

Ellen Versluijs & Michael Chubb

Editor:

Kurt Schneider

Intimacy Co-ordinator:

Alix Austin

Composer:

Thibault Chavanis

PUBLICITY CONTACTS

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* Interviews and press images available upon request.

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facebook.com/portraitshort