

Big Whiskey Studios

Presents

Molasses & Lemon

A Film by Robert Sickels

Doc Short • TRT 4:06 • 2017 • USA • English
16mm HDV • 2 Channel Mono

US & International Sales Contact:
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Film Summary:

Images and ideas associated with falling in love abound in popular culture. Happy couples hold hands and look at each other longingly while walking carefree along the beach. Hearts, diamonds, and flowers. Romance and passion. Chocolate and cherubs. Conversely, we associate heartbreak with all things bad. Darkness, depression, and despair. A solitary figure trudges silently in the rain without a jacket, soaked and despondent. A person in pajamas with tear stained cheeks sits alone on a bed. This cultural iconography surrounding love and heartbreak is widely prevalent. But reality often belies the stereotype. As the interviews in *Molasses & Lemon* vividly reveal, the ways people talk about their experiences with love and heartbreak are often eerily and intimately related. Could it be that we simply can't have one without the other? Love. Heartbreak. Does it even matter?

Filmmaker's Statement:

While talking to people about love and heartbreak, I was immediately struck by the overwhelming similarity in the ways people talk about each experience. Regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, identity, and/or preferences, people seem to experience love and heartbreak the same way. In fact, I soon noticed a clear pattern in my interviews: people use the same language to describe both experiences. In the end, the emotional truths of passion and disappointment are complex, universal, and inextricably intertwined. I chose not to show our interviewees because what identifies them visually is less important than the common experience that unites their points of view. As a result, *Molasses & Lemon* is as much an experimental film as it is a documentary: the traditional form is subverted in lieu of a more imagistic approach meant to help viewers align their own experiences with love and heartbreak with those that they're seeing visualized on-screen.

Produced & Directed by Robert Sickels

Cinematography by Kynde Kiefel

Original Music Composed and Recorded by Josh Karp

Featuring (In Order of Appearance):

Arie Knops
Tiffany Cain
Daniel Forbes
Kynde Kiefel
Matt Reynolds
Colin Justin
Katina Henderson
Tarik Elseewi
Natasha Blake
Heidi E. McFarley
Sharon Alker

Biographies

Director/Editor Robert Sickels has been obsessed with movies since he saw Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory at a Seattle drive-in when he was three years old. This fixation with all things cinematic ultimately led to his earning a PhD with an emphasis in film studies at the University of Nevada. He is a father, an independent filmmaker, a prolific writer & editor, a baseball junkie, a foodie, a semi-professional mixologist, hopelessly addicted to pop culture, and the founder of Big Whiskey Studios, which specializes in micro-documentary projects that emphasize engaging personal narratives.

He has directed, edited, and produced several documentary shorts, all of which were made on a wing and a prayer and have screened widely in the US and abroad, including on PBS and at the Cinequest, St. Louis International, Indie Memphis, IFF Boston, Dallas VideoFest, New Orleans, and Sidewalk Film Festivals.

Since 1999, Sickels has taught Film History and Filmmaking at Whitman College, where he is a Professor and the Director of the Film & Media Studies Program.

Cinematographer Kynde Kiefel is an Art Manager and Curator at Whitman College. She has worked as an illustrator, animator, graphic designer, photographer, sculpture technician, and med room nurse, though she is equally grateful for the terrible jobs that have shaped her consciousness. Kiefel believes that children are the most important comedians of our time, though her own two kids could use some honest work-shopping. She gravitates toward the complexities of belief, the strangeness of history, the mythology of popular culture, and the ways in which we shape these stories and they shape us.

Kiefel holds degrees in writing and graphic design and is the author of such illustrated essays as "Tesla's Triple Vision," "Thomas Edison's Radio," and "That Weird Day." Her comics collection, *All Those Lights are People*, will be released in 2017.

Composer Josh Karp, professionally known as Budo, has made a name for himself as an internationally respected record producer, artist, and musician. He has collaborated, recorded with, and toured with a multitude of artists spanning many genres, including the Macklemore and Ryan Lewis team. He has worked extensively across multiple fields, including music for film and TV.

Josh is currently touring with Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. He also produced "Downtown," the first single off of *This Unruly Mess I've Made*, which skyrocketed to #12 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts and was performed live on the MTV Video Music Awards and on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon.

From 2007 - 2011, Budo collaborated heavily with fellow Seattleite Grieves. The duo produced three records on Minneapolis-based Rhymesayers Records during this time, including *Together/Apart* and *88 Keys and Counting*. They also toured in a substantial capacity, playing hundreds of shows in both the US and Europe during their time together.

Budo's most recent collaboration is with singer-songwriter Joe Pernice (Scud Mountain Boys and Pernice Brothers). The project – which adopts the moniker Roger Lion - is the realization of more than 2 years of work, and was released on Team Love Records.

Special Thanks

Annie Buchan

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Sheehan Gallery

Dutch & Tallulah Sickels

Whitman College Film & Media Studies

Walla Walla Modern CDTLI

Matt Banderas

Ruth Fluno

Daniel Forbes

Kynde Kiefel

Lisa Rasmussen

Tom Reck

Chuck & Ginny Sickels

David Troxel

Whitman College

For Dick, Jeannette, and Ruth



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