

harry michell

maddie rice

shouting AT THE sea

daisy haggard

AS VOICE OF THE SEA



a toffee hammer production

shouting at the sea STARRING harry michell maddie rice WITH THE VOICE OF daisy haggard

DIRECTED BY benjamin verrall DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY tom hooker MUSIC BY richie johnsen

STORY AND PRODUCTION BY kate auster lily manning ruth marshall amelia rowcroft benjamin verrall

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MOMENTS BECOME MEMORIES

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press notes
2025





shouting AT THE sea

Running Time:	19mins 55seconds
Directed by:	Benjamin Verrall
Story & Production:	Kate Auster Ruth Marshall Amelia Rowcroft
Cinematographer:	Tom Hooker
Composer:	Richie Johnsen
Production Company:	Toffee Hammer



synopsis

Katherine and Joe (Harry Michell, Maddie Rice) reconnect after years apart in the out-of-season coastal town of Hastings. They spend the day revisiting the haunts of their youth – the rickety funicular lift, the amusement arcade, the windswept pier – quickly slipping back into the familiar rhythm of their teenage years. Tentative small talk soon turns playful, before deepening as both grapple with unspoken struggles: Katherine, outwardly successful, is quietly conflicted, while Joe wrestles with the weight of unfulfilled dreams.

The Sea (voiced by Daisy Haggard) is a constant presence, narrating a story of memory and belonging.

As night falls, Katherine and Joe head down to the shingle beach, not wanting the day to end. Together, they shout into the dark, roaring waves – a shared act of vulnerability that leaves them somehow lighter.

Shouting at the Sea is about connection, nostalgia, and the pursuit of self-acceptance. Through the constant ebb and flow of the Sea, the film gently reflects on the tides of life – those moments of drift and return that shape and reshape our lives.



Maddie Rice as 'Katherine'

Maddie is a British actor and an award-winning writer/performer.

TV credits include: Fleabag, Call The Midwife, The Other One (BBC), Stath Lets Flats (Channel 4), Every Blank Ever, Flaps (Comedy Central), Ten Percent (Amazon).

Stage credits include: The 39 Steps (UK tour), Pickle Jar, Fleabag (Soho Theatre); Villain (Kings Head Theatre); All My Sons (Regent's Park); Henry V (West End).



Harry Michell as 'Joe'.

Harry recently starred in Apple series Hijack, alongside Idris Elba. Prior to this, he featured in the highly anticipated second series of The Capture, alongside Holliday Grainger and Paapa Essiedu and Netflix's feature Bank of Dave, with Joel Fry and Phoebe Dynevor. He also starred in BBC 1's Life after Life, directed by John Crowley.

He has a raft of recent Television credits, including the 10-part Sky Italia series Devils, starring Patrick Dempsey, and The English Game written by Julian Fellowes for Netflix, starring with Edward Holcroft. He has also appeared alongside Himesh Patel and Lily James in Danny Boyle's feature film Yesterday. Other previous credits include Chubby Funny which was his directorial debut, in which he also starred, earning him a BIFA nomination for Best Newcomer, TV Series Drifters, feature film Double Date co-starring Michael Socha and Dexter Fletcher, as well as the fourth season of Plebs on ITV2.



Daisy Haggard as 'Voice of the Sea'

Daisy Haggard is a BAFTA-nominated British actor and writer. As the creator of comedy-drama, Back to Life, Daisy co-wrote, featured and Executive Produced the series to critical acclaim. Since 2020, Daisy has also starred in Breeders alongside Martin Freeman, which saw her nominated for Best Female Comedy Performance at the 2021 BAFTA Awards.

Daisy has recently been seen in Boat Story, the highly anticipated television series from Two Brothers Pictures and has just wrapped Season 4 of Breeders.

Daisy has appeared in several television comedies including Episodes alongside Matt LeBlanc, Green Wing, and Uncle. Other on-screen credits include Psychoville, The Persuasionists, Parents, Hilda, Doctor Who, Ballot Monkeys, Ashes to Ashes, Sense & Sensibility, and Hang Ups.

reviews

"Poetic, atmospheric, affecting, and a beautifully orchestrated allegorical study in our need for human connection, the rekindling of bonds, and the reconciliation of the soul.

This intelligent and creatively executed short film deftly paints an impactful tapestry encompassing reminiscing and inner redemption."

One Film Fan

"Shouting at the Sea is a testament to the power of introspection and the enduring beauty of human connection. A truly remarkable piece of cinema that leaves a lasting impact."

Wonder Watchlist

"Shouting at the Sea reminds us how revitalizing and healing face-to-face interaction can be – no phones, just human connection. It's a beautiful short, more moving than most features."

Reel News Daily

"The conclusion of the film is emotionally riveting, and one of the best endings I've ever seen in a film. The culmination of emotions, paired with the brilliantly emotional score as the film comes to a close is so powerful. Shouting at the Sea dabbles in drama and emotion throughout its majority, but by the end it dives right in. The ending is always the hardest part, always the most difficult aspect of a film to develop—and this is a perfect ending."

Baines Film Reviews

"Whilst many may assume this film would be full of romantic chemistry, it's actually something deeper and more intelligent than that. The pair's onscreen chemistry is perfectly brought out in the direction by Verrall, delivering a film that is easy (and sublime) to slip into."

UK Film Review

Read more reviews [on our website](#).



director

Born in the coastal town of Hastings, Benjamin has always been drawn to the power and mystery of the sea – a theme that resonates in *Shouting at the Sea*. The film reflects Benjamin's connection to Hastings.

Since graduating from film school, Benjamin has carved out a successful career in the media industry. His journey led him to establish Toffee Hammer, a creative agency and production company that has gained recognition for its innovative storytelling and collaborative ethos.

Shouting at the Sea was a labour of love, developed and produced by the dedicated team at Toffee Hammer. This self-financed passion project is a testament to the power of personal inspiration and collective effort in bringing a compelling narrative to life.

director's statement

Shouting at the Sea is a story of friendship, loss, and the search for closure. The film's inspiration comes from my experience growing up in Hastings. The town is a character in itself, with its empty beaches and shuttered amusements – filled with faded grandeur and echoes of a more prosperous past. Beyond the bustling tourist seasons, Hastings reveals a quieter, more reflective identity that has influenced my storytelling.

Joe and Katherine are two old friends who reconnect after years apart. Joe stayed in Hastings, tied to the town's familiar rhythm, while Katherine left in search of something more. Through their friendship, the film explores the tension between staying rooted and the desire to escape – how these choices shape us. Joe and Katherine serve as dual forces in the narrative, each with different responses to their upbringing and environment.

The changing light throughout the film reflects Joe and Katherine's journey, from the brighter, livelier moments of morning to the softer, more contemplative light of evening. We used vintage lenses to give the film a timeless, textured quality that echoes the faded elegance of Hastings. Handheld camera work brings the audience closer to the characters, emphasising the intimacy of their conversations and the raw, subtle emotions they experience.

The reflective nature of the sea's narration contrasts with the fragile, fleeting nature of human connection. Shouting at the Sea is about the art of letting go – finding peace with the things we cannot change and recognising the moments that matter.

I hope the film encourages audiences to reflect on their own friendships, the people who come in and out of their lives, and the times they've felt like they were shouting into the void.

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