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A FILM BY SHIMMY MARCUS

# SoulBoy



**Cast** | MARTIN COMPSTON, NICHOLA BURLEY, ALFIE ALLEN & FELICITY JONES

**UK Release Date** | 3 SEPTEMBER 2010

**Running Time** | 82 minutes

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**[www.soulboythefilm.com](http://www.soulboythefilm.com)**

## SYNOPSIS

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Stoke on Trent, 1974 - Amidst power cuts, strikes and boot-boy aggro on the football terraces, restless JOE MCCAIN (MARTIN COMPSTON), is bored with the flatline tedium of a life that's going nowhere. He trudges through his Monday to Friday delivery van job, while pulling off some petty theft with his partner in crime and best friend RUSS MOUNTJOY (ALFIE ALLEN). Enter trainee hair-dresser JANE (NICHOLA BURLEY). Blonde, brassy, and moving to the beat of a music that opens the door to a whole new world of sound, movement and all-nighter dancing at The Wigan Casino - the home of Northern Soul! Joe persuades Russ to go with him to check it out. Once there, Joe is seduced by the music, the dancing, the drugs and Jane. He strikes up a friendship with MANDY (FELICITY JONES) a cute and spunky artist who is eager to help Joe become the cool "soul boy" he wants to be. She helps him learn the all important dance moves and a friendship quickly develops as she encourages him to open up and grow. Mandy falls for Joe who is swept along on this tide of pulsating dance and lust, finally finding somewhere he belongs. As Joe falls deeper and deeper into the Northern Soul scene, his new paradise is threatened by Jane's drug dealing boyfriend ALAN (CRAIG PARKINSON) and a crumbling friendship with Russ. A love triangle develops with Jane and Mandy, and Joe has to decide who he really wants in his life.

## **SELECT CAST BIOGRAPHY**

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### **MARTIN COMPSTON**

Having never acted before, he successfully auditioned for the lead role in Ken Loach's *Sweet Sixteen*. The film's success at the Cannes Film Festival gave him instant celebrity status and numerous awards: British Newcomer of The Year by The London Critics Circle Film Awards, British Independent Film Award for Most Promising Newcomer, European Film Award for Best Actor, Empire Award for Best Actor, and a BAFTA for Best Actor. Since then Martin has gone on to roles in: *A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints* co-starring with Robert Downey Jr winner of the Jury Prize and Best Ensemble Cast award at the Sundance Festival, *Red Road* winner of the Jury Prize at The 2007 Cannes Film Festival for which he was BAFTA nominated for Best Supporting Actor, and *True North* for which again he received a BAFTA and British Independent Film Awards nomination for Best Actor. Martin has most recently been seen in cinemas opposite Gemma Arterton in the *Disappearance of Alice Creed*.

### **FELICITY JONES**

An actress from an early age, Felicity was just 15 when cast in her longest and probably best known role as Emma Grundy in the world's longest running soap opera BBC Radio 4's *The Archers*. Felicity really came to prominence when she took the leading role in the 2007 ITV adaptation of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* which she followed by making her stage debut in Polly Stenham's *That Face* at the Royal Court Theatre in April 2007. In 2008, she appeared in the films *Brideshead Revisited*, *Flashbacks of a Fool*, and the five-part BBC One miniseries *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Felicity has recently been seen in in UK cinemas as the female lead in Rick Gervais' *Cemetery Junction* and will be in cinemas again soon in Julie Taymor's big screen adaptation of *The Tempest* as well as *SoulBoy*.

### **ALFIE ALLEN**

Alfie's first big screen appearance was in the Oscar winning film *Elizabeth*, since then he has gone on to appear in *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *Flashbacks of a Fool*, *Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London*, and most prominently as Danny Hardman in another Oscar winning film *Atonement*, an adaptation of the Ian McEwan novel. Alfie's television appearances include BBC1's historical hospital drama, *Casualty 1907*, as Nobby Clark and as Jason in *Joe's Palace* opposite Michael Gambon.

### **NICHOLA BURLEY**

Nichola's acting career began in 2005 when she appeared as Michelle in the Dominic Savage film *Love + Hate*. Nichola had guest roles in *The Ghost Squad*, in November 2005, and *Shameless* in February 2006. In September 2006 Channel 4 show *Goldplated* debuted with Burley playing a main role in the ensemble cast. In November 2006 Nichola received much praise for her role as Zoe, in Dominic Savage's improvised, one-off BBC drama *Born Equal* alongside Robert Carlyle, Anne-Marie Duff and Colin Firth. She also starred as Cathy McAleer in BBC Three show *Drop Dead Gorgeous* for two series as well as starring in the lead role of Tammi in 2008's *Donkey Punch*. In 2010 Nichola starred in UK cinema sensation *StreetDance3D* in the lead role alongside George Sampson, *Diversity* and *Flawless*.

### **PAT SHORTT**

Pat Shortt began his career in comedy and with Jon Kenny he created D'Unbelievables, Ireland's most popular comedy duo. Together they performed their unique brand of comedy in theatres all over Ireland, Britain and The United States as well as various countries across Europe. They produced numerous critically acclaimed and sell-out shows as well as

writing and producing chart-topping videos. As a solo artist, Pat's first show called simply "Pat Shortt Live", played more than 250 dates around Ireland. Pat's work was hailed as "comic genius" by the Irish Times. His television credits include Tom in Father Ted, and Bobby in The Fitz. His own show Killinaskully, which is broadcast on RTÉ, to this day continues to be one of the most watched shows since it was first broadcast in 2003. Pat's film roles include Angela Mooney Dies Again, This Is My Father (with Brendan Gleeson, Aidan Quinn, Stephen Rea and James Caan), The Closer You Get (with Ian Hart), and Man About Dog directed by Paddy Breathnach. Most recently he starred in the film Garage directed by Lenny Abrahamson which premiered at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival and won the C.I.C.A.E. and Prix Art et Essai award at the festival. For his role in the film he won Best Actor at the 2008 Irish Film and Television Awards (the film also garnered 10 other IFTA awards), and The "Coup de Coeur" award at the prestigious Dinard British Film Festival.

## NORTHERN SOUL

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### **““NORTHERN SOUL HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY AND POTENT UNDERGROUND MOVEMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF POPULAR MUSIC.” – The BBC**

Northern Soul is a type of mid-tempo and uptempo heavy-beat soul music (of mainly African American origin) that was popularised in Northern England in the mid 1960s. The term also refers to the associated dance styles and fashions that emanated from the Twisted Wheel club in Manchester and spread to other dancehalls and nightclubs, such as the Golden Torch (in Stoke-upon-Trent), the Blackpool Mecca, and the Wigan Casino. Northern Soul dancing was usually athletic, resembling the later dance styles of disco and break dancing. Featuring spins, flips, and backdrops, the northern soul dancing style was inspired by the stage performances of visiting American soul acts such as Little Anthony & The Imperials and Jackie Wilson. The music that has been described as Northern Soul originally consisted of obscure American soul recordings, including lesser known songs from Motown Records, Stax Records, Okeh Records and many more obscure record labels. The phrase Northern Soul was coined by journalist Dave Godin and popularised in 1970 through his column in Blues and Soul magazine. In a 2002 interview with Chris Hunt of Mojo, he explained that he had first come up with the term in 1968 as a sales reference for use in his record shop in Covent Garden, to help staff differentiate the more modern funkier sounds from the smoother, Motown-influenced soul of a few years earlier: “I had started to notice that northern football fans who were in London to follow their team were coming into the store to buy records, but they weren't interested in the latest developments in the black American chart. I devised the name as a shorthand sales term. It was just to say 'if you've got customers from the north, don't waste time playing them records currently in the U.S. black chart, just play them what they like' - 'Northern Soul'. A large proportion of Northern Soul's original audience came from the mod movement. Some mods started to embrace the freakbeat and psychedelic rock of the late 1960s, but other mods - especially those in northern England - stuck to the original mod soundtrack of soul and blue beat. Some mods transformed into what would eventually be the skinheads, and others formed the basis of the Northern Soul scene. Early Northern Soul fashion included bowling shirts, button-down Ben Sherman shirts, blazers with centre vents and unusual numbers of buttons, Trickers brogue shoes, baggy trousers or shrink-to-fit Levi's jeans. Many dancers wore badges representing membership to clubs organised by dance halls.

The first nightclub that effectively defined the Northern soul sound was Manchester's Twisted Wheel Club. Other early clubs were the The Mojo in Sheffield, The Catacombs in Wolverhampton, Golden Torch in Stoke, Room at the Top in Wigan, the Wigan Casino, the Blackpool Mecca and Va Va's in Bolton. The music reached its peak of popularity in the mid to late 1970s, when Wigan Casino was voted the world's number one discotheque. Thousands of people visited every week, but the exclusive and underground appeal of the music was lost and many of the hardcore soul fans drifted away. When Wigan Casino shut down in 1981, many believed the Northern Soul scene was about to end. However, the 1970s mod revival and the later scooterboy subculture produced a new wave of fans. The whole Northern Soul scene was an incredible phenomenon - incredible that in the depressed north of England, where hard, boring, ill-paid, repetitive work was the mainstay of so many lives, there was still the energy and enthusiasm left to indulge in, and cultivate, such a vibrant musical scene. 'When the whole rave thing went ballistic it felt like Northern Soul twenty years on. House is this generation's version of Northern Soul' (Dewhirst in Brewster & Broughton 2000: 84). Authentic soul music from the industrial heart of America matured, and reached deep into the cultural consciousness of young people in the industrial heart of England - changing it forever.

Northern Soul is about a feeling - a hedonistic 'Live for the weekend' feeling which is universal, ageless and can be felt today. "UK soul is everywhere at the moment. From Trevor Nelson's journey through it on TV, through the KFC commercial and out into the charts filled with fake versions of it, everyone wants a bit of original soul music and they want it now." - Chris Long, BBC website "The choice of gigs that's available to people nowadays is absolutely unbelievable... There are lots of fanzines and Northern Soul has a higher profile now than it's ever had. There were never as many clubs in the heyday as there are now." - Richard Serling, Jazz FM "I can play northern soul to thousands of kids in Japan or Barcelona and they appreciate it for what it is - just good quality music. They're even starting to get it in America which is odd really considering that's where it all came from originally." - Keb Darge, Northern/Modern Soul DJ/promoter "I go all over - to Italy, France, Sweden, Ibiza! The crowd there enjoy the music just the same, only they tend to be younger." - Ginger Taylor, Northern DJ

"Quality vocals and a joyous, uplifting song sensibility have become a lost art. The weird thing is that there's a new generation of 18 to 25-year-olds who are coming to clubs like the Rocket. I don't know where they're coming from, but word is getting out." - The Observer CD re-releases have been behind the rebirth of Northern Soul since the 90s. Fans in their 40s suddenly discovered a route back to the dance floor via their home stereo, and it didn't break the bank. Telstar recently unleashed Soul Survivors, a double CD of Northern Soul anthems, which sold 120,000 units.

The New Generation... At present, there is a reemergence of the Northern Soul sound from such popular artists as Sharon Jones and The Dap Kings, Mark Ronson, Duffy and Amy Winehouse. With this new modern music, and by the many records sales it is having, it is clear that this "throw back sound" is the new wave in music. Northern Soul has gained a totally new youth audience who are experiencing for the first time the all night Northern Soul clubs of their parents and taking it and making it their own "new scene". Northern Soul is experiencing a huge revival and attracting more and more to the sound and the scene. Northern Soul has reached the MTV audience!

## THE SOUNDTRACK

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It's easy to explain to people what Northern Soul is. You tell them it's a soul scene founded in the North of England in the mid 60's - early 70's typified by up-tempo heavy-beat soul music, mainly of African American origin. You tell them its also about the dancing. The spins, the flips, and the backdrops that would set the stage for disco and break-dancing. They nod, slightly enlightened. "Ahhh" they say. And then you play them Tainted Love. Not the Soft Cell cover, but the glorious Gloria Jones original. And slowly their eyes begin to bulge. And you play them "Too Late" by Larry Williams & Johnny Watson and watch the smile begin to creep over their face. By the time they've heard Dean Parish's "I'm On My Way" and Yvonne Bakers " You Didn't Say a Word" they're converted. This was my experience. This has been the experience of countless others all across the world since the mid 60's. And this is before they've even seen the original footage of the Wigan Casino where many memorable all-nighters played out between 1973 and 1981. If you've seen SoulBoy, you know what I'm talking about!

For me, great music, like great films should be a journey of discovery. SoulBoy is such a journey for Joe McCain. This is his moment, like all of us in our youth, we discover a scene, a sound, a place where we finally feel we belong. That music becomes the soundtrack to the best years of our lives, and if that soundtrack happens to be Northern Soul, well, it don't get much better than that.

Shimmy Marcus, June 2010

## THE FULL SOUNDTRACK

**Tiger Feet** (Chinn/Chapman) by Mud.  
**Face of A Loser** (Reed) Tom Jones  
**Keep On** (Phillips) by Shawn Phillips  
**Double Cookin'** (Campbell/Hones)  
**The Snake** (Brown) by Al Wilson  
**Ain't That A Lot Of Love** (Parker/Banks)  
**Turn To Me** (Wooton/Stewart) by Chris Towns  
**The In Crowd** (Page) by Dobie Gray  
**Breakaway** (Karmen) The Steve Karmen Big Band  
**Tainted Love** (Cobb) Gloria Jones  
**Too Late** (Walner/Williams/Watson) by Larry Williams and Johnny Watson  
**The Girl's Got It** (Page) - Billy Preston  
**Our Love Is Getting Stronger Every Day** (Knight) by Jason Knight  
**Sweet Darling** (Wylie/Hester) by Popcorn and the Soul Messengers  
**You Didn't Say A Word** (Jackson/Renzetti/Wells) Yvonne Baker  
**Call On Me** (Jackson) - Percy Mile  
**The Joker** (Grayson) by Mylestones  
**Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy**  
**Trackdown** (Scales / LaCour) by Harvey Scales & The Seven Sounds  
**Soul Galore** (Winford/Hamilton) by Jackie Wilson  
**I'm Gonna Love You A Long Long Time** (Bendinelli/Lovett) by Patti & The Emblems  
**All Of My Life** (Valando/Lanares) by Detroit Soul  
**Cracked Up Over You** (Bryant) by Lee Rodgers  
**If It's All The Same 2u Babe** (Hester/Wylie) by Luther Ingram  
**So Is The Sun** (Boller/Kaplin/Johnson) by World Column  
**If It's For Real Baby** (Parks/Randazzo) by Porgy & the Monarchs  
**Be Young Be Foolish and Be Happy** (Cobb/Whitley) by The Tams  
**"FOE-DEE-O-DEE"** (Bickerton / Waddington) The Rubettes  
**"JUKE BOX JIVE"** (Bickerton / Waddington) - The Rubettes  
**I'm On My Way** (Greenberg/Morris) by Dean Parrish  
**On a Magic Carpet Ride** (Pike/Randazzo) by Gabriela Cilmi

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## **CREW BIOGRAPHY**

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### **DIRECTOR – SHIMMY MARCUS**

Shimmy Marcus is the director of SoulBoy and a multi award winning filmmaker who has worked across a variety of formats and genres. In 1999 he won the Miramax Script Writing Award for his feature script 'Headrush' which he also directed. The film has won a variety of International awards including Best Feature at festivals in Michigan, New York, and most recently the Braunschweig Film Festival in Germany, where it received the highest Audience vote in the 17-year history of the festival. The son of twice Oscar nominated filmmaker Louis Marcus, Shimmy's critically acclaimed feature documentary 'Aidan Walsh - Master of the Universe' became the first Irish documentary made on video to receive theatrical and video distribution. More awards have followed for Shimmy's short films and notably for his contribution to the feature documentary 'Imagining Ulysses'. He continues to work across various formats and styles including television drama (Working Girls), Commercials (HB), and music promos. In this latter category Shimmy has created many innovative pieces for bands including Fun Lovin' Criminals, Snow Patrol, Gavin Friday, Skin (Skunk Anansie), and Republic of Loose.

### **CONSULTANT – KEB DARGE**

Keb is a famous Northern Soul DJ and dancer. An aficionado of the Wigan casino days, he is the expert in all things Northern Soul and it's dancing. Among the Casino goers and followers of the scene he is considered the most knowledgeable and well known among the scene. He began his career in local disco dance competitions (dancing in the "northern soul style") in the North of Scotland, and made an appearance in the nationally televised 1979 UK disco dance finals. He was also a dancer for the Wigan Casino, whilst collecting Northern Soul records. Soon after, he was DJing in Wigan at a club next to the casino, and around Scotland as well with his record collection throughout the 1970s. He currently tours all over the world hosting Northern Soul nights in such far off places as Japan and Taiwan where the scene is huge. Most recently he was the consultant and choreographer for Duffy's video to the song Mercy, which depicts a classic Northern Soul scene and dancers that were hand picked by Darge. Duffy's hit record debuted at number one on the UK.

### **PRODUCER – CHRISTINE ALDERSON**

Christine founded Ipso Facto Films in 1993 and made over 50 short films, dramas and documentaries before producing her first feature film NASTY NEIGHBOURS (Dir: Debbie Isitt) in 1998 premiering at Venice 1999, NASTY NEIGHBOURS went on to win many awards. Since then she has produced/co-produced/executive-produced over fifteen feature films. Christine has made films in partnership with France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Brazil. Highlights include European Film Award nominated IRINA PALM (dir: Sam Garbarski) starring Marianne Faithfull which enjoyed over 1 million cinema admissions across Europe. Christine had three films on release in 2009: WHO KILLED NANCY, a feature documentary investigating whether Sid Vicious of the Sex Pistols really did stab his girlfriend Nancy Spungen, was released theatrically in the UK in February 2009; MAD SAD & BAD, an asian comedy from BAFTA nominated and Oscar shortlisted writer-director Avie Luthra, premiered at the Edinburgh IFF 2009 and followed with a UK theatrical release in July 2009 The DVD was just released in the UK on November 9th; VALHALLA RISING (dir. Nicolas Winding Refn) starring Mads Mikkelsen (Danish / UK co- production) was selected for Venice, Toronto, London and Rotterdam Film Festivals winning much critical praise and selling to numerous territories including IFC in North America.

Directed by	<b>SHIMMY MARCUS</b>
Produced by	<b>CHRISTINE ALDERSON</b>
Written by	<b>JEFF WILLIAMS</b>
Casting	<b>SHAHEEN BAIG</b>
Director of Photography	<b>VLADIMIR TRIVIC</b>
Production Designer	<b>RACHEL PAYNE</b>
Film Editor	<b>ANDREW HULME</b>
Composer	<b>LEN ARRAN</b>
Music Supervisor	<b>JOHN BOUGHTWOOD</b>
Costume Designer	<b>ELVIS DAVIS</b>
Hair & Make-Up Designer	<b>VIKKI LAWSON</b>
Line Producer	<b>HAYLEY MANNING</b>
Co-Producers	<b>NATASHA CARLISH</b>
	<b>LORIANNE HALL</b>
Executive Producers	<b>EVE GABEREAU</b>
	<b>STEVE MILNE</b>
	<b>LEE THOMAS</b>
Executive Producers	<b>EDWARD FLETCHER</b>
	<b>MARK FOLIGNO</b>
	<b>GARY PHILLIPS</b>
	<b>DEEPAK SIKKA</b>
	<b>MARK VENNIS</b>

**CAST (in order of appearance).**

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Russ Mountjoy	<b>ALFIE ALLEN</b>
Joe McCain	<b>MARTIN COMPSTON</b>
Purple Onion Lass	<b>HANNAH CRIGHTON</b>
Fish Shop Bobby	<b>BRIAN McCARDIE</b>
Monica	<b>JO HARTLEY</b>
Brendan	<b>PAT SHORTT</b>
Jane	<b>NICHOLA BURLEY</b>
Dee Dee	<b>HUEY MORGAN</b>
Chrissie	<b>DANIELLE HENRY</b>
Alan	<b>CRAIG PARKINSON</b>
Dexie	<b>BRENNAN REECE</b>
Mandy Hodgson	<b>FELICITY JONES</b>
Mike The Manager	<b>BRUCE JONES</b>
Derek	<b>TREVOR WILLIAMS</b>
Mrs Woods	<b>HONRA SHIRLEY</b>
Bouncer	<b>MARK RICHARDSON</b>
Tommy	<b>LIAM QUINN</b>
Record Dealer	<b>MATTHEW HILL</b>
Speedy Guy	<b>GEORGE OLIVER</b>
The Man	<b>SHIMMY MARCUS</b>
Rose McCain	<b>MARY JO RANDLE</b>
Billy McCain	<b>BILL FELLOWS</b>
Divvy Punter	<b>ALEXANDER HARDING</b>
Keeler	<b>SMUG ROBERTS</b>
Casino DJ	<b>IAIN McKEE</b>
Purple Onion Barmaid	<b>DANIELLE WILLIAMS</b>