

Four stories from conversations with four women in prison.
Told in their own words and retold by four actors.



MARIANNE MCIVOR

SARAH DINGWALL

KIRSTY FINDLAY

KIRSTY STRAIN

On the Outside

GOOD WELL FILMS presents ON THE OUTSIDE starring SARAH DINGWALL KIRSTY FINDLAY MARIANNE MCIVOR KIRSTY STRAIN
Written by PAUL GRAY & THE PARTICIPANTS OF ON THE OUTSIDE Producer NASREEN SARAËI Executive Producer LINDSAY MORGAN
Director PAUL GRAY Cinematographer ALKISTIS TERZI Editor OLIVIA MIDDLETON Sound Design JONATHON McLOONE Sound Mix ZOE

ABOUT ON THE OUTSIDE

LOGLINE

Four stories from conversations with four women in prison.
Told in their own words and retold by four actors.

SYNOPSIS

On the Outside, is the outcome of a collaborative film project involving Director Paul Gray and a group of women who were serving prison sentences in Scotland at the time.

The film is told in four episodes that recount the four women's stories, in their exact spoken words that were constructed from audio recordings of discussions held in the prison, including song and poetry. The stories are recounted by four actors, and explore the women's life experiences – including family life, drug abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and their experience of being incarcerated – as well as their hopes for the future and the relationships and bonds that have formed between them.

DETAILS

Running time.....	42 min 39 sec
Genre	Drama
Rating	15: Offensive language, sexual content
Year.....	2018
Language.....	English
Country of Origin.....	Scotland
Format.....	2048x1080, 25fps,
Sales / Distribution	Paul Gray- paul@goodwellfilms.uk
Links	Official website: www.goodwellfilms.uk/ontheoutside Official Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/OntheOutsideFilm IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10324282
Available on Vimeo.....	https://vimeo.com/paulgray/ontheoutside-teaser https://vimeo.com/paulgray/ontheoutside
Available on Prime.....	https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B09KSXBQJT

On the Outside screened at Orlando Film Festival 2019 and won best International Film at Alexandria Film Festival, 2019. It was invited to screen by advocacy group Howard League Scotland and by The Koestler Trust, where the film was presented as part of a wider expression of prisoner creativity during Voices from Prison, London Literature Festival 2018, and at the Scottish Parliament (2018), as part of an exhibition titled '100 Years On – An Art Trail by Women in Prison'. Screenings also took place in numerous schools across Scotland.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT: PAUL GRAY



On The Outside began when I was invited to develop an idea for a film project to involve a group of women who were serving sentences in HM Prison Polmont, Scotland. It was a collaboration where I would help with the development and realisation of stories that the participants wanted to share.

The premise of the project was to empower the participants as authors of their own representation. I led workshops during which we watched films and explored story-telling through the medium of film. I also followed up the group work with one-to-one discussions. I didn't have any fixed notion of what shape the films would take, and it gradually became defined by the willingness of the participants to share their stories very directly with each other, and with myself and producer Nasreen Saraei.

In the end the overarching idea that developed was a very simple scenario. We would recount stories while travelling on a car journey – the car being both a private space but within a public environment - a safe space akin to the education rooms we occupied during the project, and representative of a desire to be elsewhere. Participation in the project was voluntary and the resulting work consists of four scripted episodes, one for each of the women who remained involved throughout the process. The scripts were taken from recordings of our discussions, using the participants' exact spoken words as well as including song and poetry. The stories, which are retold by four actors, explore the women's lives, their hopes for the future, their experiences of prison, and the relationships and bonds that formed between them.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Paul Gray is a film maker based in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is also Associate Professor and Programme Leader for BA (Hons) Film at Edinburgh Napier University. He has directed a number of short films, including the two documentaries, Half Way Home (Make Dox, Macedonia, 2010; London Short Film Festival, 2009; broadcast on SBS Australia, 2008) and Skiens, both of which premiered at Edinburgh International Film Festival (2008) and were nominated for Best Scottish Documentary. His short drama, Tree of Tule (2012) was nominated for Best British Short at EIFF.

And Violet (2017) was Paul's debut feature film, which screened at a number of festivals and events, including Arizona International Film Festival, where it was the winner of both the Best Dramatic Feature Award and a Special Jury Award for Best Performance.

Prior to filmmaking, Paul worked within visual arts, exhibiting his photography and video works, as well as curating exhibitions.

His undergraduate study was in photography at Edinburgh College of Art (1992), before completing an MA in Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art, London (1996) and an MFA Advanced Film Practice at Screen Academy Scotland (2006).

CAST



KIRSTY STRAIN

as VANESSA

Kirsty Strain is an actor, writer, director and vocal coach with a dual base in London and Glasgow. As an actor Kirsty has appeared in numerous TV productions including, 'Guilt' (BBC), 'Outlander' (STARZ), Burnistoun (BBC), Scot Squad (BBC Scotland) and River City (BBC). She has also worked on a number of feature film productions including 'Dreaded Light', 'Ribbons', for which she also has a writing credit and other projects such as 'Make Me Up', 'Anna and the Apocalypse', 'And Violet', 'Up There' and 'The House of Him'. Within her varied body of work Kirsty has successfully worked across both comedy and drama. As a filmmaker, her first short film, 'Echoes That Remain' screened at various film festivals at home and internationally and received certificates for Best Actress and Best Sound. Her second short film is currently in development. As a voice coach, Kirsty specialises in accents and dialects, vocal production for performers and presentation skills training.

Kirsty can currently be seen in the brand new UKTV Original crime drama 'Annika' (Alibi).

"Visual Letters marks the second time I have worked with director Paul Gray, DOP Alkistis Terzi and many of the crew. It was once again such a privilege. Knowing that this piece is taken directly from real life stories, my hope is that I have been able to honour that."



KIRSTY FINDLAY

as GEMMA

Since graduating from Edinburgh Napier University, Kirsty has been working across the U.K. on a range of theatre and film productions. She was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role along with the cast of Our Ladies Of Perpetual Succour and was awarded Best Actress at the Scottish Short Film Festival for her role in Lethe.

'Films like "Visual Letters" are vital in progressing the portrayal of women onscreen which is why I was thrilled to be brought on board. It was great to work with a team that was so dedicated to giving a voice to these four women - a voice which is sadly so often misused or absent from lot of films today. It was lovely to get to work with such a great bunch of people who all just wanted to create the best work possible.'

CAST



MARIANNE MCIVOR

as SANDY

Since training at the Arts Educational Schools and at The Academy of The Live and Recorded Arts, in London, Marianne has worked in Television, Film and Theatre throughout the UK and abroad. Recent Film Credits include Outlaw King directed by David Mackenzie, Wild Rose with Tom Harper, Be Still My Beating Heart with Maxine Peake, Turning Tide which recently premiered at LA Shorts. Other credits include channel 4 series Screw, Hurricane films The Last Bus and the BBC series The Nest.

Marianne is currently filming on 3000 Film's Lady Chatterley's Lover.

It was a real pleasure to work on Visual Letters, being involved in the sharing of the women's experiences in a way very rarely heard felt incredibly special. The whole team were talented and supportive. I thoroughly enjoyed being squashed in a car with all of them!"



SARAH DINGWALL

as ABIGAIL

Sarah Dingwall graduated from Edinburgh Napier university's acting for stage and screen with a first class honours degree.

During Sarah's time at university she worked with a wide variety of actors, directors and film makers. Sarah is a founding member of Pretty Knickers Productions, who completed a sell out run of their show, SOB STORY, at this year's Edinburgh Fringe festival.

"Being a part of this project was a fantastic experience. It was my first film I have worked on and was nervous as I did not know what to expect. However, from day one everyone was welcoming, friendly and professional. The cast and crew were passionate about the project, which made the experience fun. I learnt so much and met great people."



PRODUCER

Nas Saraei

Nasreen Saraei (Nas) is a film student from Edinburgh, about to graduate from Napier's Screen Academy and has a previous degree in Education from The University of Edinburgh.

She has worked as either writer, producer, director or editor on over 12 commended short films during her degree. She was chosen for Jumpcut- a training programme creating a £10000 budget short whilst mentored by industry professionals. She was key team player in the success of the film 'Dropping Off Michael' which had its international premier at Palm Springs and was twice BAFTA nominated. In 2017 she studied film for four months in NYC at Brooklyn College.

She was also chosen for BBC's BAME Writer/Director New Voices on Screen Lab 2016.



CINEMATOGRAPHER

Alkistis Terzi

Alkistis Terzi is a Greek female cinematographer with experience in short films, features, documentaries and commercials.

She is currently based in Doha working as a full time DoP for the largest commercial company in Qatar. Her passion for films has always brought her back from commercials to independent productions especially those that focus on untold stories from the female perspective.

CREDITS

CAST

Abigail.....Sarah Dingwall
Vanessa.....Kirsty Strain
Gemma.....Kirsty Findlay
Sandy.....Marianne McIvor

CREW

Writers.....Paul Gray & the 4
participants of
On the Outside
Director.....Paul Gray
Producer.....Nas Saraei
Executive Producers.....Paul Gray
Lindsay Morgan
Director of Photography.....Alkistis Terzi
Editor.....Olivia Middleton
Sound Designer.....Jonathon McCloone
Sound Mix.....Zoë Irvine
ColouristPaul Gray
Casting.....Nas Saraei
Catering.....Incholm Inn
Original Music(writer).....'Abigail'
Original Music(performance)...Sarah Dingwall &
Matthew Cowan

First Assistant Director.....Demi Sutherland
1st Assistant Camera.....Jane Armstrong
Hair and Make-up.....Laura Hamilton
Gaffer.....Andrew Glen
Sound Recordist.....Jonathon McCloone
Driver.....Amanda Stuart
Runner.....Kristiina Oja
Christian Williams
Spring Yu

