

FAIL TO APPEAR

FAIL TO APPEAR

a film by Antoine Bourges

World Premiere at 2017 Vancouver International Film Festival

68 min / 16:9 / HD / English / Not Rated

Press Contact
Samantha Chater
+1 647 782-4443
samanthachater@gmail.com

High res film stills: <http://bit.ly/2xZSnD4>

Antoine Bourges – Writer & Director

Antoine Bourges is a Toronto-based filmmaker originating from Paris, France. His shorts *WOMAN WAITING* (2010) and *WILLIAM IN WHITE SHIRT* (2014), along with his mid-length film *EAST HASTINGS PHARMACY* (2012), have screened in festivals across North America and Europe, including the Berlin International Film Festival, the Viennale and TIFF. *FAIL TO APPEAR* (2017) is his first narrative feature.

Director's Comments

While working on a previous film in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside, I noticed that many of the residents I encountered had caseworkers they met with regularly and I became curious about these relationships. I was especially interested in the worker's role as an intermediate, someone who tries to help people connect with a society they've been marginalized from.

I spent some time talking with caseworkers and clients, and got a chance to observe the complexity of these relationships. When working on issues as personal as mental health or addiction, there is a necessity for a rapport to be built, for the worker and client to trust each other. I became curious about this human element and what remains of these interactions afterward.

What interests me in Isolde, the young caseworker, is how she deals with the weight of helping these clients with very difficult issues, and the ways in which her insecurities surface. I wanted to confront this fragility with the character of Eric, a potential client she meets in court, who is going through his own period of transition. In their coming together I was curious to see what is revealed about them, and also what is misunderstood or lost.

I met many of the performers at support centers in Toronto while I was researching for the film. Like in my previous films, I am interested in working with people familiar with the subject matter. It's not just about creating authenticity; I am always curious to discover how a person's convictions or personal connections to the story will affect their performance.

Casting the film this way also informed the style. We used long takes to allow for performers to forget themselves a little bit and hopefully to react to the particular situations they were in. I also hope it allowed them to have some agency in their representation.

—Antoine Bourges

FAIL TO APPEAR

Synopsis

Isolde, a young caseworker in a low-income neighborhood of Toronto, trains for her job: helping people in need while following protocols. When she takes on the case of Eric, a man held in custody for a small crime, Isolde begins to navigate the mental health legal system and witnesses his court hearing. As she gets closer to him, her sympathy for Eric develops but she struggles to make a connection.

Cast

Deragh Campbell..... Isolde
Nathan Roder..... Eric
Martine Clements..... One-on-one Client
Taya Mathias..... Mother

Crew

Written and Directed by..... Antoine Bourges
Produced by..... Karen Harnisch, Daniel Montgomery
Cinematography by..... Nikolay Michaylov
Production Designer Alicia Harris
Sound Recordist..... Alex Henessey, James Lazarenko
Edited by..... Ajla Odobašić & Antoine Bourges

Director's Filmography

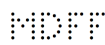
Hello Goodbye (2008) - 16 min – Vancouver, BC
Woman Waiting (2010) -15 min - Vancouver, BC
East Hastings Pharmacy (2012) - 47 min - Vancouver, BC
William in White Shirt (2014) - 12 min - Vancouver, BC
Fail to Appear (2017) - 68 min - Toronto, ON

Production Companies

Medium Density Fiberboard Films
1316 Bloor St W unit 4
Toronto, ON M6H 1P2
647.274.8553
dan@mdff.ca

Film Forge
369 Shaw St
Toronto, ON M6J 2X4
647.237.8712
karen.e.harnisch@gmail.com

Produced by



Funding by



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



FUNDED BY
THE CITY OF
TORONTO