

RUFUS STONE

A film by Josh Appignanesi

SYNOPSIS

1958. In the deep of England's woods and lakes, teenage Rufus and his best friend Flip discover an unnamed desire between them. But tongues wag in the village, and there's a terrible price to pay. Fifty years later, an aging Rufus reluctantly returns to the village from which he's exiled himself. Can he find a chance for redemption, or has nothing really changed? Based on real-life social research, this hard-hitting yet lyrical story of sexual awakening and betrayal shows how prejudice continues to define modern-day rural England.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Rufus Stone is based on a major social research project into gay life histories in rural England from the perspective of growing older. The project looks at growing up gay in the West Country in the 1950s, and ways in which that has affected lives up to the present day, among subjects now in their 70s. The film is based on a story and on research led by Dr. Kip Jones at Bournemouth University, unearthing stories about rural attitudes, gay lives, and ageing that have never been told. Rufus Stone condenses these histories into a fiction that tells a common truth. It shows how much these attitudes and prejudices, both internalized and externalized, continue to resonate down the generations in tragic ways – that nevertheless still give rise to hope. Part of the mission of the overall project is to maximise awareness of these ongoing realities, in a form – film – that is more affecting and accessible than written history.

<http://www.rufusstonemovie.com>

TECHNICAL SHEET

Country of Production: United Kingdom

Running Time: 30' 20''

Year of Production: 2012

Shooting Format: HD

Screening Format: HDCAM SR

Screening Ration: 16:9

Language: English

CREW

WRITER/DIRECTOR - Josh Appignanesi

PRODUCER - Cecilia Frugiuele

STORY BY - Kip Jones

CASTING - Julie Harkin

CINEMATOGRAPHER - Annika Summerson

PRODUCTION DESIGN - Erik Rehl

COSTUME DESIGNER - Sophie Howard

MAKE UP ARTIST - Lauren Gregory

EDITING - Una Gunjak

SOUND DESIGN - Mauricio D'Orey

CAST

Rufus - William Gaunt

Flip - Niall Buggy

Abigail - Lin Blakely

Young Rufus - Harry Kershaw

Young Flip - Tom Kane

Young Abigail - Martha Myers-Lowe

JOSH APPIGNANESI - DIRECTOR

Josh Appignanesi is a writer/director based in London. He directed the feature film *The Infidel*, starring Omid Djalili, Richard Schiff, Matt Lucas and Archie Panjabi, scripted by David Baddiel. He also directed the feature film *Song Of Songs*, starring Natalie Press and co-written with Jay Basu. He has written and directed short films, music videos, documentaries, commercials and artworks, working with actors John Malkovich, David Tennant, Tom Hiddleston, Sara Kestelman and Michelle Dockery, and collaborating with artist Martin Creed among others. He mentors, advises and teaches internationally for various institutions including the London Film School, the Met Film School, and Film London.

<http://joshappignanesi.com>

FILMOGRAPHY

RUFUS STONE - short film (2012) Parkville Pictures / Bournemouth University

THE INFIDEL - feature film (2010) BBC FILMS

EX MEMORIA - short film (2006)

SONG OF SONGS - feature film (2006) Wild Horses Film Company