

CARLO ORTU

Writer /Director

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BA Hons First Class Media Production, Bournemouth University
Selected for Think-Shoot-Distribute 2009

Feature Films

2009 **The Killers** (65 mins) Motive Pictures and Sugarspun Pictures

No-budget feature about two hitmen who first stake out their victim and then attempt to carry out the murder. Things do not go to plan. Black Comedy. Stars Anna Acton, Ian Atfield, Matthew Jure and Colin Holt.

Distributor: IndieMoviesOnline.com

"The Killers is a fantastic film made for no money that blends incredibly witty dialogue with incredible heart."
Noel Clarke (Adulthood, Doghouse, BAFTA Orange Newcomer Winner)

Short Films

2007 **Safe Zone** (16 mins) Sugarspun Pictures/Agenda

A soldier returns from the war in Afghanistan and finds the peace he wants is hard to find. Drama.

WINNER AUDIENCE AWARD SHORTWAVE FILM FESTIVAL 2008

NOMINATED FOR NPA BEST FILM 2008

NOMINATED UK FILM COUNCIL AWARD FOR BEST FILM

AT THE LONDON SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2008

SELECTED FOR SPECIAL SCREENING CANNES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2008

SHORTLISTED TOP 20 HIGHLY COMMENDED SECTION FOR THE TCM CLASSIC SHORTS
COMPETITION 2007

Distributor: Ouat Media for Movieola-The Short Film Channel.

Screened: Official Selection In The Palace International Short Film Festival, Balchik, Bulgaria (2009), Official Selection Hollywood Film Festival, Hollywood, USA (2009), Official Selection Marbella International Film Festival, Marbella, Spain (2008), Official Selection NPA Film Awards (2008) (Nominated for BEST FILM), Official Selection Portobello Film Festival, London, UK (2008), Official Selection West Hollywood International Film Festival, USA (2008), Official Selection Sardinia Film Festival, Italy (2008), Official Selection Cannes In A Van Film Festival, UK (2008), Short Film Corner, Cannes International Film Festival, France (2008) (Selected for SPECIAL SCREENING in the PALAIS), Official Selection Newport Film Festival, USA (2008), Official Selection Hull International Short Film Festival, UK (2008), Official Selection Bradford International Film Festival, UK (2008), Official Selection Santa Barbara International Film Festival, USA (2008), Official Selection Sacramento International Film Festival, USA (2008), Official Selection The Show Off Your Shorts Film Festival, USA (2008), Official Selection 5th London Short Film Festival, UK (2008) (Nominated For The UK Film Council Award For BEST FILM 2008), Official Selection at The Filmstock International Film Festival, UK (2007), Portobello Film Festival London Film Makers Convention, UK (2007), Broadcast: Propeller TV (Sky channel 195)



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2006 Jimmy's 15 Minutes

(12 mins) Sugarspun Pictures

Although Jimmy is the subject of an exposé documentary on Satanism it soon becomes apparent his knowledge on the subject is somewhat lacking. Black Comedy.

Screened: Film Night @ The Fox, London (2007), Shortwave Films @ 93 Feet East, London (2007) Rotoreliefs @ The Pool, London (2007), Official Selection The Angel Film Festival, London, UK (2007)
Broadcast: Propeller TV (Sky channel 195)

2006 Eyes Wide Open

(11 mins) Sugarspun Pictures

A documentary film crew follows the progress of Dave Watson from Liverpool as he prepares to travel to America to take part in the World Staring Contest in the hope of being crowned the World Stare Master. Black comedy.

Screened: Shortwave Films @ 93 Feet East, London (2007), Final Cut @ The Studio Bar, Brighton (2007), Official Selection The Angel Film Festival, London, UK (2007), Broadcast: Blip TV, Propeller TV

2006 A Man in the Crowd

(17 mins) Sugarspun Pictures

Feeling stuck in a rut estate agent Andy has a radical make over and for the first time in years feels revitalised and good about himself. Unfortunately everyone else finds his 'new look' just too radical and Andy is faced with some tough choices. Black comedy.

Screened: Official Selection International Festival of Cinema & Technology, USA (2008), Film Night @ The Fox, London (2006), Official Selection Sutton Film Festival, London, UK (2006), Shoot First @ The Edinburgh Film House (2006), ShallowSHORTS100 Video Podcast, Rotoreliefs @ The Pool, London (2007), The Magnificent Revolutionary Cycling Cinema @ The Big Chill Festival (2007)
Broadcast: Propeller TV (Sky channel 195)

2005 Smile

(11 mins) Sugarspun Pictures

Angered by the drug dealers plying their trade outside his flat, Dave Webster begins his own hidden surveillance operation. Black comedy.

Screened: Official Selection Sutton Film Festival, London, UK (2005), Official Selection Filmstock International Film Festival, Luton, UK (2006), Official Selection Northern Heights Film Festival, London, UK (2006), Official Selection The "Can" Short Film Festival, Leicester, UK (2006), Official Selection The Angel Film Festival, London, UK (2006), Shoot First @ The Edinburgh Film House (2006), Shortwave Films @ 93 Feet East, London (2006), Production London's BANG! @ 19-20 Bar, London (2006), Martini & Shorts @ The Griffin, London (2006), Indieshots @ The Offside Bar, London (2006), Final Cut @ Revenge, Brighton (2006), Port Eliot Literary Festival, Plymouth (2006), Film Night @ The Fox, London (2006), Non-Multiplex Cinema Group @ Dragon Hall, London (2006)
Broadcast: Propeller TV (Sky channel 195)
Published: The Scotsman 11/01/06, Showreel Issue 11 March/April 2006

2004 Constant Battle

(2 mins) Sugarspun Pictures

An anti-war short focusing on a woman's obsessive need to clean. Drama.

Screened: Film Night @ The Fox, London (2007), The Magnificent Revolutionary Cycling Cinema @ The Big Chill Festival (2007)



Selected Press

Think Shoot Distribute

"It was clear from the exceptionally high calibre of applicants this year that over the last few years Think-Shoot-Distribute has evolved into one of the most highly regarded training schemes for emerging filmmaking talent in the UK." - Janine Marmot, Director of Film, Skillset

The Killers

"The Killers is a fantastic film made for no money that blends incredibly witty dialogue with incredible heart. You feel for the hapless wannabe assassins, getting an insight into their loneliness through each other. The writer/director's on point perspective of what being alone can drive human beings to is only outclassed by the performances he pulled from the cast." - Noel Clarke (Adulthood, Doghouse, BAFTA Orange Newcomer Winner)

Split Focus at the B.F.I.-Shootpeople.org posting

Carlo Ortu is the filmmaker who really prompted me to start thinking about this new series of screenings in the first place. Working with very little backing or resource he has persisted in making delightful, heartbreaking, angry and funny films and as you'll see his body of work shows a unique voice that demands more support. What marks him out from the crowd is that, unlike so many, he has a real sense of cinema. His films are all deceptively simple but draw their power from great performances, a central angry passion and an ability to hook you in just at the point where other filmmakers would lose you. His films twist, but are never about twists. His films are funny, but are never simply jokes.

Jimmy's 15 Minutes

"So many short films attempt comedy and fail spectacularly. Comedy is surely the most difficult of genres yet Jimmy's 15 minutes gets it so right. This film is an excellent indictment of the celebrity/reality TV culture and a great piece of filmmaking." - Viewer comment

A Man In The Crowd

"It certainly bears all the hallmarks of his previous work: great performances, quietly arresting imagery and the sort of restless and playful imagination that is a rare joy to spend time with. In a world overburdened with television series and soap operas there are too few people working in this industry who are capable of creating moments of real cinema." - Ben Blaine, Shooting People

Smile

"You've made this film that flies by with effortless simplicity and continuity, which will most likely be the envy of all independent filmmakers. Well done." - Mark Brown, Northern Heights Film Festival

"It stood out for me as easily one of the most original and enjoyable pieces of work I'd seen in ages." - Ben Blaine, Shooting People



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