

PRESS RELEASE – COME CLOSER

June 2011

“Episodic, funny and strange. A bit like life....”

“A tour de force. The best portrait of that city and its soul that has ever been made”.

Golden Bear winner Peter Mackie Burns’ first feature ***Come Closer***, which portrays the poetry in the people and places of Glasgow recently world premiered at the inaugural **Open City London** Documentary Film Festival in June as part of its Still Lives programme.



The festival is ambitious and extremely important to filmmakers with its mission to give space to ***“stories that matter: stories that, all too often, remain untold: lives unrecognised, abuses ignored, follies forgotten, connections unrealised, joys uncelebrated.”***

Come Closer is such a film; a film about people and a place, love, life and death, accompanied by rare tracks and suitable melancholia from Icelandic post-rockers Sigur Ros.

Go here for the full programme for Open City:
<http://opencitylondon.com>

Come Closer is a labour of love in earnest. Over the past two years Peter has been directing this mesmerising non-fiction feature, eschewing traditional film production techniques by dispelling with a crew in favour of small cameras. Developed with stills photographers the film, a series of vignettes, focuses on the lives of a dozen people with quite startling intimacy.

Some people say it is also very much an editor’s film. Passion and time was invested in abundance from Bert Eeles, who completed the film before his recent, sudden death. We will all miss this extraordinary editor, humanist and friend sorely – not only at the premiere.

Visit <http://www.comecloserfilm.com> for further detail.

Synopsis

Berlin Golden Bear-winning director Peter Mackie Burns allows the audience access to the private lives of disparate groups of characters who reside in the city of Glasgow. We are privy to their conversations, private moments and everyday occurrences in a piece that often makes for stirring and maybe even voyeuristic viewing. Accompanied by the ambient music of Sigur Ros the city takes on a character of its own as we follow their lives through an ever-changing landscape from cradle to grave.



Come Closer Bedtime Story by Gerry Fox

Come Closer is about change, the constant flux that happens to people and places, and how that change affects their relationships. Crossing boundaries of age, sex, class and religion, it causes the audience to reconsider the everyday in their own lives.

Go here to view the trailer <http://www.vimeo.com/22613948>

About the Director

Peter Mackie Burns is a multi award- winning Director whose work includes *Milk* starring Kathleen McDermot and Brenda Fricker that won numerous awards around the world including the Golden Bear for Best Short Film at the Berlin Film Festival in 2005. The film played has played at over seventy international film festivals and has been broadcast in many countries.

Peter went on to write and direct the short film *Run* for Scottish Screen and the BBC. *Run* was officially selected for the Telluride film festival in 2006. Peter then directed *The Spastic King*, a Coming Up for Channel 4.

Come Closer is Peter's first feature film, and he is currently developing a number of fiction features and is represented by Sean Gascoine at United Agents.

COME CLOSER

Director	Peter Mackie Burns
Producer	Marie Olesen
Film Editor	Bert Eeles
Directors of Photography	George Geddes, Julia-Kristina Bauer, Gerry Fox
Additional Photography	Claire Stewart, Robin Johnston, Ray Tallan and Doug Aubrey
Sound Design	John L Cobban, 422.tv
Colourist	Ian Ballantyne, 422.tv
Editor Assistants	Florian Nonnenmacher and Gavin Rizza
Animation	Deborah Norton, Rm*
Website	Ross Carmichael, Bulletproof ID

Come Closer in memory of Bert Eeles Film Editor 1943 – 2011

About Autonomi

Glasgow-based, award-winning AUTONOMi is a production company fronted by a team with an international track-record of broadcast credits and filmmaking expertise. AUTONOMi output ranges from primetime observational documentary and innovative world cinema to drama.

Awards include: Golden Bear Best Short, Berlinale 2005 (*Milk*); Premier Plans, Best Live Action, Angers 2005 (*Milk*), Best Film, Scottish Muslim Awards 2010 (*Islamophobia*). **Nominations include:** BAFTA Scotland, Best Feature Film (*Kurdi*) 2009; BAFTA Scotland, Best Current Affairs (*Wasted Nation*) 2008; Celtic Media Festival Best Current Affairs (*Wasted Nation*) 2008; Silver Wolf (*Victim of Geography*), IDFA 1999.

Visit Autonomi's Vimeo channel <http://vimeo.com/user3442043>

Note for Editors

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DIVERSITY FILMS



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