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# WELSH DIRECTOR TAKES #METOO DRAMA "FATHER OF THE BRIDE" TO SXSW



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ----LONDON--- 24 FEBRUARY, 2020

NYU Tisch Alum and BBC/BFI iFeatures Scheme Mentee and Cannes Film Festival - Cinéfondation Resident, Screenwriter/Director **Rhys Marc Jones** brings the social dilemmas of sexual abuse, toxic masculinity and white privilege into focus and onto the major festival screen, as his latest short-film *Father of the Bride* will have its World Premiere at **South by Southwest Festival** in Austin, Texas March 13 - 21, 2020.

The North American festival will showcase "A selection of original, well-crafted films that take advantage of the short form and exemplify distinctive and genuine storytelling." - SXSW

Father of the Bride tells the story of best man Christain, as he attempts to keep face and deliver his speech at his brother's wedding, following an unwanted encounter in the hotel bathroom with the father of the bride, Martin.

Inspired by a night in 2017 at the BAFTA Britannia Awards in Los Angeles CA, in which Jones sat in the audience of the Hilton Ballroom, like many around him, under the thrall of the charismatic and widely loved Kevin Spacey, as Spacey presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dick Van Dyke with a buoyant and colourful speech. This being just hours before the first story broke of sexual assault allegations against the now shadowed actor.

Father of the Bride, starring Dominic Mafham and Jay Lycurgo, will have its first screening incompetition as an Official Selection of the Narrative Shorts Program 3 on 14th March, 2020 at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema Ritz 1 in Austin TX at 5:30pm -7:05pm

Jones' Father of the Bride, not to be confused with the 1980's Steve Martin Romantic-Comedy of the same name, explores power and duality of character: how the most damaging of perpetrators are often described as charming, larger than life or even a father figure and how that power affects the victim and the nature of the encounter. Jones offers his audience such a truthful scenario using race, gender and wealth as key components.



"The protagonist, Christian, is mixed race, further compounding his confusion and clouding perceptions of his credibility within the white space he inhabits,..." says Jones, "...who will be believed by those in attendance: the rich white patriarch picking up the check or the young black man in the room?

In an effort to create a world that is both a reflection of modern times and a story that knows no borders, *Father of the Bride* brings its protagonist's emotions to the surface with underlying themes of secrecy v the truth and the inner-struggle of acceptance, all set amidst an over-the-top and lavish wedding engulfed within the architectural decadence of a grand Victorian Hotel.

Jones teams up with Danish Cinematographer Lasse Ulvedal Tolbøll and French-American Production & Costume Designer Paix Robinson, having previously worked alongside the two on previous films, including *Pale Saint* (2018), *Boundaries* (2017) and *Burn Bridge* (2017).

Father of the Bride, in partnership with BBC Wales Cymru, Film Cymru Wales, Deivos Films and the BFI Network, comes at a poignant time when the art of cinema and imagination is used most to usher the truth into the limelight, turning the camera lens to a more diversified and truthful field of view. The UK's first-ever joint official statistics bulletin on sexual violence released by the Ministry of Justice, Office for National Statistics and Home Office, revealed that every hour approximately 12,000 men experience roughly 11 of the most serious sexual offenses. Of those experienced, only 15% ever report the encounter to the police and an average 90% of those victims, know the perpetrator prior to the offense.

Merging Film, Music and Interactive Technology and Media, SXSW Festival is the platform on which diverse and innovative talents within each industry are welcomed and applauded. With over performances and films being showcased, an average 75,000 attending filmmakers, musicians, digital architects and entrepreneurs from all over the world, SXSW has placed itself within the miraculous web of true artistry across multiple disciplines - further amplifying the bold and creative voices of today for generations to come.

Father of the Bride was Executive produced by Alice Whitmore and Produced by Alex Polunin. Following the SXSW World Premiere in March 2020, Father of the Bride will be available for streaming Summer 2020 on BBC iPlayer.





Run Time: 15mins / Camera: Arri Alexa SXT / Country of Origin: United Kingdom Principle Cast includes Dominic Mafham, Jay Lycurgo, Marcus Rutherford, Isabelle Connolly, David Broughton Davies and Dom Francis.

# Father of the Bride - SXSW Full screening details:

Date: 14 March, 2020 - Shorts Program 3 Venue: Alamo Drafthouse Cinema Ritz 1 Time: 5:30pm-7:05pm

Date: 16 March, 2020 - Shorts Program 3 Venue: Alamo Drafthouse Cinema South Lamar B Time: 12:00pm-1:35pm

Date: 19 March, 2020 - Shorts Program 3 Venue: Alamo Drafthouse Cinema South Lamar A Time: 3:00pm-4:35pm

#### OFFICIAL FATHER OF THE BRIDE SXSW PAGE

**DIRECTOR'S WEBSITE** 

**FILM TWITTER** 

LA RESIDENCE - CINÉFONDATION

### BLACK CURCH BAY - FEATURE PROJECT

#### Director's Previous Festival Selections:

Burn Bridge: BFI Flare London LGBT Film Festival, Leeds Intl. Film Festival, Inside Out Toronto Film

Festival, Los Angeles Film Festival, BIFA: Longlisted - Best Short Film

Pale Saint: Galway Film Fleadh, Encounters Film Festival, Leeds Intl. Film Festival,

Boundaries: Inside Out Toronto Film Festival, Outfest Fusion Film Festival, Palm Springs Intl Film

Festival