

A young man with dark hair is floating on his back in a dark pond. His arms are spread wide, and his head is tilted back. The water is dark, and several large, green lily pads are visible in the background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the man's skin.

AS I Am

a film by Guy Davies

f a b l e m a z e



INTRODUCTION

As I Am* is the debut feature film from emerging writer / director Guy Davies. Set and filmed in his home town of Stroud in the British countryside it is an authentic coming of age drama rooted in experience.

A truly independent project with no government funds or film grants, As I Am was made possible by a dozen local investors and spearheaded by international film production company Fablemaze.

As I Am premiered at the 28th Heartland International Film Festival on the 13th of October 2019 under original title *"Philophobia"* to a fantastic reaction from the general public before moving on to San Diego Int Film Festival a few days later where it won both Best Global Cinema and the Lite Coin Audience Choice award.

As I Am went on to win 13 awards on the festival circuit and screened at some of the most prestigious international festivals for independent film, including: Moscow, Berlin, Turin, Tallinn Black Nights (nominee) & London Independent where it won Best Independent Feature.

Further to that, As I Am had an impressive widespread Theatrical Release in the UK from Autumn into Winter 2020 before being picked up by Vertical Entertainment in UK and HBO in Europe for digital releases in Spring 2021.

**Titled "Philophobia" Internationally & originally in USA, UK & ANZ (now "As I Am").*

A silhouette of a person is shown from the back, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape under a twilight sky. A small, bright crescent moon is visible in the upper right portion of the sky. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

“...you want to be a better writer? It starts with that door. There’s a whole world out there...”

STORY

SYNOPSIS

Set in the rolling hills of the English countryside, *As I Am* is a picture of small town adolescence. One week of high school remains for Kai, an aspiring writer, and his friends. How they choose to spend this time will wake sexual desires, cost one of them their life and leave each of them changed forever.



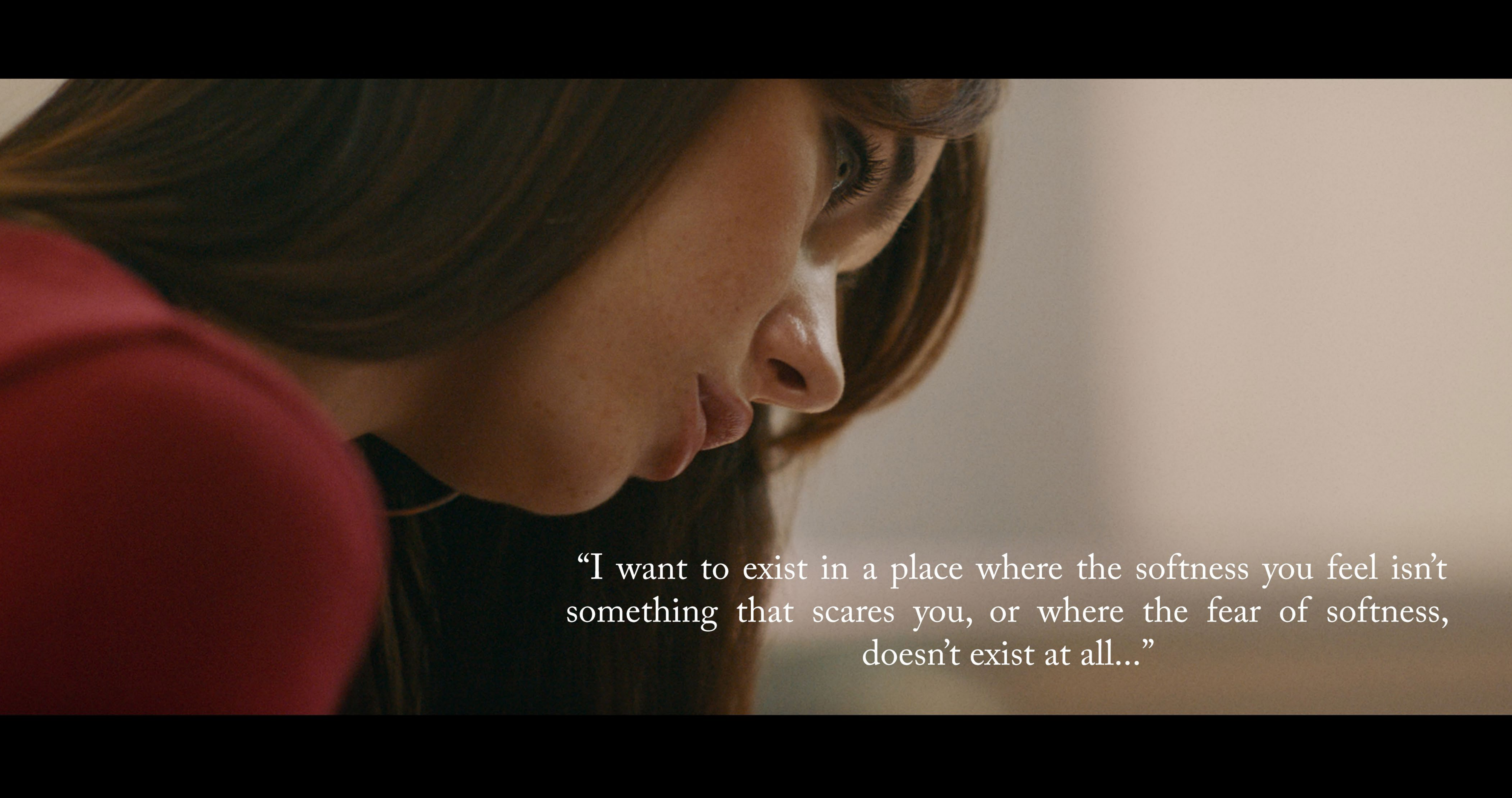
TRAILER

Watch the trailer [here](#)

FILM

Watch the film [here](#)
(Please email for password)





“I want to exist in a place where the softness you feel isn’t something that scares you, or where the fear of softness, doesn’t exist at all...”



CAST

MR. JACKSON - HARRY LLOYD / [IMDB](#)

Harry Lloyd is a BAFTA nominated actor from London, England. Known for The Theory of Everything (2014), Game of Thrones (2011) & Legion (2017).

Harry related to the script and the character. Coming from a literary family and having an inspirational English teacher of his own he was excited to be involved in the project. When we learned of this we were delighted and jumped at the opportunity to secure him.

MR. HURT - JAMES FAULKNER / [IMDB](#)

James Faulkner is an English actor best known for his roles as Pope Sixtus IV in the historical fantasy series Da Vinci's Demons; as Randyll Tarly in the HBO series, Game of Thrones and Uncle Geoffrey in the Bridget Jones films.

James enjoyed the script and the mischief in the role. Was great to welcome him on board.

CAST

KAI - JOSHUA GLENISTER / [IMDB](#)

Joshua Glenister is an English newcomer with undeniable talent. We were pleased to discover Josh after a 4 month search / casting in process in which he received several call backs beating over 4000 other actors to the role. He has since gone on to take the lead role in two more features, King of Spades (in Production) & Indulgence (2019).

GRACE - KIM SPEARMAN / [IMDB](#)

Kim Spearman is a former model and first time feature film actress in Philophobia. We were delighted to discover Kim after an extensive search with over 3000 applicants, she is perfect for the role and does a brilliant job. Kim has three other features coming out imminently in which she plays major roles. Glamour, Young Cannibals and Mirrorless.

KENNER - ALEXANDER LINCOLN / [IMDB](#)

Alexander Lincoln is an English actor best known for his role as Jamie Tate in ITV's Emmerdale. Again, Alex came to Philophobia from a huge casting search, beating 3000 applicants to the role. Since securing three more features set for release next year and his part in Emmerdale.





CAST

MEGSY - JACK GOULDBOURNE / [IMDB](#)

Jack is an English actor best known for his role as Calum in *Fighting with My Family* (2019) directed by Stephen Merchant. Jack was thrilled to play Megsy in *Philophobia*, sighting that the character was very relatable for him and his experiences growing up.

EMMA - GRACE ENGLERT / [IMDB](#)

Grace is another features newcomer we were fortunate to find. She has since gone on to secure the supporting role of Becky in the highly anticipated *Ip Man 4: The Finale* (2019).

MRS BUCKTREE - KATE ISITT / [IMDB](#)

Kate is an actress best known for her role as Sally Harper in *Coupling* (2000). Also notably roles in *The Saint* (1997), *Half Light* (2006) & *Rocks* (2019), the highly anticipated new Sarah Gavron film.

HOW DID YOU GO ABOUT CASTING THE FILM?

Casting the teenage friendship group was one of the most important processes in this film for me. It was make or break because I was desperate to have wonderful actors who could embody the roles that I had written and deliver natural performances. There weren't, at the time, any famous British actors who were the right age who I thought would be perfect in the leading roles so I went in search of fresh new talent.

We did a 4 month search in which we received thousands of applicants across the board. Over 4000 for the lead role of Kai and between two to three thousand for the other major roles. After several call backs I assembled a group and paired my favourite actors up with each other to check their chemistry and make sure I could get the performances I needed.



WRITER / DIRECTOR

GUY DAVIES / [IMDB](#)

Guy Davies is a multi award winning, versatile director with a keen eye for visual storytelling. Guy started off as a child actor before making the switch to camera department and cinematography while directing short films on the side. Guy strives for authenticity in his visuals and honesty in his characters performances.

He loves films that capture the human experience in a genuine light. Guy's experience as a director is diverse, from commercials for Nike and Citibank, to documentary work for Kanye West, to four internationally award winning short films.

Guy's passion however really lies in the narrative realm of filmmaking and he hopes to demonstrate this with his debut feature As I Am. He looks to follow this up with a small town crime drama next year.





f a b l e m a z e

PRODUCERS

TOBY COOK (Right)

Toby E. Cook is a filmmaker re-imagining how premium content can be created and experienced by developing unique storytelling techniques and software. Stemming from Australia, Toby spent seven years working in various departments on films such as Eyes Wide Shut (1999), Black Hawk Down (2001) and Children of Men (2006)

MATTHEW COOK (Left)

Matt Cook is a filmmaker and artist from the UK with a background in commercial content and storytelling. Matt continues to have a hands on approach to filmmaking and technology development. Feb 2020 will see the release of Fablemaze's first feature film, Eve.

PRODUCTION Co.

FABLEMAZE

Fablemaze is a filmmaker-led international production company focused on developing and producing high quality, original stories with new and established talent.

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE STORY?

The film is really inspired by life experience. It's set in the world I grew up in and has a basis or starting point in reality. Shot in my home town, in the high school I attended as a teenager and is an exploration of adolescence in that part of the world. Really, I wanted to write about something I understood because I wanted the film to be authentic and have honest characters and I thought I had a good grasp of people's behaviour in the small town I grew up in. So I decided to take that as a starting point to build my story.





PRESS

Since its first public festival run beginning at Heartland and San Diego International Film Festivals in October 2019 through to the Theatrical & Digital releases across UK & EU in 2020/2021, *As I Am (Philophobia)*, has been gathering positive reviews while Guy Davies has been interviewed across the media.

PRESS

“Philophobia will not be everyone’s cup of tea (think a broodier, dreamier Sex Education). Some plot elements are very familiar and the gaze is somewhat boy-centric, but it is heartfelt and handsome, with a promising young cast. Furthermore, the themes and modern-day setting should appeal to young adults, probably the least catered-to demographic in cinema right now, and also the least afraid to actually go to them.” - [The Guardian](#)

“Philophobia is utterly palpable from an audience’s perspective. The lighting in the film is absolutely impeccable, with some sequences casting an eerie, almost dreamlike ambiance over the quaint, honest world our characters live in....it’s a movie with a spellbinding sense of sincerity in every nook and cranny. [With] moments that wouldn’t feel out of place in some of the A24 catalog’s brightest gems.” - [Byte](#)

“It reminds me of Ricky Gervais’s admirable Cemetery Junction (2010), but this effort is more noteworthy... It’s a love letter to the absence of adulthood, the boredom of adolescence and the fighting spirit that captures the young heart” - [Dirty Movies](#)

“Davies’ velvet-hammer touch amplifies a raw, naturalistic depiction of withering adolescence; well-rounded, stirring performances further elevate the proceedings.” - [Quick Flix Hit](#)

“Guy Davies spots gap in film market for his first feature... because of the coronavirus pandemic. Guy Davies had hoped his first feature film, Philophobia, would be shown at a few local cinemas in Gloucestershire. Philophobia is now due to be screened at 50 cinemas across the UK, selling out one date in Leicester Square in under two hours.” - [BBC News](#)

“Guy Davies’ Philophobia is scary, funny, violent, and raw on its take of the weight of commitments. The movie, itself, feels like a stunning slow-motion car wreck. Each bond in Kai’s life is fractured by desires and delusions. The film thrives in its quiet portrayals of how intense being young is, especially when it comes to love.” - [Diandra Reviews](#)

“[Davies & Brawley] have a familiarity with their world allowing them to handle it with care — to find the humor and unearth the drama, while still playing true to where they’re from.” - [Film Inquiry](#)

“Director Guy Davies shows a great deal of skill in Philophobia. His story is clean and easy to follow with good balance between light and serious moments, and best of all, he lets his actors act. The story is Kai’s, and the role is played wonderfully by Joshua Glenister. The performances are subtle between the two leads, Kai and Grace, but the subtlety works. They say more about their character and feelings in the acting as opposed to just saying it with dialogue like we see in so many films of this ilk.” - [Film Threat](#)



NOTABLE FESTIVALS*

Heartland International Film Festival - *World Premiere*

San Diego International Film Festival - *West Coast Premiere*

Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival - *European Premiere - Nominated Best Youth Film*

International Film Festival of Wales - *UK Premiere*

Moscow International Film Festival - *Official Selection*

Olso Film Festival - *Nominated for Best Film*

Newport Beach - *Official Selection*

London Independent Film Festival - *Official Selection*

Torino Cinefest - *Official Selection*

AWARDS*

BEST GLOBAL FILM - *San Diego IFF*

LITECOIN FILMMAKERS CHOICE AWARD - *San Diego IFF*

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY - *European Cinematography Awards*

BEST INDEPENDENT FEATURE - *London Independent Film Festival*

BEST FILM - *International Film Festival of Wales*

BEST DIRECTOR - *International Film Festival of Wales*

BEST ACTOR - *International Film Festival of Wales*

BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE - *Lift-Off Global Network, Season Awards*

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S AWARD - *Cinema on the Bayou*

BEST FEATURE FILM - *Melbourne Lift-Off Film Festival*

BEST DIRECTOR - *South Africa Independent Film Festival*

BEST ACTOR - *South Africa Independent Film Festival*

BEST ACTOR - *SOHO NYC Film Festival*



* As I Am picked up 13 Awards and 10 nominations on a successful festival run that spanned 5 continents between 2019-2020

HOW DID YOU DEVELOP THE VISUAL STYLE?

The visual style I think is something that was much dictated by the script. It's a hot, wet summer in the English countryside. I wanted to show that part of the world for what it is. There seems to be a consistent dreariness in British films where visually everything needs to be cold, grey, harsh and gritty, but that's not what I experienced growing up and it has never resonated with me. I wanted to show the world that I knew, sure we get rain, but when summer hits it's magical. The forest is dream like, filled with lush greens and sunsets seemed to go on forever when I was a teenager.

I wanted to capture this and it made the shooting schedule very demanding, we shot largely around magic hour, early mornings and late nights. I also shot on anamorphic vintage lenses as I felt they gave a more authentic look to the piece. I was keen to shoot long takes with creeping camera movement that follow the action, fewer cuts, to draw the audience into these scenarios with my characters to accept them just being human.

There's a lot of voyeurism in the film where we slip into the lead characters perspective and the audience gets to see through his eyes, it was important for me to change this up and develop a look for that so we could appreciate that transition. I wanted it to be subtle, to speak to the subconscious more than anything, so I opted to swap to spherical vintage lenses for the POV moments instead of shooting anamorphic, so the image perspective and the shape of the world literally changes when we're in Kai's head visually.



DISTRIBUTION

SALES REPRESENTATION

As I Am is exclusively represented by WIDE Management for International sales. USA, UK and ANZ are handled by the filmmakers (Fablemaze).

USA:

Theatrical & Digital - Distributed by **Electric Entertainment**
Release: Summer 2021

UK / EIRE:

Digital (As I Am) - Distributed by **Vertical Entertainment**
Release: 15th March 2021
Theatrical (titled: Philophobia) - Distributed by **Fablemaze** 50 cinema release October through December 2020.

EUROPE:

Home Entertainment - Distributed by **HBO**
Release: February 28th 2021

Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Moldova (non-exclusive Romanian language), Bulgaria and Adriatic countries (former Yugoslavia) – Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina

AUSTRALIA / NZ:

All rights - Under the title: As I Am - Distributed by **Bounty Films**
Release: Spring / Summer 2021

LATAM:

Theatrical and VOD under the title: “Medo de Amar” - Distributed by **A2 & Encrypta**
Release: 21st January 2021 in Brazil - other countries to follow.

SOUTH KOREA:

Theatrical and Home Entertainment - Distributed by **JCenterworks**
Release: Spring / Summer 2021

RUSSIA:

Home Entertainment / TV - Distributed by **Kamerton**
Release: Spring / Summer 2021

FRANCE:

Home Entertainment - Distributed by **E-Cinema**
Release: Spring / Summer 2021

TECHNICAL

DURATION	125 mins
RATIO	2:35 Widescreen
FORMAT	ProRes HQ / DCP
SOUND	5.1
SHOOTING FORMAT	Digital, Arri Alexa, 4K
LANGUAGE	English





CONTACT

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