

Revolution Films presents

# 9 SONGS

A MICHAEL WINTERBOTTOM FILM

KIERAN O'BRIEN and MARGO STILLEY  
Director of Photography MARCEL ZYSKIND  
Sound Recordist STUART WILSON  
Sound Editor JOAKIM SUNDSTRÖM  
Dubbing Mixer RICHARD DAVEY  
Editor MAT WHITECROSS  
Associate Producer MELISSA PARMENTER  
Produced by ANDREW EATON  
Directed by MICHAEL WINTERBOTTOM



# 9 SONGS

A FILM BY **MICHAEL WINTERBOTTOM**

One summer, two people, eight bands, 9 Songs.

Featuring exclusive live footage of

**Black Rebel Motorcycle Club**

**The Von Bondies**

**Elbow**

**Primal Scream**

**The Dandy Warhols**

**Super Furry Animals**

**Franz Ferdinand**

**Michael Nyman**

"**9 Songs**" takes place in London in the autumn of 2003.

Lisa, an American student in London for a year, meets Matt at a Black Rebel Motorcycle Club concert in Brixton. They fall in love. Explicit and intimate, 9 SONGS follows the course of their intense, passionate, highly sexual affair, as they make love, talk, go to concerts. And then part forever, when Lisa leaves to return to America.

## **CAST**

**Margo STILLEY** AS LISA

**Kieran O'BRIEN** AS MATT

## **CREW**

DIRECTOR **Michael WINTERBOTTOM**

DP **Marcel ZYSKIND**

SOUND **Stuart WILSON**

EDITORS **Mat WHITECROSS / Michael WINTERBOTTOM**

SOUND EDITOR **Joakim SUNDSTROM**

PRODUCERS **Andrew EATON / Michael WINTERBOTTOM**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **Andrew EATON**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER **Melissa PARMENTER**

PRODUCTION **REVOLUTION FILMS**

## **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

### **IDEAS AND INSPIRATION**

Michael Winterbottom was initially inspired by acclaimed and controversial French author Michel Houellebecq's sexually explicit novel "**Platform**" – "It's a great book, full of explicit sex, and again I was thinking, how come books can do this but film, which is far better disposed to it, can't?"

The film is told in flashback. Matt, who is fascinated by Antarctica, is visiting the white continent and recalling his love affair with Lisa. In voice-over, he compares being in Antarctica to being 'two people in a bed - claustrophobia and agoraphobia in the same place'. Images of ice and the never-ending Antarctic landscape are effectively cut in to shots of the crowded concerts.

The film had no script. The dialogue evolved during the filming through improvisation and interaction between the actors and the director.

### **CASTING**

It was clear from the beginning that it would require two very special people to consent to having sex on film.

The casting process began with open auditions; however, these proved unsuccessful and the majority of people who turned up were men.

Winterbottom had already worked with Kieran O'Brien on "**24 Hour Party People**" and "**Cracker**".

Margo Stilley, who was found via the agency Q Casting, had previously only appeared on film as an extra and worked mainly as a fashion model.

From the outset, it was very important that the actors felt at ease. A short rehearsal period before the main shoot gave the actors a chance to get to know each other and to decide whether they wanted to continue. Some of these rehearsal scenes ended up in the finished film.

### **THE BANDS**

Winterbottom wanted to film bands performing live in London during the period of November 2003 to February 2004. In true rock and roll style, most of the bands approached were very excited about the film, and by the end of October, the confirmed line up was Primal Scream, Super Furry Animals, Elbow, The Von Bondies, Franz Ferdinand, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, The Dandy Warhols and Michael Nyman at his 60th birthday party.

The majority of the concerts took place at Brixton Academy, with the exception of The Dandy Warhols at The Forum, Primal Scream at the Hammersmith Apollo and Michael Nyman at the Hackney Empire.

Filming was made easier by the small crew and by using only handheld cameras. The music was recorded live via a feed from the main mix supplied by the venues.

### **SHOOTING ON DV**

"**9 Songs**" was shot on DV using hand held cameras with no extra lighting.

All the concert footage was shot using up to 3 cameras and no additional lighting. This allowed the crew to go unnoticed in the crowd and gives the viewer a real sense of watching the bands as if through the eyes of the characters.

The rest of the filming took place on location in London and Norfolk. The crew was limited to director, camera, sound, and a production assistant.

## **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

### **KIERAN O'BRIEN**

Kieran O'Brien's film credits include **"24 Hour Party People"** (2000, Michael Winterbottom), **"My Kingdom"** (2001, Don Boyd) and **"Virtual Sexuality"** (1999, Nick Hurren). His thriving stage career has included appearing at The Gate Theatre in **"Danton's Death"**, at the Royal National in **"Guiding Star"** and The Sheffield Crucible in **"The Man Who Had All The Luck"**, directed by the award-winning Michael Grandage.

O'Brien's television credits include contemporary drama series **"Burn It"** for BBC Three, the acclaimed war drama **"Band Of Brothers"**, **"Hearts And Bones"**, **"Born To Run"** (all for the BBC) and **"Jason And The Argonauts"** (C4). In addition, he starred as Ken Stott's younger brother in the critically acclaimed **"Messiah"**, as well as three series of **"Cracker"** and played the lead in three series of **"Children's Ward"** (all for ITV). O'Brien also starred in **"A&E"** (ITV) and **"Stig Of The Dump"** for Children's BBC.

### **MARGO STILLEY**

Margo Stilley, 21, is an actress-model from Bear Creek, North Carolina. **"9 Songs"** marks her acting debut.

## CREW BIOGRAPHIES

### MICHAEL WINTERBOTTOM DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Michael Winterbottom was born in Blackburn in 1961.

Early film credits include "**Butterfly Kiss**" (1994) and "**Go Now**" (1995) which won him his second Prix Europa. "**Jude**" (1995) with Christopher Eccleston and Kate Winslet premiered at the Directors' Fortnight in Cannes and won The Michael Powell award for Best Film at the Edinburgh Film Festival and The Golden Hitchcock Award at Dinard.

In 1996, Winterbottom was in competition in Cannes with "**Welcome to Sarajevo**". "**I Want You**" (1997), competed at Berlin in 1998. These were followed by "**With Or Without You**", for Channel 4 Films and Miramax, and "**Wonderland**", selected in competition at the 1999 Cannes Film Festival and Edinburgh, winner of the British Independence Film Award for Best Film and nominated for Best British Film at the 2000 BATFAs.

"**The Claim**" (2000), was followed by a return to official competition in Cannes in 2002 with "**24 Hour Party People**".

The critically acclaimed "**In This World**" (2002) was the winner of the Golden Bear, the Ecumenical Jury Prize and the Peace Prize at the Berlin Film Festival, 2003. "**In This World**" was also nominated for Best Film, Best Director and Best Director of Photography at the European Film Awards and also won the Independent Film Awards for Best Technical Achievement and Best Achievement in Production. The film has been nominated for Best Film of 2003 at the South Bank Show Awards and also for Best British Film and British Director at the 24th Film Critics Circle Awards. "**In This World**" has also been nominated for two BAFTAs – The Alexander Korda Award for the outstanding British film of the year and for Best Film Not In The English Language.

In 2003 Winterbottom directed "**Code 46**" starring Tim Robbins and Samantha Morton.

He has also worked as an executive producer with his long-time producer Andrew Eaton through Revolution on Damien O'Donnells' follow-up to "**East Is East**", "**Heartlands**" which was released in the UK 2003 and Stephen Fry's directorial debut "**Bright Young Things**".

Winterbottom was winner of the Alexander Walker Special Award at the Evening Standard Film Awards, 2004.

### ANDREW EATON PRODUCER & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Andrew Eaton studied classics and law at Cambridge and worked in theatre publicity before joining BBC Television as a researcher. He directed and produced documentaries for the BBC's "**Arena**" and "**Omnibus**" arts programmes on a wide variety of subjects including John Ford and ABBA.

In 1993, Eaton produced "**Family**", a four-part drama for the BBC, written by Roddy Doyle. Shortly afterwards, he and Michael Winterbottom, who directed "**Family**", formed Revolution Films. Through Revolution, they have collaborated on ten features, including "**Go Now**" (1995), "**I Want You**" (1998), "**With Or Without You**" (1999), "**Wonderland**" (1999), "**The Claim**", (2000), "**24 Hour Party People**" (2002), "**In This World**" (2002), "**Code 46**" (2003), starring Oscar nominees Tim Robbins and Samantha Morton, and "**9 Songs**" (2004).

Eaton has also worked as an executive producer with Winterbottom at Revolution on Damien O'Donnell's follow-up to "**East Is East**", "**Heartlands**", which was released in the UK in spring 2003, and Stephen Fry's directorial debut "**Bright Young Things**", which was released in September 2003. They are currently executive producing Tracey Emin's first feature, "**Top Spot**", funded by the BBC.

As well as his work with Winterbottom, Eaton has produced "**The James Gang**", directed by Mike Barker, and "**Resurrection Man**" with director Marc Evans.

## **MELISSA PARMENTER** ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Melissa Parmenter joined Revolution Films in 2001 as assistant to Andrew Eaton and Michael Winterbottom. She worked as Italian and French fixer on **"In This World"** and since 2003 has been producing **"Top Spot"** a film by British artist Tracey Emin.

While working as associate producer on **"9 Songs"**, she also composed and performed two piano pieces **"Sola"** and **"Platform"** which appear in the film.

## **MARCEL ZYSKIND** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

**"In This World"** is Marcel Zyskind's debut feature as Director of Photography. Prior to this he was focus puller and camera operator for Lars von Trier on **"Dancer In The Dark"** and **"Millenium Project"**.

Zyskind has also worked as camera and Steadicam operator on **"Rod Jull"** ( Linus Tunstrom), **"24 Hour Party People"** (Michael Winterbottom) and **"28 Days Later"** (Danny Boyle).

He studied cinematography at the Lodz Film School in Poland.

## **STUART WILSON** SOUND RECORDIST

Stuart Wilson previously worked with Michael Winterbottom on **"In This World"**, **"Code 46"** and **"24 Hour Party People"**. He has worked as sound recordist on numerous features, including **"The Constant Gardner"** (Fernando Meirelles), **"The Dreamers"** (Bernardo Bertolucci), **"Innocence"** (Kristina Levring), **"Swiss Family Robinson"** (Charles Beeson), **"The Last Yellow"** (Julian Ferino) and **"The Land Girls"** (David Leland).

Wilson also created sound FX for Lynne Ramsay's debut feature **"Rat Catcher"** and Jerry Weintraub's **"The Avengers"**, amongst others.

## **MAT WHITECROSS** EDITOR

**"9 Songs"** is Mat Whitecross' first feature as editor. Previously he has worked on high profile promos for features such as **"The Constant Gardner"** (Fernando Meirelles) and **"The Festival"** (Annie Griffin). Whitecross worked with Michael Winterbottom on **"Code 46"** as 2nd unit director and as an assistant on **"In This World"**. He also recently worked as 2nd unit editor on **"The Upside Of Anger"** starring Kevin Costner and Joan Allen.

## **JOAKIM SUNDTRÖM** SOUND EDITOR

Joakim Sundtröm has worked as sound editor on numerous feature films and documentaries including Partick Keiller's **"Robinson In Space"** and Damien O'Donnell's **"Heartlands"**.

He worked previously with Michael Winterbottom on **"24 Hour Party People"**. Most recently he completed work on Oscar-winning director Kevin MacDonald's feature-length documentary **"Touching The Void"**.

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