



YOUNG HEARTS RUN FREE

Autumn
Season
2011

Release: 2011

Cert (UK): 12A

Runtime: 93 mins

Directors: Andy Mark Simpson

Cast : Andy Black, Jennifer Bryden

This is Andy Mark Simpson's first full length film, but he also directed short films '*Mad About The Boy*' and '*Grotto*'. He wrote this screenplay as a teenager and spent four years funding, producing and directing it. As he is coming to talk to us after the film, I'll let him introduce himself and the film here:-

"My main genre is drama, often from a social-realist perspective although I have recently been experimenting with 'magic realism'. In terms of watching films though I'll watch pretty much anything (not really keen on horror). My favourite film is '*It's A Wonderful Life*' which I think (quite hyperbolically) is the greatest work of art in the Western World. Special mention goes to *Back To The Future*.

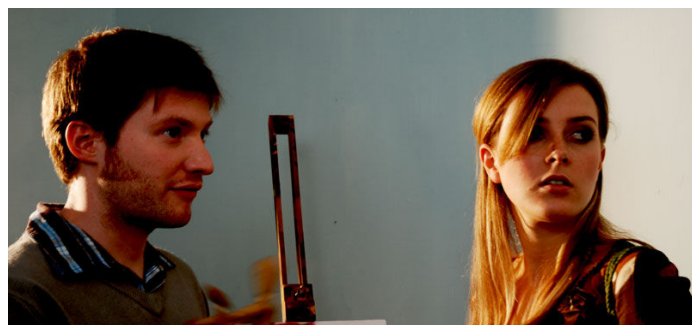


I think all people are important and need to be validated so I love the way cinema can draw audiences in to the worlds of a diverse range of characters and help them gain our sympathy and empathy. I love working with actors; I enjoy the feeling of intimacy with characters and actors playing them.

I am also obsessed with the immortality of film and believe it is the best medium for capturing the essence of a person or holding a moment and making it timeless.

Favourite music; Indie-Punk-Jazz-Northumbrian Folk - The Beatles. Favourite football team; Newcastle United, followed by Ashington then Bedlington Terriers

'Young Hearts Run Free' is a romantic/social drama set in 1974; against the backdrop of a violent miners' strike in their quiet Northumbrian village a young artist falls in love with the new girl from London but their relationship causes problems with his family and community. It explores community, friendship, first loves and



teenage rebellion and is one boy's search for validation in relation to these issues.

I started writing it several years ago when I was a teenager and I've drawn from my own experiences. The sense of pride and identity growing up in Northumberland is one of my favourite things in the world and I wanted to celebrate it but it can also be very frustrating living here, especially if you want to be an artist or a film-maker. My natural inclination towards nostalgia made me wonder if it would have been the

same for my parent's generation and I realised these frustrations would be magnified and more dramatic in a 1970s setting."