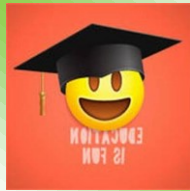




First: The director

Chris Winterbauer is a young American director who is 29 years old. He was born on January 1st,

1989. He is from Seattle, Washington. Now he lives in Culver City, California. For the moment, he hasn't got any children.



He has bachelor's a degree in economics and a master's degree in fines arts and in film and television production. His mentor is Brenda Goodman.

Second: His career



He started graduate school for film in 2014. He worked for Intel Corporation doing corporate finance, from 2011 to 2014.

Chris has made a bunch of small films for classes and he made his first biggest undertaking called « Break Down », in 2017. He manages to make a living from his job.



Finally:



Our interview with Chris

Why did you choose this theme for the film?

I wanted to make a movie about how we constantly fail to communicate. No one in Wyrm's family speaks about Dylan, his older brother who has died. I wanted to explore how repressed we often are about grief

How and why did you choose these characters?

It may sound silly, but I think your characters choose you. Once I figured out the basic story,

The director wanted to tell us the story about the coming of age in an alternative reality.

Chris Winterbauer says: «The idea for the collar came from the experience I have had feeling like an outsider. The idea was to literalize the feeling that there is something physically different about you that other people can see from a distance.

the characters started to speak to me. I hope that each character feels like a true person with his/her own voice. I am always annoyed by characters who seem to only exist to push the protagonist along on their day.

Were you inspired by a true story?

I was a late bloomer and didn't get my first kiss until I was 16. It was very much inspired by my own awkwardness.

How many scenes did you shoot in order to make «Wyrm»?

We had 18 scenes in total, I believe.

Why did you shoot a short film and not a long one?

There are two reasons:

1) Budget- shooting a feature film is incredibly expensive. We had a limited budget for this. Working with kids is especially expensive due to labor laws in United States. We can only have them on set for 8 hours per day.

2) School requirement- I shot this film as my graduate school thesis film which requires that it be under 20 minutes in duration.

Technical sheet

7 days of shooting:

- 6 days at the house / bus stop
- 1 day in the school for the counsellor scenes.



19 000 \$
(from his savings)
KickStarter

—> 5 000, of Chris's own money
—> 14 000, through

Future project

The future project has already started!
It's turning «Wyrn» in a feature film. Chris is also working on a new script called «Cul-De-Sac»: a dark comedy about an 11 years old girl investigating the disappearance of her babysitter.



Synopsis



Wyrms is an adolescent. He lives in an alternative world, maybe in 90's. In this world, people who haven't kiss somebody or done something sexual with a person have a big collar to identify them. Wyrms has got one. He's shameful and he's ready to do anything to get rid of his collar.

Wyrms and his sister Madison sleep in the same room. And one day, she asks him if he can move into Dylan's room, because she needs privacy. But Dylan is their dead brother, and the family hasn't changed anything in this room because they refuse to accept their loss.



Wyrms has only six days to give or get his first kiss, otherwise he will join the program **“No child left alone”**.



The specialist of the child development specialist gives him a booklet about how to seduce someone. Then he sees two girls kissing at a bus stop.



So, he decides to kiss his best friend to unlock his collar, but Charlie punches him in the face and he ends up with a black eye.

Worm meet Izzy (his sister's best friend) and he has a crush on her. So, he asks his sister if she could arrange a date with Izzy for him and in exchange, he'll move into Dylan's room.



Madison organizes a date and she leaves them alone in the living-room. Izzy tells Worm that she thinks that his black eye it's cute and then they touch each other thighs. And after a while they finally kiss.



And the collar opens.



In the end, Wyrn visits Izzy and offers her roses. She accepts the flowers. He explains the meaning of his name to her.



Then he asks her if she wants to be his girlfriend and she says “no” because he’s a bad kisser and for other reasons too.

Then he talks with his sister about his first kiss and about his disappointment. She reassures him by telling him “I fall in love with every boy who smiles at me”.



And they finally talk about their dead brother.

Filming techniques

“In the scene where Izzy and Wyrms kiss, Christopher Winterbauer uses extreme close-up to show us the collar's light turns on green, because Wyrms's sexual experience has been validated.



The film director chose a combination of slow motion and the gaze /look technique for this scene, where Wyrms sees Izzy for the first time. These techniques help us to understand that Wyrms's falling in love and he's questioning himself. Izzy dances and looks at him at the same time. There is a zoom out to get a panoramic view of this scene.



The point of view shoot in the next scene plunges us into Wyrms's eyes, we become the readers.



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We learn more about Wyrms' preoccupation.

We really liked this scene. It made us laugh a lot. Chris used rack focusing to make us follow the action and conversation between Wurm and his friend, Charlie, which ends with an unexpected punch in the face from Charlie.



Our opinion

We really like this short film.

This alternative world was a very good idea and we are looking forward to seeing the collaboration with Ellen Estabrook.

The End

3ème 1, Collège Pierre de RONSARD

(Poitiers Film Festival Project / Mme. AUDEBERT)