# TO LOVE A NARCISSIST

A Film by Raffaello Degruttola



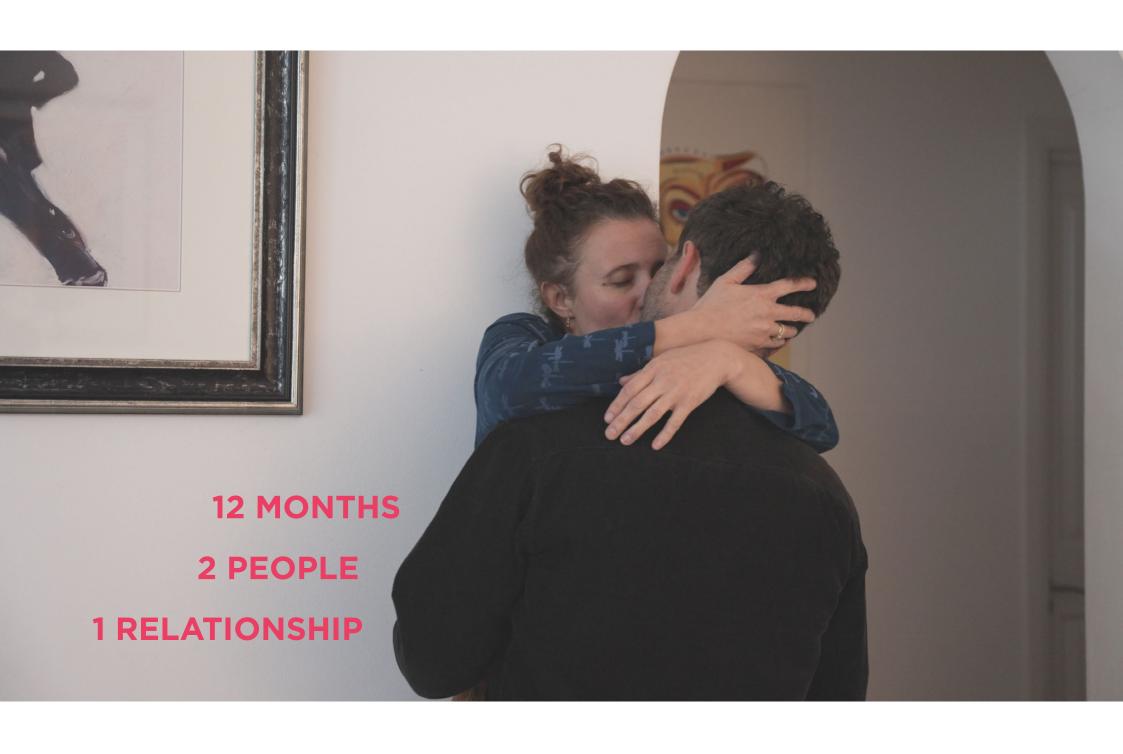
A CONTRO VENTO Films Production



## Inspired by everyones true events

"You are the knife I turn inside myself; that is love. That, my dear, is love."

Franz Kafka, Letters to Milena



#### **To Love A Narcissist: January**





### INT: CLOSE UP OF APARTMENT BUZZER. BUZZ Charlotte walks into frame

#### **CHARLOTTE**

Hello... Hello? Who is it?

#### **ROBERTO**

Number 3 I hope

#### **CHARLOTTE**

I told you to stay away

#### **ROBERTO**

I tried

#### **CHARLOTTE**

I'm no good for you

#### **ROBERTO**

I know

#### **CHARLOTTE**

Will you go away the neighbours are watching

#### **ROBERTO**

Can I come up for a minute

#### **CHARLOTTE**

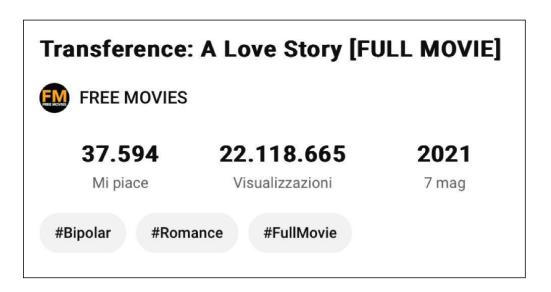
The kids are coming later

#### **ROBERTO**

I have a proposition for you

### CONCEPT

'To Love a Narcissist' was created by Raffaello Degruttola an Anglo-Italian actor, director and writer from the UK. Degruttola began his film career at a very young age and has already explored relational issues in his past work, most poignantly in 'Transference: A Bipolar Love Story'. Transference went viral on YouTube in June 2023, reaching 19.5 million number of views.





### TRANSFERENCE

A Love Story



This film delves into the complexities of a passionate post-marriage relationship for characters Charlotte and Roberto. It begins with a dating app, evolving into an intense promise of love and a chance for meaningful experiences. They grapple with past mistakes, striving to give their current relationship a genuine opportunity for growth. The central dilemma surfaces as they confront their own narcissism, hindering acceptance of each other. The narrative unfolds as they attempt to relinquish old, traumatic ways of relating, resorting to each other's emotions as a defense against losing control and fearing love's loss again.



Viewers may relate to the characters' personalities as the story progresses, and the blurred lines between narcissism and societal norms become more apparent. Can we break free from destructive relationship patterns and interpret the world differently? The film raises questions about free will versus the influence of past experiences and personality traits on our future decisions. Can Charlotte and Roberto truly embrace their faults and sensitivities, allowing the possibility of being loved? Simultaneously, the narrative explores today's swipe culture, where the hope for a better future perpetually lies in virtual possibilities rather than the present moment. The film prompts reflection on whether we can escape this cycle and whether our choices are truly ours or shaped by past experiences. As the story concludes, the audience is left pondering who the true narcissist is – Charlotte, Roberto, or the part of us that justifies one in response to our internal limitations.



@controventofilms' cinematic roots trace back to Italian neorealism of the 1940s, a pivotal movement in film history. This influential shift consciously distanced itself from Hollywood-style filmmaking, emphasizing realistic characters and narratives. The genre explored themes such as moral ambiguity, social inequality, and depicted economic hardships with deep sympathy for characters.

Our work at @controventofilms takes inspiration from this neorealistic foundation but ventures into fictionalized storytelling. We are influenced by the prevailing cultural backdrop and the impact of a self-focused society on the disadvantaged and social inequalities. Explore more on our page.







### LYNDSEY MARSHAL



Lyndsey was born in Manchester, England. She attended *Old Trafford Junior School* and *Lostock High School*. After studying the classics at college for a career in archaeology, she applied to the *Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama*.

Her first major part was in the play **Fireface** at the Royal Court Theatre, which she took just before graduation. In 2001 she won the *Critics' Circle Theatre Award* for Best Newcomer in 2001 for her performances in **Redundant** at the Royal Court Theatre and **Boston Marriage** at the Donmar Warehouse. In 2003, she won the *TMA Theatre Award* for Best Supporting Actress in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. Since then she has performed leading roles in 14 theatre productions, most recently alongside James McAvoy in the 2009 West End production **Three Days of Rain**. In 2011 she appeared in **Greenland** at the National Theatre.

Lyndsey has appeared in the films **The Hours** alongside Nicole Kidman, and **Hereafter**, directed by Clint Eastwood. Marshal starred as Cleopatra in HBO's **Rome**. Since 2009 she has played Lady Sarah Hill in the three series of the BBC One drama **Garrow's Law** and, with Julie Walters, in the BBC TV film **A Short Stay in Switzerland**. She starred also in ITV's new series of **Agatha Christie's Marple**.

In January 2013 Lyndsey played Eileen Blair, wife of Eric Blair, in the BBC Radio 4 drama **The Real George Orwell** - Homage to Catalonia.

Raffaello, an Anglo-Italian Actor-Writer-Director, was born in Barnet, North London, England to Francesco DeGruttola and Lina Lipizzi who immigrated from Ariano Irpino, Italy in 1970. Raffaello joined the *Sylvia Young Theatre School* in Central London, where he trained until the age of 16 before joining The Lee Strasbourg Theater Institute in London.

Raffaello spent time living in the US and the UK working extensively in TV and Film, including playing Private Goldman in Steven Spielberg's **Saving Private Ryan.** Thereafter he continued working as a character actor in a variety of American and European films with notable directors including Ron Howard (**Rush**), Micheal Apted (**Unlocked**), Chris Addison (**The Hustle**) Richard Attenborough (**In Love And War**) and Mike Nichols (Wit) In 2010 he wrote and directed his first 30min drama 'The Other Side of My Sleep', inspired by the death of his father and grandmother. Following the film's success in opening the Boston Film Festival, Raffaello went on to shoot his first feature film 'Flim-The Movie' - shooting for one day a week over 18 months whilst constructing the story around improvisation to influence the next scene. 'Flim The Movie' was nominated for a *Moet British Independent* Film Award following its selection for the Raindance Film Festival and The NYC Independent Film Festival. Heavily influenced by the Danish Dogme 95 rules of film making, Italian Neo Realism and NY cinema of the 70's & 80's, Raffaello went on to write and direct his second feature film, a psychological love story that tackles the corrosion of a relationship to concealed and unresolved mental health issues.

'Transference: A Bipolar love Story' was selected for the *Arizona and Buenoa Aires International Film Festivals* and received the Jury Award at *SRFF* in NYC.

### RAFFAELLO DEGRUTTOLA



# STEPHEN CAMPBELL MOORE



Stephen Campbell Moore is a British actor best known for 'The History of Boys' and 'War of The Worlds'. Born in London, the actor trained alongside Orlando Bloom at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Campbell Moore created the role of Irwin in the original West End stage production of Alan Bennett's play 'The History Boys', and also played the character in the Broadway, Sydney, Wellington and Hong Kong productions and the film version of the play. In 2004, he starred as Lord Darlington alongside Scarlett Johansson in 'A Good **Woman'**. In the same year, Campbell Moore played the part of Hugh Stanbury in Andrew Davies' BBC adaptation of Anthony Trollope's novel 'He Knew He Was Right'. In 2024, he starred in 'Masters of The Air' alongside Callum Turner and Austin Butler.

### SULE RIMI



Sule Rimi is known for 'Andor' (2022), 'Black Earth Rising' (2018), 'Death in Paradise' (2011) and 'Strike Back' (2010)

### NATALIE ARMIN

Natalie Armin is a British actress known for 'The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies' (2014), 'Maigret' (2016-2017), 'Too Close' (2021) and 'Juice' (2023).



### ANDREA LOWE



Andrea Lowe is an English actress known for 'DCI Banks' (2010-2016), 'Route Irish' (2010), 'Love Life' (2012) and 'Sherwood' (2022)

#### **Producer**

### Sadie Frost



With over three decades in film, theatre and television, Sadie Frost is producer, actor, fashion designer and author, starring in such films as Bram Stoker's 'Dracula', TV dramas such as 'Uprising', and working with directors including Francis Ford Coppola and Paul W.S Anderson. In 1999, Frost set up production company Natural Nylon with fellow actors Jude Law, Ewan McGregor and Jonny Lee Miller, which went on to produce the science fiction/horror feature 'eXistenZ' in 1999, followed by 'Nora'. Frost then went on to co-produce the Angelina Jolie and Gwenyth Paltrow starrer 'Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow'. Frost then set up her own fashion label Frost French, on which she worked extensively throughout the 2000s.

In 2012, Frost co-founded the production company Blonde to Black Pictures with producer and long-term friend Emma Comley. Dedicated to developing challenging and quality films, whilst also nurture exciting new talent, the pair regularly work with debut feature directors including Ben Charles Edwards for Set the Thames on Fire and Tom Beard's Two for Joy.

#### **Producer**

### Sadie Kaye



Sadie Kaye has worked as a TV & radio host, writer and producer in London, Paris and Hong Kong. Her humour column series 'Sharp Pains' received nominations from the New York Festivals Radio Awards, On Air Fest and International Women's Podcast Awards. Her documentaries have won awards from the Association for International Broadcasting. Her humour columns, rants and musings on mental health have been published in Hong Kong publications and anthologies. She is an ambassador for mental health charity Mind HK. Sadie met Raff when they were cast in a West End play together as siblings. This family dynamic stuck and they have collaborated many times on film and TV projects, including 'FLIM' and 'Transference'.

### Producer Bill Bossert

Bill met Raff Degruttolla during the making of the feature, 'Seeking Dolly Parton' and re-united with Raff in 2020 as creative/executive producer of 'Transference:

A Love Story'. It was during the filming of Transference that Bill was asked to join Contro Vento Films. Aside from Contro Vento, Bill has helped in the production of several short films in the last two years, among them 'Bobby Jaws', 'The Love You Want Exists', 'Notice to Quit', 'Type Till You Bleed' and 'Swipe Right'



### MOOD









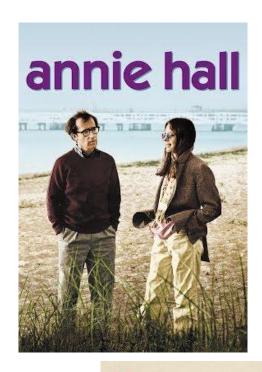


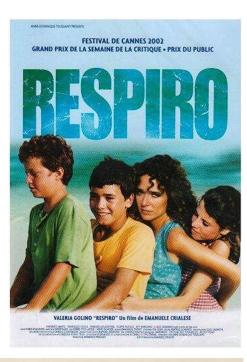


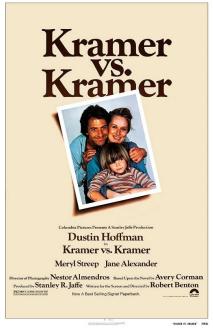


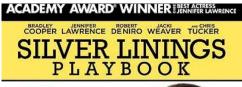


### **SIMILAR MOVIES**















### **THANK YOU**

If you want to know more about the project or if you're interested in supporting us, please contact us.

Email: info@controventofilms.com raffd@mac.com

Website: controventofilms.com

Teaser: vimeo.com/884836722/a9db51cc87?share=copy

Thank you for your attention!