



NOT FAR OUT

BY BERAN ERGÜN



BEFORE DAWN AN EXTREME SWIMMER IS ON HIS WAY TO THE OCEAN FOR HIS REGULAR TRAINING.

ON THIS DAY, HOWEVER, THE WAVES ARE VERY ROUGH AND INTENSE, THE MAN HAS SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS TO STAY AFLOAT AND IS FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL.

IN HIS PRESUMABLY LAST MOMENTS, HE MAKES AN UNEXPECTED FINDING.

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EXPOSÉ

NOT FAR OUT is the story about the aspect of geographical distance. With a strong use of visual language it reminds us how near the incidents, we declare as far away, are in reality. While showing us the tragedy of those events.

We follow Manuél, an extreme swimmer in his early thirties, who gets up before dawn to train for his sport. He packs his bag and prepares his body before having breakfast with his girlfriend Sofia. While heading out, his swimming partner Berto calls him, who cannot attend today's training because of an urgent appointment. Though extreme swimming is very risky and dangerous alone, Manuél decides to drive to the ocean.

At the beach, he puts on the wetsuit and jumps right into the ocean. As the sun rises, so does the height of the waves, the experienced Manuél gets submerged under the water many times, he swallows a lot and breathes more and more heavily. He continues to lose control and coordination and seems to lose the fight against the waves and let his life there. In his panic, suddenly and unaware his arm grabs a floating lifejacket. As he slowly gets hold and safety of it, another one is floating towards him.

The waves drop slowly, Manuél is able to stabilize and when he raises his eyes a picture of at least twenty floating safety vests emerges.



VITA & MOTIVATION



Seyit Beran Ergün - Director

03.2019 - today:
Student at Hochschule Mainz
subject: Timebased Media

focus:
directing, short film and documentary

I think the strongest political movies are not the ones dealing with issues on a governmental level but the ones who focus on the personal level, the way a subject behaves in an critical situation and which message is transported by that.

NOT FAR OUT does that by focusing on the character of Manuél and throwing him into an unexpected but especially unbelievable situation. In the first and biggest part it unfolds as a story about a swimmer who is trying to achieve his personal goal. But then the story turns and hits us, by still evolving around our character, with a cruel and symbolic picture of lifejackets (resembling the people who might have been in them), floating in the water. And then it almost leaves us right there, not willing to push us in one direction or attitude but by giving us this immersive visual representation to take our own thoughts into the subject and its bigger surroundings. Maybe the only aspect it tells us is the one also spotted in the title.



VITA & MOTIVATION

Andrej Justus - Director of Photography

09.2011 - 07.2014: education for product and advertising photography
10.2015 - 07.2019: studying at Hochschule Mainz
subject: Timebased Media

focus: camera

from 2013: independent film and photography company, [BLACK FOX](#)



I have always been drawn to the extreme and the challenges within it. In particular my passion unfolds in climbing and as an Open Water Swimmer especially in diving and experiencing the ocean.

Now by combining my passion for activities and the one for film and its camera work, projects and ideas emerge that are particularly relevant and important for me. Stories I consider necessary to be told.

Fortunately I was able to include those topics in my film work.

For example with ROPE. ROPE shows a climber and the atmospheric density of climbing and its sound on the Cascais coast. (<https://blackfox.film/work/rope/>)

NOT FAR OUT takes these extremes and spins them around a topic that has a special relevance and intensity.



TREATMENT

1. Far before dawn, we see Manuél getting up and packing his bag. He is quiet, he just cannot hide his tiredness and furthermore his girlfriend Sofia is still sleeping in bed.
2. In the bathroom his look and posture tells us how cold he is showering. He then shaves his body with a razor.
3. He mixes his breakfast with a shaker. Evidently the sound of it made Sofia wake up. She enters the kitchen. Tired they exchange a few casual words, before Sofia tells Manuél, also very casual, he should pay attention and not swim too far during today's training. He tells her Berto, his longtime friend and swim partner is picking him up.
4. While waiting outside the front door, Berto calls Manuél. He has to cancel today's training due to an urgent and especially forgotten dentist appointment with his daughter. The sky, still more dark than bright, is slowly becoming bluer. After a moment of consideration, Manuél nevertheless decides to train and gets in his car.
5. We see him in the car on the way to the beach.
7. After arriving at the beach, Manuél changes his clothes to a pair of trunks, swimming goggles and a cap. For a brief moment he sits down on the cool sand and looks into the vastness of the ocean. The sky is starting to dawn now.
8. He swims away from land, the sea is still quiet.
9. By day, we are back with Sofia, who is out of the apartment and on the way to work. She notices the parking space in front of the apartment, briefly mulls over it but does not think anything of it and gets into her car. Its daytime and we are back at the water. The waves have dramatically increased in the meantime. Manuél struggles to keep himself above the water surface steadily. Again and again he swallows water and spits it out coughing. The attempts to gather strength on his back fail. His situation is deteriorating more and more and as he stays under water for longer times it looks like Manuél is actually drowning. In this inevitable situation, suddenly a lifejacket floats right into Manuél's arms. He throws himself on it, trying to stabilize himself and his breathing. Slowly the waves calm down again. Frantically Manuél looks up and around, searching in vain for a boat or people who might have thrown off the west. And as the water calms down and we see a second vest floating towards him, Manuél looks ahead. We see many more, a picture of at least twenty lifejackets emerges in the water, it stands still.
10. By dawn we are back at the beach again and for a few moments we look at the water coming back and forth to us, while seeing the horizon of the ocean only guessing where the next land might be starting. Manuél passes us, walking into the ocean stalking forward until finally, he is able to swim.





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