



presents

NOWHERE SPECIAL



© Nowhere Special Limited. Photo: Peter Marley

a red wave film

produced by picomedia, digital cube and nsl

with rai cinema

starring james norton

and introducing daniel lamont

written, produced and directed by uberto pasolini

produced by roberto sessa, cristian nicolescu

an italy, romania & uk co-production

with the support of eurimages, the romanian film centre and northern ireland screen

NOWHERE SPECIAL

CAST

John	James Norton
Michael	Daniel Lamont
Shona	Eileen O'Higgins
Ella	Valerie O'Connor
Rosemary	Stella McCusker

CREW

Written, produced and directed by	Uberto Pasolini
Producers	Roberto Sessa, Cristian Nicolescu
Director of photography	Marius Panduru rsc
Editors	Masahiro Hirakubo, Saska Simpson
Casting	Carla Stronge csa
Production designer	Patrick Creighton
Costume designer	Maggie Donnelly
Make-up artist	Polly Mckay

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Shooting Locations	Belfast, Northern Ireland
Shooting time	31 days
Running time	1:31:34
Screen Ratio	1.85:1
Format	Digital

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LOGLINE

A single father dedicates the last few months of his life to finding a new family for his four-year-old son.

SYNOPSIS

John, a 35-year-old window cleaner, has dedicated his life to bringing up his 4-year-old son, Michael, after the child's mother left them soon after giving birth. When John is given only a few months left to live, he attempts to find a new, perfect family for Michael, determined to shield him from the terrible reality of the situation. Although initially certain of what he is looking for in the perfect family, John gradually abandons his early convictions, overwhelmed by doubts on the decision. How can he judge a family from a brief encounter? And does he know his own child well enough to make this choice for him? As John struggles to find the right answer to his impossible task, he comes to accept the help of a young social worker, opening himself to solutions he would never have considered. And he finally comes to accept his anger at the injustice of his destiny, the need to share the truth with his son, and to follow the child's instincts on the biggest decision of their lives.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

JOHN

Father. Thirty-five year old, a working class window cleaner, with no family except for his beloved child. Brought up in the social care system, he does not show his emotions nor share his feelings. He is quiet, reserved, controlled.

MICHAEL

Son. Four year old. Loving, sensitive, a little spoilt.

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SHONA

Social worker. In her late twenties. Sensitive, patient, generous. Prepared to risk her new job for John and Michael.

WRITER / DIRECTOR'S NOTE - UBERTO PASOLINI

I wanted to make this film as soon as I read about the case of a terminally ill father attempting to find a new family for his toddler son before his death. Although the situation the main characters find themselves in is very dramatic, the decision at script level was to approach the story in a very subtle, "quiet" way, as far away from melodrama and sentimentalism as possible, as in a film by Yasujirō Ozu, or, more recently, the work of Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne. This approach was reflected in the style of the film-making we adopted, direct and free from distracting stylistic flourishes. Marius Panduru's camera work was designed to be both fluid and unobtrusive, when appropriate even reflecting the child's point of view. The main directorial challenge of the film was that of working with a very young child, and of creating a believable and moving father-son relationship on camera. Fortunately, in young Daniel Lamont, then four years old, we have an extraordinarily aware and sensitive natural performer, and in James Norton a most generous actor, who was happy to dedicate long days into creating a connection with the boy well ahead of the shoot, and to support and guide Daniel throughout what for any child would have been an intense and at times bewildering experience.

PRODUCERS' NOTE - ROBERTO SESSA, CRISTIAN NICOLESCU

With "Nowhere Special", inspired by actual events and telling a moving and compelling story of parenthood, Pasolini adopts again a low key approach to explore universal themes, drawing the audience's involvement and identification with the main protagonists and the dramatic situation they confront. The director has spoken about the work of Yasujirō Ozu, or, more recently, that of Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, as main reference points for this film, and, in his own small way, and without pretending to emulate them, he was able to use the apparently "simple" approach of those masters with very moving results in his last feature, "Still Life". "Nowhere Special" offers an original take on the subject of parenthood, both through the experience of the two central characters and the varied lives of the potential adopters they come into contact with. It stands out in its work with a very young child, and in the construction of an absolutely believable father-son relationship on screen.

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BIOGRAPHY - UBERTO PASOLINI

Uberto Pasolini has worked within the British film industry since 1983. After ten years as assistant director, line producer and vice president at Columbia Pictures, he became an independent producer and founded Red Wave Films in 1993. The company's first produced feature film was "Palookaville", starring Vincent Gallo and directed by Alan Taylor. Subsequently the company produced "The Full Monty", which grossed over 250 million dollars internationally, won a BAFTA for Best Film and was nominated for four Oscars, amongst numerous other accolades. Red Wave also produced "The Closer You Get", written by William Ivory and "The Emperor's New Clothes", starring Ian Holm. In 2008, Uberto directed "Machan", which he also co-wrote and produced. The film went on to win numerous international festival awards including the Europa Cinemas Label Award, Best European Film Giornate degli Autori/Venice Days, Audience Awards for Best Film at the Kerala, Transylvania and Amsterdam Film Festivals and Best Screenplay Award at the Durban International Film Festival.

2012 saw the release of "Bel Ami" produced by Uberto and starring Robert Pattinson, Uma Thurman, Christina Ricci and Kristin Scott Thomas. The script was adapted from Guy de Maupassant's novel by Rachel Bennette and directed by Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod. In 2013, Uberto wrote, produced and directed "Still Life", set in South London and starring Eddie Marsan and Joanne Froggatt. Shortlisted amongst the best European films by EFA in 2014, the film won numerous awards including Best Director, 2013 Venice Film Festival/Orizzonti, Best Film at the Reykjavik, St Louis, Volgoda festivals, Best Film/Audience Award in Transylvania, Nara, Riga, Trondheim, the prestigious Best Foreign Film 2014 Hochi award in Japan and Best Actor at the Edinburgh Film Festival amongst others.

CAST BIOGRAPHY - JAMES NORTON

James Norton is best known for his roles in the popular British television series "Happy Valley", "McMafia", "War and Peace" and "Granchester". In 2013, he was chosen by Screen International as one of their "Stars of Tomorrow" and in 2015 was nominated for a BAFTA TV Award for Best Supporting Actor for his work on Happy Valley. His most recent work includes the Netflix thriller "Things Seen and Heard" with Amanda Seyfried, HBO Series "The Nevers" and Agnieszka Holland's "Mr Jones". Other credits include "Black Mirror", "Dr Who", Ron Howard's "Rush" alongside Chris Hemsworth and Olivia Wilde and "An Education" with Carey Mulligan and Rosamund Pike. James Norton graduated from Cambridge University and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RACA).

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PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY - ROBERTO SESSA / PICOMEDIA

Roberto Sessa is the former CEO of Fremantle in Italy, former Board Member at Fremantle Spain, former Vice President of the European Coordination Independent Producers (CEPI), and Co-Founder and Member of the Board of the Italian Association Television Producers (A.P.A.) as well as Owner and Founder of Picomedia. Founded in 2010, Picomedia regularly cooperates with RAI Fiction, Warner Bros, Medusa, Mediaset, Mediaset Espana, Globo, Mediterranea, RAICinema, Wild Bunch, Beta and TF1.

PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY - CRISTIAN NICOLESCU / DIGITAL CUBE

Cristian Nicolescu holds the title of the youngest editor nominated for the Gopo Awards - the most important distinction awarded by the industry to Romanian professionals. His latest projects include co-producing "Donbass" (directed by Sergey Loznitsa, Un Certain Regard Award, 2018), the 2017 Golden Bear winner, "Ana Mon Amour" and 2016 Semaine de la Critique winner, "Albüm". He is CEO and co-founder of Digital Cube - Eastern Europe's most comprehensive production and post-production facility, regularly cooperating with Netflix, HBO Europe, the Berlinale EFM, Cannes Marché du Film and AFM.

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