

A COMPLETE HISTORY OF MY SEXUAL FAILURES

DIRECTED BY CHRIS WAITT
PRODUCED BY MARY BURKE & HENRY TROTTER
PRODUCERS ROBIN GUTCH & MARK HERBERT



(Photo: Dean Rogers)

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A COMPLETE HISTORY OF MY SEXUAL FAILURES

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A COMPLETE HISTORY OF MY SEXUAL FAILURES follows independent filmmaker Chris Waitt as he interviews his ex-girlfriends in an attempt to find out why they dumped him. This revealing and humorous documentary sees the slacker filmmaker go on a sexual and emotional odyssey in a desperate quest to solve his innumerable problems.



LONG SYNOPSIS

When scraggly, endearingly hapless filmmaker Chris Waitt gets dumped by his girlfriend – the last in a long line of disastrous affairs – he resolves to find out what exactly is wrong with him. Why have all his relationships ended in acrimony or indifference? What will it take for him to dodge everlasting loneliness?

The only way to find out is to ask his past paramours point blank. And so begins an odyssey of inadequacy as our clueless crusader confronts exes who turn out to be mostly incredulous, crushed, or cross as they skewer him with remembrances of his chronic lateness, self-absorption, and delusion. Not even his mother can muster much sympathy! Meanwhile, Waitt attempts to jump-start his love life through Internet dating. But lo and behold, a different kind of inadequacy emerges – a kind that no amount of therapy, acupuncture,

or even a session with a dominatrix can fix. Suffice to say nothing short of a Viagra overdose does the trick, sending Waitt careening to a desperately uncomfortable climax...I mean, catharsis.

Of course watching Waitt get his comeuppance is a deliciously gratifying romp for every woman ever wronged by a useless boyfriend. But *A Complete History of my Sexual Failures* is more than just sweet revenge or hilarious farce; at its core are soft, gooey truths about the sacrifices and self-knowledge required for grown-up love.

Caroline Libresco, Sundance Film Festival

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

After being dumped by a number of girls in 2006, and determined to stop the cycle of disasters that was his love life, the director wrote:

“Ever since I was a teenager all of my relationships with girls have ended badly. In my life so far I’ve calculated that I’ve had 13 serious relationships*, 47 minor erotic encounters and 16,425 unfulfilled sexual impulses. These interactions with women have almost all ended in personal humiliation, recrimination, regret, bitterness, shame and failure. I’ve started to wonder if I’m doing something wrong.

I believe that if I can find out the reasons why I keep getting dumped I’ll be able to improve myself and hopefully have a successful relationship in the future. So I’m going to talk to every woman I’ve ever been out with and ask them to tell me what’s wrong with me.

If I can make a film about it, it will also give me a job for the next few months.”

(* Whilst making the film, Chris discovered that this figure was a significant underestimate of the number of relationships he has in fact had.)

Since making the film, the director wrote;

“It’s possible that I was over optimistic about how pleased my ex-girlfriends would be to see me. The whole process turned out to be extremely painful and humiliating, for pretty much everyone involved. Also, a number of other issues which I hadn’t initially planned to explore in the film started to become unavoidable. I can’t stress enough that one of those issues in particular is no longer an issue for me. I have fully recovered and am so much better. I really am.

Anyway, I hope that my humiliation and misery will be a source of amusement and pleasure to those that watch the film.”

BIOGRAPHIES

CHRIS WAITT, DIRECTOR

Chris moved into making films after a failed career as a rock musician. He tried his hand at a number of movie genres from surf videos to soft porn, with mixed results, before meeting up with Henry Trotter, who had just edited a kung fu movie which Chris admired.

Chris continued to make short films and music videos, often casting himself in his own work, through a lack of money to pay actors. He then embarked on a number of documentary projects, most of which remain unfinished. One work which was completed was a half hour documentary for MTV called HEAVY METAL JR. (2005) which followed the exploits of a heavy metal band with an average age of ten.

The film was nominated for a Scottish BAFTA, but did not win. It was however selected for the International Documentary Film Festival (IDFA) in Amsterdam, though again it did not receive any prizes.

On a personal level Chris's life has been characterized by a lack of money, a number of short lived day jobs and a catastrophic series of relationships.

MARY BURKE, PRODUCER

Mary Burke is a producer for Warp X and Warp Films: pioneering forces of independent filmmaking in the UK. Originally from New York, Mary left a career in journalism to join Warp at its inception in 2002. Her credits include BAFTA award-winning short 'MY WRONGS 8245-8249 and 117' (Chris Morris), *Dead Man's Shoes* and *This Is England* (Shane Meadows). *This is England* won the Best Film at the 2006 British Independent Film Awards, the Dunhill award at the London Film festival, the jury award and Young Audience Award at the 2006 Rome Film Festival. *Dead Man's Shoes* won Best Film at the Dinard International Film Festival in 2004.

Mary produced RUBBER JOHNNY for Chris Cunningham in 2005 (Best animated short - Melbourne International Film Festival). She produced *A Complete History of my Sexual Failures* for Chris Waitt and is also the associate producer on his comedy series which is in production with Warp Films for MTV. In 2008, Mary will produce the first feature from MIGHTY BOOSH director Paul King and the sixth on the Warp X slate. She is currently developing projects with Richard Ayoade ('Garth Marengi's Darkplace', 'IT Crowd'), artists Jake and Dinos Chapman, Dominic Hailstone and Encyclopedia Pictura, among others.

HENRY TROTTER, PRODUCER

Henry Trotter is a long term collaborator of Chris Waitt's and together they have made several documentaries, TV shows and films which Henry has produced, co-written and often edited.

Having had no interest in films or filmmaking through most of his twenties, Henry got into editing because he was looking for something to do while living with a girlfriend in Boston. He then pursued a career as an editor in commercials and promos. On returning to the UK he edited several short films, many hours of observational documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4, and a comedy kung-fu feature film (*Draining Lizards*).

Hooking up with old friend Chris Waitt, Henry then began writing and producing. Together they made HOW TO COPE WITH REJECTION, DUPE (which won a Scottish BAFTA and a nomination for Best Short at the British Independent Film Awards), a puppet show which won a Golden Rose of Montreux, and the documentary HEAVY METAL JR which was nominated for a Scottish BAFTA and selected for IDFA (the International Documentary Film Festival – Amsterdam). In 2006, they began developing *A Complete History of my Sexual Failures* which he produced.

Chris and Henry are co-creators of a major project for MTV due to be announced early in 2008. They are also working on a number of other feature and television projects together through their production company Yummo.

ROBIN GUTCH, PRODUCER

Robin Gutch is Joint Managing Director of Warp X with Mark Herbert, a start-up digital 'studio' that makes low budget feature films with funding from the UK Film Council's New Cinema Fund, Film4, EM Media and Screen Yorkshire. Warp X is a low budget slate, which aims to introduce the next wave of cutting edge British filmmakers where six feature films will be made over the next three years. The first two features, *Donkey Punch*, *Complete History of my Sexual Failures* are complete and the third, *Hush*, is currently in post-production. He is currently co-producing the Turner Prize winning artist Steve McQueen's feature debut '*Hunger*', and the Emmy Award winning Paul Wilmshurst's psychological thriller *Fugue*. In 2006 Robin developed, and co-produced Gabriel Range's *Death of a President* that premiered at the Toronto film festival, it was amid much controversy that the film was awarded the FEPRESI Critic's Prize.

Prior to joining Warp X, Robin worked as Head of Film and Drama for two years at Blast Films, developing and overseeing drama and drama documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4. Between 1999 and 2003 Robin was the founding Head of FilmFour Lab. The Lab's first slate included BAFTA award winning Joel Hopkins' *Jump Tomorrow*, Dom Rotheroe's *My Brother Tom* and two BAFTA Best Short Film Awards for Tinge Krishnan's

'Shadowscan' and Chris Morris's 'My Wrongs'. Other Lab features included Penny Woolcock's *The Principles of Lust*, and Simon Pummell's *Bodysong*, a groundbreaking cross-media project and the winner of a BIFA for Best Documentary. Robin was also FilmFour's Executive Producer on Kevin MacDonald's acclaimed and commercial breakout feature documentary, *Touching the Void*, which claimed the BAFTA for Best British Film. Previously, Robin worked at the BBC where he worked as both Producer and Director of a wide range of factual programmes and then, in 1994, he moved to Channel 4 as Deputy Commissioning Editor for Independent Film and Video before being promoted to Commissioning Editor in 1996.

MARK HERBERT, PRODUCER

Mark Herbert is the joint MD of Warp X with Robin Gutch. He received the Dunhill award at the London Film Festival in 2006 and was recently mentioned by the Observer as one of the Courvoisier future 500. Mark was also nominated by Variety magazine as one of "10 Producers to Watch".

Mark has recently produced Warp X titles *A Complete History of my Sexual Failures*, *Hush* and *Donkey Punch*. In 2006, he produced *This Is England* directed by Shane Meadows, since its release in early 2007 it has gained many awards including the 'Best Film' at the British Independent Films Awards and the Special Jury Prize at the Rome Film Festival.

Mark's first feature for Warp Films was *Dead Man's Shoes*, the Shane Meadows' film that opened to great reviews, which has been nominated for a record 8 British Independent Film Awards and won the Hitchcock D'or at the Dinard Festival. Before this, Mark won a BAFTA for 'My Wrongs', directed by Chris Morris as well as producing the critically acclaimed first series of 'Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights'

Mark is currently developing various films with Shane Meadows, Lynne Ramsay's next feature and will be announcing more projects in spring 2008.

WARP X

Pioneering digital film studio Warp X is based in Sheffield, with offices in Nottingham and London and is allied to Warp Films and Warp Records. Warp X has a core team of five people: Mark Herbert and Robin Gutch are joint-MDs of the company, Barry Ryan is the Head of Production, Caroline Cooper Charles is the Head of Creative Development and Mary Burke is the Development Producer and In-house Producer.

Warp X intends to build on Warp Films' reputation for combining creative originality with commercial success, with releases such as Shane Meadows' *This is England* and *Dead Man's Shoes*, Chris Cunningham's *Rubber Johnny*, *Scummy Man* (the short film for the Arctic Monkeys) and Paddy Considine's award-winning short *Dog Altogether*.

By harnessing cutting edge digital technology and low budget production methods Warp X is making high value movies that can reach cinema audiences across the world. These films are being managed and produced by Warp X for the Low Budget Feature Film Scheme set up by the UK Film Council's New Cinema Fund (www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk) and Film4 (www.channel4.com/film) to revitalise the low-budget sector of the British film industry. Other key financial backers are EM Media (www.em-media.org.uk) and Screen Yorkshire (www.screenyorkshire.co.uk). Optimum Releasing (www.optimumreleasing.com) are closely involved in the development process, and will distribute the films theatrically and on DVD in the UK. Channel 4 will take UK television rights.

Warp X currently has five green-lit films: *A Complete History of Sexual Failures* and *Donkey Punch* are due for release in 2008. *Hush* and *All Tomorrow's Parties* (director: Jonathan Caouette) are both in post-production. *Bunny and the Bull* (writer/director: Paul King) is due to shoot early in 2008. Further information: www.warpx.co.uk/ info@warpx.co.uk

Warp X is an initiative of UK Film Council's New Cinema Fund, Film4, Screen Yorkshire, EM Media and Optimum Releasing.



CREDITS

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EDITORS CHRIS DICKENS MARK ATKINS

Executive Producers

PETER CARLTON
 LIZZIE FRANCKE
 HUGO HEPELL
 WILL CLARKE

This film could not have been made without the help, consent & cooperation of the following people:

VICKY
 JULIA
 DAWN
 DANIELLE
 ZA
 OLIVIA
 LUCY
 JANET

CHARLIE
ZIGGIE
EIRLYS
CHARLOTTE
ALYSSA
ANGELA

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MARTYN & HILARY WAITT
ADRIAN STODDART, Acupuncturist
DANNY BAYNE Fitness, Instructor
DR. LULU PRESTON, Psychologist
DR. PATRICK SHEEHAN, Sexual Health Specialist
KAVIDA REI, Tantric Sex Therapist
MISTRESS MAISIE, Dominatrix

Production

Production Accountant
Production Coordinator
Production Assistant
Runners

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ALLY GIPPS
NGAIO DAVIES
AMBA ARMSTRONG
KYLE BLANSHARD
ANDREW HARVEY
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HANNAH PALMER
NERYS WILLIAMS
ED EDWARDS
ANDREW JOHNSON
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SAM MORRIS
CHARLIE STANFIELD
NICK WOOD
TIM WHITE
LAURA TUNSTALL

Additional Camera
2nd Additional Camera

Sound Recording Consultant
Action Vehicle Driver

Post Production

Post Production Supervisor
Assistant Editor

LAYLA EVANS
MATT STREATFIELD

Audio Post Production
Supervising Sound Editor
Sound Designer
Dialogue Editor
Assistant Dialogue Editors

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MATT HALL
BEN SQUIRES
BEN CROSS
TOM HUTCHINGS
BEN HARVEY
GREG MARSHALL
VIDEOSONICS
ANDREW STIRK
GARETH LLEWELLYN
THOM BERRYMAN
DAVE TURNER

ADR Recordist
Pre-Mix Engineer
Re-Recorded at
Re-Recording Mixer
Assistant Re-Recording Mixer
Transfer Engineer
Videasonics Project Manager

DI Post Production
Producer
Line Producer
Online Editor
Title Design & VFX
Colourist
Head of Engineering

FRAMESTORE CFC
SIMON WHALLEY
MIKE WOODS
MATT CLARKE
SHARON LOCK
BEN ROGERS
ANDY HOWARD

Distribution Advisory Services, North America
Rest of World Sales Agent

CINETIC MEDIA
WILD BUNCH

MUSIC

BABY YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND

MUFFY

Performed by Graham Coxon
Written By Graham Coxon
EMI Records Ltd
EMI Music Publishing Ltd

SPREAD YOUR LOVE
Performed, written & produced by
Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
Written by Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
Virgin/EMI Records Ltd
Warner Chappell Music Group Ltd

WHORES
Performed by Bobby Conn
Written by Bobby Conn
Courtesy of Thrill Jockey Records
By arrangement with Bank Robber Music

SUMMER'S GONE
Performed by Aberfeldy
Written by Riley Briggs
Rough Trade Records Ltd
Copyright Control

THE GOOD ONES
Performed by The Kills
Written by The Kills
P&C Domino Recording Co Ltd
Taken From the album "No Wow" WIGCD149
Published by EMI Music Publishing Ltd

I'D LIKE TO F*CK EVERY GIRL IN THE WORLD
Performed by Chris Waitt
Written by Chris Waitt

VALENTINE HEART
Performed by Za
Written by Tanita Tikaram
Brogue Music
Warner Chappell Music Group Ltd

LIGHTNING BOLTS AND MAN HANDS
Performed by Hymies Basement
Written by Hymies Basement
Lex Records Ltd
EMI/Warp Music
www.lexrecords.com

ON A NECK, ON A SPIT
Performed by Grizzly Bear
Written by Grizzly Bear
(P) (2006) Warp Records Ltd
Copyright Control
Courtesy of Warp Records

HOLLOW LOG
Performed By Beck
Written By Beck

Performed by King Missile (Dog Fly Religion)
Written by John S. Hall, Dogbowl, Alex Delaszlo (BMI)
Shimmy Disc
Courtesy of Instinct Records

PERFORMED BY BORN RUFFIANS
Written by Born Ruffians
(P) 2007 Warp Records Ltd
Copyright Control
Courtesy of Warp Records

OUTCOME
Performed By Beck
Written By Beck

LOG BOMB
Written By Bob Log III
Performed By Bob Log III
Fat Possum Records
Wixen Music Publishing Inc
By arrangement with IQ Music Ltd

THERE'S HELL IN HELLO, BUT MORE IN GOODBYE
Performed by Jim O'Rourke
Written by Jim O'Rourke
Drag City Records/Domino Recording Co Ltd
Copyright Control

DAYSTARS
Performed by Jeremy Waitt
Written by Jeremy Waitt

FOXES MATE FOR LIFE
Performed by Born Ruffians
Written by Born Ruffians
(P) 2007 Warp Records Ltd
Copyright Control
Courtesy of Warp Records

NANO 2
Performed by Aphex Twin
Written by Richard D. James
(P) 2001 Warp Records Ltd
Chrysalis Music Ltd
Courtesy of Warp Records

DEEP BLUE SEA
Traditional, performed & arranged by
Daniel Rossen of Grizzly Bear
(P) 2007 Warp Records Ltd
Courtesy of Warp Records

Produced on location in England & Scotland, UK.

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