



**THE NATIONAL FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL PRESENTS**



SHORT FILM  
competition  
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

# PATRIOT

PRESS KIT

CONTACT DETAILS

Michelangelo Fano (Producer)  
[michelangelofano@hotmail.com](mailto:michelangelofano@hotmail.com)



[www.patriotshortfilm.com](http://www.patriotshortfilm.com)

# SHORT SYNOPSIS

Against the backdrop of simmering racial tensions within her rural English town, the life of eleven year old Hannah changes forever when she meets a boy from a mysterious and forbidden world.



# PRODUCTION HISTORY

## BY MICHELANGELO FANO - PRODUCER

Patriot is a National Film and Television School (NFTS) original short film, written and directed by Eva Riley. Eva has always had a strong interest in creating naturalistic dramas, which often deal with socially relevant themes, as seen with her previous films: Sweetheart, Joyride, The Agreement and Video.

Eva had the seed of the idea for Patriot for a number of years before we started working on the script. She was fascinated by the idea of a child brought up in a far right nationalist family and in capturing the moment in which they start to question those beliefs. But it wasn't until she chose to use this story as the subject for her NFTS graduation film that this concept started to develop into what it is today. The script writing process involved an intense period of story development in which Eva and I discussed the characters and the storyline followed by her writing each individual draft.

It was clear to us from the very beginning of the development process that the success of the film would greatly depend on the choice of the two main child actors. Eva decided very early on that finding non-actors was likely to bring more naturalism and truthfulness to the story we wanted to tell. So we decided to go down the street-casting route. After meeting many different young girls for the role of Hannah, Halle was introduced to us through casting director Martin Ware from Hubbard Casting. Despite being a talented young dancer, Halle had never acted in a film before. However, Eva quickly realised that Halle had a naturalism in her acting and a striking screen presence that would allow her to pull off the role. We found Rafael after we got in touch with the Slough YMCA centre, which organises many activities with the local Roma community. After many weeks of meeting him and his friends in acting workshops, his natural charm, and connection with Halle proved to Eva that he would be perfect for the part of the boy.

The film was shot primarily on location in Medway, Kent, shooting on a working crop picker's caravan site and amongst the cornfields of the area. The cast and crew braved thunderstorms and searing heat to get the job done. Eva's focus throughout was in getting the most natural performances from the young cast and allowing them to improvise and bring themselves to the roles. The crew supported this aim throughout the process. The film's post-production was completed in-house at the National Film and Television School.

# CAST

**HALLEKIDD  
AS  
HANNAH**



**RAFAEL CONSTANTIN  
AS  
BOY**

# CAST

**MICHAEL ELKIN**  
**AS**  
**DAD**



**RAY JAMES**  
**AS**  
**JACK**

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

## HALLE KIDD - Hannah

Halle is a fun and outgoing young performer with plenty of drive to pursue her career in both dance and her newfound passion in acting. She is twelve years old and still completing her studies at Secondary School. Hannah was the first role she has ever played in a film. But after shooting Patriot she has found a new passion in acting. She has studied ballet, tap, modern jazz and street dance since she was three years old. Her credits so far include her performance in the Evolution production dance entourage of Snow White & The Seven Dwarves pantomime at Fairfield Halls.

## RAFAEL CONSTANTIN - Rafael

Rafael is a bright 13-year-old boy with a witty character and a passion for acting. After passing through a few different countries his parents stopped in Chalvey, Slough. Rafael's interest in performing arts was evident from early on. He played in many school plays showing great skill and dedication. He spends much of his free time at the local YMCA youth club called "The Hangout" surrounded by friends. Despite never having trained as an actor, Rafael's unique background, coupled with his artistic drive, bring a fresh and naturalistic approach to his performances. He is also passionate about music, dance, football & martial arts.

## MICHAEL ELKIN - Dad

A late starter to acting, Michael attended Morley Theatre School at the age of 29 and has since worked on a variety of projects including theatre, television, short and feature films. He has most recently finished work on Humans, an exciting new drama from Kudos/AMC (Spooks, Breaking Bad, Walking Dead etc...). Other notable credits include: The Bafta winning gangland biopic The Wee Man, Uberto Pasolini's multi award winning drama Still Life, followed by other performances in titles such as East-enders, UKIP: The First 100 Days and Murder In Mind. Theatre credits include: Mottled Lines as 'The Fight' and Bouncers as 'Lucky Eric'. Michael will soon start filming as Colin Logwood (Lead) in a new horror film called The Keeper.

## RAY JAMES - Jack

Ray James has been acting since the age of ten. He performed on various stage productions such as The Wizard of Oz and Blood Brothers at the Brighton Dome Theatre. Ray then collaborated with Jumpstart Productions playing lead roles in films including Confession and Once Upon A Crime, along with supporting roles in City Of Dreamers, Further Ed and Home For Christmas.

# CREW

Director & Writer - EVA RILEY

Producer - MICHELANGELO FANO

Cinematographer - DAVID PIMM

Production Designer - IRENE DIMARCA

Editor - ABOLFAZL TALOONI

Sound Designer - ROBERT MALONE

Composer - ANTONIO NARDI

Sound Recordist - BARRY COXHEAD

Boom Operator - DOUG TEMPLETON

Colourist - IOANNIS SARIKTZIS

Production Manager - TIMEA HUSZAR

# CREW BIOGRAPHIES

## EVA RILEY - Director and Writer

Eva is a Scottish film director, screenwriter and graduate from the National Film and Television School. She is passionate about creating bold and atmospheric character driven dramas that often deal with difficult subject matter. She has previously been commissioned to write and direct short films by organisations including Creative Scotland and Ideastap, which have gone on to screen internationally.

## MICHELANGELO FANO - Producer

Michelangelo has always been passionate about storytelling and working with creative talent. He joined the National Film and Television School as a Met Film School Scholar in 2013. Before this, Michelangelo worked in the publishing field as a business and marketing executive, as well as running a film society while completing a BA in Economics at the University of Sussex. During his two years at the National Film and Television School, Michelangelo produced a video game, two live-action short films and a 10 minute CG animation project. He received an individual nomination at the EE Bafta Film Awards for his first year film Slap. Michelangelo currently works as an independent film producer between London and Paris.

## DAVID PIMM - Cinematographer

After graduating with a degree in English Literature and Film from Southampton University, David spent three years working as a camera assistant and shooting short films and music videos. In 2014, he was accepted onto the Cinematography MA at the National Film and Television School as a Kodak and BBC scholar. Under the guidance of Brian Tufano BSC and Stuart Harris, he was afforded the time and tuition to nurture his ability as a cinematographer. With a passion for story telling, he looks forward to shooting visually compelling work in shorts, features, television and commercials in the future. You can watch his showreel and a selection of his work at [www.davidpimm.com](http://www.davidpimm.com)

## IRENE DIMARCA - Production Designer

Irene Dimarca graduated in theatre design in 2010 from the Brera Fine Art Academy of Milan. After working for a few years as a cruise ship decorator, she moved to London where she decided to apply to the National Film and Television School. During the two years of the course she designed for a number of productions, both in live action and stop motion animation. She has now started her journey into the ranks of major feature film art departments and is aiming to become an art director.

#### ABOLFAZL TALOONI - Editor

Abolfazl Talooni graduated from Tehran University of Art in 2007, with a BA in Film Editing. He began his career in Iran cutting short fictions, documentaries and a feature film, whilst teaching at the Iranian Young Cinema Society. He moved to London to study an MA in Editing at the National Film and Television School. During his two years at the NFTS he edited a number of short fictions, documentaries and animations, many of which are being screened at festivals around the world. Alongside his course he edited a feature film and two feature documentaries for BBC World Service. He finished film school in December 2014, and is now working as a freelance editor.

#### ROBERT MALONE - Sound Designer

Rob has always had a passion for sound and a desire to tell stories. He began writing and performing various styles of music from a young age, and while studying a BA in music technology, he started producing music using computers. This included working in film, new media and designing interactive installations and software, with a focus on immersive sound environments. This led him to apply to the NFTS to study Sound Design for Film and TV.

#### ANTONIO NARDI - Composer

Antonio is a singer, songwriter and music composer for media. He started his career in classical music then moved to the rock world, using his violin skills to create a quirky and experimental electronic sound. He published some rock albums with major labels (Universal Music and Sony BMG), and toured Italy and Southern Europe extensively with his live set in 2006 and 2007. Amongst several collaborations with mainstream pop singers and indie musicians, he published a solo album in 2009 and won some highly recognized national awards in Italy in 2009 and 2010. His songs were broadcast and performed live on the Italian national TV and radio. At the end of 2011 he moved into the world of film music. In 2013 he was accepted as music composer at the National Film and TV School. He currently lives and works in London.

#### TIMEA HUSZAR - Production Manager

Timea moved to the UK from Hungary in 2013 to study Production Management at the NFTS. During her studies she worked on several short films as a PM and gained experience on bigger productions as a runner. Since the course finished she has been working on commercials and is looking to move into features.

#### RUKA JOHNSON - Costume Designer

Ruka Johnson is a London based costume designer and maker. She started her career making costumes for circus & burlesque performers and then branched out into designing and creating her own lingerie brand, opening a boutique in central London. This later led to her working as an apprentice to fashion designer & stylist Mrs. Jones before making the transition into the costume department for TV and film. 2014 has seen her working on a range of commercials, short films and features; including London based drama "A Hundred Streets" starring Idris Elba & Gemma Arterton and the second series of youth drama "Youngers" for E4.



Lead actress Halle Kidd playing Hannah on location in Medway, Kent. Courtesy of Niccolo' Fano.



Halle Kidd as Hannah with co-actor Rafael Constantin playing the Boy. Courtesy of Niccolo' Fano.



Rafael Constantin exiting the static caravan featured in the film. Courtesy of Niccolo' Fano.



Hannah's dad, played by Michael Elkin with fellow nationalists in the hours leading up to an anti-immigration protest. Courtesy of Niccolo' Fano.



Halle Kidd prepares for a take. Courtesy of Niccolo' Fano.



Patriot crew getting ready to filming in Medway, Kent. Courtesy of Niccolo' Fano.



Director Eva Riley speaks with Halle Kidd in-between takes. Courtesy of Niccolo' Fano.



Halle Kidd with Rafael Constantin having fun between takes. Courtesy of Niccolo' Fano.