



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
LA RÉSIDENCE

BARNYARD

A FILM BY OLIVER MCGOLDRICK

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Oliver McGoldrick

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Shooting Location: County Down,
Northern Ireland
Producer: Natalie Remplakowski

Technical Information

Title: Barnyard
Screenplay: Oliver McGoldrick
Nationality: Ireland / United Kingdom
Genre: Comedy / Drama
Format: Digital
Duration: 105 min

Director's Information

Oliver McGoldrick is an Irish filmmaker and doctor based between New York City and County Down, Northern Ireland.

He studied Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, graduating in 2017, before earning his MFA in Film at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He is a BAFTA North America Scholar and an alum of the Film at Lincoln Center Artists Academy.

His previous short, *Three Keenings*, premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2024, screened at over 50 festivals worldwide and won best short film at the Galway Film Fleadh.

His next short, *Melter*, executive produced by Spike Lee, is currently in post-production.

He is in development for his debut feature *Barnyard*, through the Munich Film Up Program and La Résidence du Festival de Cannes.

Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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Synopsis

Barry, 30, is a washed up former local legend, recovering from a recent stroke in his Irish seaside town. He wiles away the time selling party drugs, having casual sexual encounters with men in bathroom stalls and living off the anecdotes of his youth.

When his childhood friends reunite for a weekend, Barry sees a chance to revisit his glory days, supplying his friends ecstasy for a night destined to become the stuff of legend.

However he soon realises that the friends who once formed the bedrock of his identity have moved on, abandoning him at the periphery. When he learns the drugs he's been selling are lethal, he launches a frantic, lie-laden mission to retrieve them before they cause irreparable damage. Reckoning with his past, our protagonist is forced to confront himself in the present.

Statement of Intent

Barnyard is a chaotic, darkly comedic odyssey through a small town of eccentric characters, centered on Barry – a middle-class drug dealer driven not by necessity, but by hedonistic inertia. He is stuck in a prolonged adolescence, untethered from purpose.

His fantasy of eternal youth is fractured when he suffers a stroke – typically associated with older age – which leaves this defiantly boyish man partially disabled.

The film explores how society, both knowingly and unknowingly, imposes a “correct” way to live – and how those who exist beyond it are often pushed to the margins.

Barry rails against this pressure at every turn. Despite his flaws, he remains doggedly sincere and true to himself, leaving his imprint on the world as he moves through it under his own terms.

Synopsis

Barry, 30 ans, légende locale sur le déclin, se remet d'un AVC dans sa ville balnéaire irlandaise. Il s'occupe en dealant en soirées, en couchant avec des inconnus, et en revivant les anecdotes de sa jeunesse.

Lorsque ses amis d'enfance se réunissent pour un week-end, Barry y voit l'occasion de revivre ses heures de gloire, se faisant fournisseur d'ecstasy pour une nuit inoubliable.

Il se rend vite compte que les amis qui constituaient autrefois le fondement de son identité ont tourné la page. Lorsqu'il comprend que les drogues qu'il a vendues sont mortelles, il se lance dans une mission effrénée et semée de mensonges pour les récupérer avant qu'elles ne causent des dommages irréparables.

En revisitant son passé, Barry doit se confronter à lui-même dans le présent.

Note d'intention

Barnyard est une odyssée chaotique, teintée d'humour noir, se déroulant dans une petite ville peuplée de personnages excentriques, avec pour personnage central Barry – un dealer issu de la classe moyenne, mû non par la nécessité, mais par une forme d'inertie hédoniste. Enlisé dans une adolescence prolongée, il vit sans but.

Son fantasme vole en éclats lorsqu'il est victime d'un AVC, laissant cet homme à l'air d'éternel adolescent partiellement handicapé.

Le film explore la manière dont la société, consciemment ou inconsciemment, impose une façon « correcte » de vivre – et comment ceux qui s'en écartent sont poussés vers la marge.

Malgré ses défauts, il reste obstinément sincère et fidèle à lui-même, laissant son empreinte sur le monde alors qu'il y évolue selon ses propres conditions.