

# HOW HEAVY THIS HAMMER

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a film by Kazik Radwanski

NYC weeklong theatrical run at the Made in NY Media Center by IFP  
starting Friday, Feb 17th through Thursday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017

World Premiere at 2015 Toronto International Film Festival  
International Premiere at 2016 Berlinale

75 minutes – English – Not Rated

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Website: [www.howheavythishammer.com](http://www.howheavythishammer.com)  
High res stills: [bit.ly/1WXc19n](http://bit.ly/1WXc19n) (all photo credits: Mark Peckmezian)



## Kazik Radwanski – Writer & Director

Born in 1985 in Toronto, Kazik Radwanski studied film at Ryerson University co-founded the production company MDFF in 2008. His short films screened at the Berlinale Shorts Competition for three consecutive years. In 2012 Radwanski directed his first feature film *Tower* which had its world premiere at the 65th Locarno International Film Festival. The film went on to screen at many festivals including The Toronto International Film Festival, The Viennale, and New Directors/ New Films presented by MoMA. Most recently his second feature *How Heavy This Hammer* had its international premiere at The 66<sup>th</sup> Berlin International Film Festival and was nominated for the \$100,000 prize for Best Canadian film of the Year by the Toronto Film Critics Association.

Kazik Radwanski has availed himself of considerable success, having become a recent fixture of the Toronto International Film Festival, a favorite of domestic awards bodies, and a mainstay of local critics' year-end lists. His last feature, the uproarious loser-comedy *Tower*, premiered in New York as part of MoMA's New Directors New Films festival in 2013 but never found distribution; his latest, *How Heavy This Hammer*, may be fated to remain in the same limbo. That would be a shame: Striking, clear-eyed, and very, very funny, it's been justly celebrated as one of the best Canadian films in years. – The Village Voice

When talking with filmmakers, producers, financiers, distributors, insiders and programmers about this new generation, one name comes up more often than not: Kazik Radwanski. The 31-year-old director is responsible for three extraordinarily influential short films whose style and substance form a sort of Rosetta Stone for this new wave. Filmed between 2007 and 2009, each of the shorts in Radwanski's MDF Trilogy (*Assault*, *Princess Margaret Blvd.* and *Out in that Deep Blue Sea*) follow one character as they fall deeper into a personal crisis of their own making, with Radwanski's camera tightly framing the action. It is intensely intimate filmmaking that revels in feelings of anxiety and self-doubt – you can feel Radwanski working out his own inner demons with every minute that ticks by. – The Globe and Mail

It's Radwanski's directorial approach—nothing flashy but always formally thoughtful—that makes this minimal story into something memorable and affecting, and refreshingly unhip in contrast with so much of in the indie fare we see too often. *How Heavy This Hammer* seems to be driven sincerely by human compassion and curiosity, and firmly establishes Radwanski as one of Canada's best working filmmakers. – Brooklyn Magazine

## Synopsis

A married father of two nearing middle age, Erwin (Erwin Van Cotthem) finds the only outlet for his shapeless, sublimated rage in online gaming and violent rugby action. Withdrawing further and further into his own world, Erwin is conscious of and frustrated by his stunted existence, but unable or unwilling to pull himself out of his rut. Enigmatic yet empathetic, *How Heavy This Hammer* is a funny, forlorn vision of North American masculinity at a crossroads.

## Cast

Erwin Van Cotthem.....Erwin  
Kate Ashley.....Kate  
Seth Kirsh.....Seth  
Andrew Latter.....Andrew  
Matt Johnson.....Hardware Store Employee  
Deragh Campbell.....School Teacher

## Crew

Written and Directed by.....Kazik Radwanski  
Produced by..... Daniel Montgomery and Kazik Radwanski  
Cinematography by.....Nikolay Michaylov  
Edited by.....Ajla Odobasic  
Sound Design by.....Gabe Knox and Grant Edmonds  
Still photos by.....Mark Peckmezian

## Directors Complete Filmography

Assault (2007) - 11 min - Toronto, ON  
Princess Margaret Blvd. (2008) -14 min - Toronto, ON  
Out in that Deep Blue Sea (2009) -16 min - Toronto, ON  
Green Crayons (2010) - 10 min - Toronto, ON  
Tower (2012) - 78 min - Toronto, ON  
Cutaway (2014) 7 min - Toronto, ON  
How Heavy This Hammer (2015) - 75 min -Toronto, ON

