

THE FIRST TIME I NEVER MET YOU

a short film by
ERIC KOLE



BLUE SIREINE PRODUCTIONS
& COAL FIRE FILMS

present

a short film by
ERIC KOLE

with
ERIC KOLE
RENEE BAILEY
OSY IKHILE

2023 - U.K.
DRAMA/SCI-FI





SYNOPSIS

John, a grieving scientist inadvertently rewinds time and finds himself at his very first date with his late wife, Esmé. But can he win over the woman who fell for the man that John no longer is?

"... 'TIS BETTER TO HAVE LOVED AND LOST,
THAN NEVER TO HAVE LOVED AT ALL.."

- ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON





TECHNICAL SPECS

Genre DRAMA / SCIENCE FICTION
Country UNITED KINGDOM
Language ENGLISH

Runtime 13 MINS, 43 SECS
Aspect Ratio 2:1
Colour COLOUR

Completion Date NOV 2023

Shooting Format DIGITAL (ARRI ALEXA MINI)
Sound Mix STEREO

Printed Format DCP
PRORES
H.264
H.265

MEDIA ASSETS



[TEASER TRAILER \(YouTube\)](#)

IMAGES

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| POSTER: | Download |
| KEY ART: | Download |
| PRODUCTION STILLS: | Download |
| SCREENSHOTS: | Download |
| BEHIND THE SCENES: | Download |

VIDEOS

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| TEASER TRAILER: | Download |
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OFFICIAL SELECTIONS



EUROPEAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL OF BORDEAUX
(Mar 2024 - Bordeaux, FRANCE)
World Premiere



PARIS IN THE DARK FILM FESTIVAL
(Apr 2024 - Paris, FRANCE)



SUNDERLAND SHORT FILM FESTIVAL
(May 2024 - Sunderland, UNITED KINGDOM)
UK Premiere / BIFA Qualifying



KINGSTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
(Jun 2024 - Kingston, UNITED KINGDOM)



ERIC KOLE

Writer / Director / "John"

Eric Kole is steadily establishing himself as a multi-disciplinary actor, writer and director. Most recently, Kole appeared as a series regular in the Sky TV/Canal+ western drama series **DJANGO** alongside *Noomi Rapace* and *Matthias Schoenaerts*.

Kole wrote, directed, and starred in the 2012 short film **FIFTY PENCE**, which received several nominations during its film festival run, including for Best Drama at the *Aesthetica Short Film Festival*. Kole has since written, directed and starred in a handful of short films, with **THE FIRST TIME I NEVER MET YOU** being his latest.

His previous television credits include *ITV's* **MANHUNT: THE NIGHT STALKER**, and *BBC/PBS's* World War II period drama **WORLD ON FIRE**. Kole is set to appear in another period TV series, *Hulu's* **WE WERE THE LUCKY ONES**, alongside *Logan Lerman*.



SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

WRITER/DIRECTOR

THE FIRST TIME I NEVER MET YOU (short)...2023
HOLD (short).....2014
NOT FAR FROM THE TREE (short).....2014
FIFTY PENCE (short).....2012

ACTOR

DJANGO.....2023
MANHUNT: THE NIGHT STALKER.....2021
RELEASE (short).....2018
HOLBY CITY.....2014

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When a relationship comes to an end, whether it be as a result of a break-up, a betrayal, or worse... a death. It can be very easy to fall into the temptation of re-writing the history that led to the loss. Stuck in the bargaining stage of grief, you may find yourself attempting to negotiate with your memories, subconsciously attempting to manifest an emotional reality in which said loss wouldn't hurt as much.

"If the love wasn't so strong in the first place, the pain shouldn't be either... right?"

A true feat of cognitive dissonance: good memories become sour, positive experiences inspire cringe.

But what happens to the changes that outlive those connections? To the personal growth that resulted from those now tainted experiences? To the tangible by-products of the events that created those memories? Do they get written off and disappear into the ether, as though they never existed?

The First Time I Never Met You offers a cautionary perspective of what could be at stake when one rejects their journey through grief and denies acceptance.

To quote Alfred Lord Tennyson, *"'tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all"*. This film is my interpretation of how those two ideas weigh up against each other.

- Eric Kole



RENEE BAILEY

"Esmé"

Renee Bailey most recently appeared in BBC 3's **MOOD** and E4's **HOW TO BE A PERSON**, which both came out winners during the 2023 BAFTA Television Awards; for best 'Mini-Series' and 'Short Form Programme' respectively.

An alumni of the *Identity School of Acting*, Bailey is paving her way as a performer both on stage and on screen. She more notoriously appeared as series regular 'Leila' in Netflix/BBC's **REBEL CHEER SQUAD: A GET EVEN SERIES**, a spin-off to the **GET EVEN** series.

Bailey is set to appear on BBC's period drama **CALL THE MIDWIFE**, as well as the HBO/Channel 4 TV drama **GET MILLIE BLACK**, in which she will appear alongside Joe Dempsie and Tamara Lawrence.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

MOOD.....2022
REBEL CHEER SQUAD.....2022
HOW TO BE A PERSON.....2022
SENSATIONAL SIMMY!.....2012





OSY IKHILE

"Lucas"

Osy Ikhile has established himself as a prolific stage, television, and film actor, living up to his selection as a cohort of *Screen Daily's* 'Star of Tomorrow' in 2015. He currently stars as 'Carter Spence' in *Prime Video's* spy series **CITADEL**, alongside *Priyanka Chopra Jonas* and *Richard Madden*.

Ikhile led the critically acclaimed and *Olivier Award* nominated **SWEAT** on the London West-End in 2019, and graced the stage again in 2022 with **BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY** for the *British National Theatre*.

In film, Ikhile's work includes *Ron Howard's* **IN THE HEART OF THE SEA**, *David Yates'* **THE LEGEND OF TARZAN**, as well as *A24's* **THE KILL TEAM**, to name a few.

For television, he's appeared as "Nate Packer" on the *Netflix's* **BLACK MIRROR: USS CALLISTER**, and as 'Milo Rodricks' in *Syfy's* mini-series **CHILDHOOD'S END**.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| CITADEL..... | 2023 |
| THE KILL TEAM..... | 2019 |
| BLACK MIRROR: USS CALLISTER..... | 2017 |
| CHILDHOOD'S END..... | 2015 |
| IN THE HEART OF THE SEA..... | 2015 |





ERIC KOLE

Writer / Director / "John"

MICHAEL FILOCAMO

Director of Photography



MICHAEL FILOCAMO

Director of Photography

MICHAEL FILOCAMO is an Australian cinematographer who has amassed an impressive body of work internationally. His more recent work include the *Netflix* series **CLASS**, Channel 4's prison drama **SCREW**, and the *ITV* mini-series **YOU & ME**.

A *Sydney College of Arts* and *National Film & Television School* graduate, Filocamo has seen his short film work receive many acclaim, including a win at the *British Society of Cinematography's* short film competition for **BABA**, and a *BAFTA* short film nomination, as well as a silver award from the *Australian Cinematography Society* for **AZAAR**.

He also went on to win a 'Postgraduate Craft' award for cinematography at the *Royal Television Society Awards*. Filocamo has recently wrapped production on the series **THE GREATEST SHOW NEVER MADE** for *Prime Video*.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

YOU AND ME.....2023
CLASS.....2023
BABA (short).....2021
AZAAR (BAFTA nominated short).....2019



REINE ISSA

Producer

Of German and Lebanese heritage, Reine received her Bachelor's degree from Boston University with a major in Finance and International Management and a minor in Psychology. She also completed Magna Cum Laude, an Executive Masters of Science in Finance as part of a dual program with the American University of Paris and Baruch College in NYC. She then attended several film production programs at Raindance (UK) and at the New York Film Academy (USA & India).

Reine moved to London and produced several short films including **JOB'S DINNER** (with Maureen Lipman CBE), **MOTHER** (with Miriam Margolyes OBE). Reine also line produced, **THE TALE OF WILSON SNOWFLAKE BENTLEY**, which won the Gold British Arrow Craft and the D&Ad New Blood Pencil awards.

Reine has more recently produced her debut feature **FARAH** which is currently streaming on Netflix in the MENA area, after a successful film festival run.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

FARAH.....2022
THE FIRST TIME I NEVER M[...] (short)...2023
PARALLEL UNIVERSES (short).....2017
MOTHER (short).....2015



A man with glasses is shown in profile, looking at a laptop screen. The scene is dimly lit with a blueish-purple hue. The background shows a desk with papers and a laptop. The text 'CAST' and 'CREW' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

CAST

John ERIC KOLE
Esmé RENEE BAILEY
Lucas OSY IKHILE
1 y/o Hope KAMAIYAH OPPONG
4 y/o Hope (voice) NEFERAH-JO ONILUDE
Christine (voice) CHRISTINA TAM

CREW

Written and Directed by ERIC KOLE
Produced by REINE ISSA
ERIC KOLE
Director of Photography MICHAEL FILOCAMO
Production Designer COLLETTE CREARY-MYERS
Editor ELLIE JOHNSON
Original Music by JOSEPH ALEXANDER
Sound Designer CLIFF REEVES
VFX Producer CHEE YEN WANG
VFX Supervisors LUDO FEALY
PAUL BRANCH

Executive Producers
LEE APSEY KRISTY PRICE LUCAS A. FERRARA
GABRIELE BUNZEL KHALIL EUPHRASIA KWETEMBA-KOLELAS

Associate Producers
CHARLES MEUNIER FARID ISSA WEE SIN LIAM

Production Manager STEPHANIE FAUCHER
1st Assistant Directors BEN PLIMLEY
BEN WICKS

Sound Recordist PAUL STUART

1st Assistant Camera HERMES CONTRERAS
2nd Assistant Camera DOMINGO SIMON
CHARLES MADDOCKS

Unit Photographer CONNOR DIFFLEY

Unit Videographers BEN PIKE

RICKY SINGH POONI

Gaffers SEBASTIAN HINDS
FRANK HAMMOND

Sparks WILLOW BIDWELL
LUIS PINHAO

Wardrobe Stylist MIMI V

Hair & Make-Up MARIA MONTEIRO

Art Director LARA JENSEN

Prop Makers MIKE PEEL

JAMES WALKER

Set Dressers VEZHINA HADZIEVA

JUNIOR RUSSELL

Art Assistant JACK KNUDSON

Blueprint Designer DAYASHINI POMPHREY

Stunt Coordinator LAURENT PLANCEL

Picture Driver IVAN PETSEV

Production Assistant DALINE LY

Location Managers BEN SLINGER (*London
Performance Studio*)
AUGUSTE VASILIAUSKAITE
(*Singer Tavern*)

Location Assistant TOM REYNOLDS

Equipment Transportation CHARLES MEUNIER

Colourist JENNIFER KERR

2D Leads JAMIE STITSON
MATT HUTCHINS

2D Artist TOM CLAPP

3D Lead IVAN TOMOVIC

3D Artist ELENA SCHURKUS

3D Junior Artist MILES TOMALIN

FUI Designer LARA JENSEN

The Producers would like to thank
STEPHANIE CHARMAIL KYLA FRYE CONOR BORU
STEPHANIE ESPINETTI BEAU FOWLER DAVID NEWTON
ALICE BINICK MEENA RAYANN RAHDY ELWAN
MITCH KALISA PETE STOREY MAGDALENA HERFURTNER
GRACE O'KEEFE GRANT TAYLOR ESTHER ELLIS
NATASHA MIRI LIZ TAGG-WOOSTER
TENTHREE NINETEENTWENTY GREENLIT PIXIPIXEL
COMPLETE FILM LIGHTING GREENKIT IVER ACADEMY

AND ALL OUR CROWDFUNDING BACKERS



CONTACTS

For Press, Rights and Distribution:

Eric Kole - Writer/Director

eric.kole@outlook.com

Reine Issa - Producer

reineissa@gmail.com





THE FIRST TIME I NEVER MET YOU
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Poster Design: Isaac Miller (1)
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