



Solemates

PRESS KIT SOLEMATES

Directed by James Rathbone & Mike Feswick
Produced by Torrin Blades & James Rathbone
Fesbone Productions
2024

Sales Contact:
Torrin Blades
289-233-3317
torrinblades@gmail.com

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Shooting Format: Digital
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Runtime: 12:01
Genre: Comedy
Country of Production: Canada
Language: English

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

James Rathbone - Director, Producer
#: 917-558-7155
E: james.rathbone@gmail.com

Mike Feswick - Director
#: 917-794-9262
E: mfesuk@gmail.com

Torrin Blades - Producer
#: 289-233-3317
E: torrinblades@gmail.com

Richard Jutras - "William"
Represented by
Shari Quallenberg
AMI Artist Management
E: shari@amiagency.ca

Garrett Hnatiuk - "Andrew"
Represented by
Perry Zimel (manager)
perry@oazinc.com
Amy Parker (agent)
416-860-1790 ext. 302
amy@oazinc.com



SYNOPSIS

Solemates is the story of a love triangle between a shoe store owner, a customer, and an old pair of shoes. When Andrew walks into William's store to replace his own worn old pair of brogues, interest is piqued. Tension builds between the two men as Andrew tries on a new pair of shoes, and with that, questions of intention appear.



DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

As artists and filmmakers, we are both fascinated by desire. Through desire, people expose their vulnerable, sticky secrets, sides usually hidden from public life. There is a risk in desire, and also an absurdity. Solemates is a short film exploring conflicting forms of desire through comedy. Inspired equally by late night cable softcore and the work of Chaplin, Cronenberg, Svankmajer, and Genet, Solemates is a unique romantic comedy about the varied ways desire manifests.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the relationship between the two directors?

Mike and James met one fateful morning in 2005, when Mike gave James a ride home from a house party. Their bond was immediate, and quickly became fast friends. Their artistic collaborations started soon after, with James modeling for Mike's high school art class assignments and DeviantArt portfolio. Through the years their collaborations have continued, with James writing and editing for Mike's erotic art magazines Up & Coming and Phile. In turn, Mike did the production design for James' previous short film, Standard of Care. After the success of that project, the two decided to become a directing partnership. Solemates is their first collaboration, of what is hoped to be many.

Where did the film's premise come from?

In 2016, Mike co-founded Phile, an erotic art magazine. At that time, James and Mike discussed making a short video that took place in a shoe store. Many years later, the idea reared its head again one day when James was taking a shower and the final image popped into his head. Soon after, James and Mike met on Zoom and wrote the first draft of the script in an afternoon.

Where was the film shot?

The film was shot on location in Toronto, in an old shoe store and cobbler in Etobicoke and a family kitchen in Scarborough.

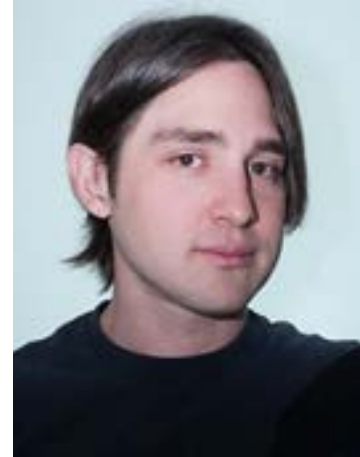
How was the film financed?

It was made with a generous contribution from the Toronto Arts Council, as well as self financing by the two directors.

Why would a person eat a shoe?

Because he finds it delicious, of course.

DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER BIOS



JAMES RATHBONE is a writer, director, and producer. He wrote and directed *Standard of Care* (VIFF 2019) and *Solemates* (TIFF 2024). As a producer, some of his recent work includes *Squeegee* (SXSW 2021). He also cofounded *Boosie Fade*, a multi-platform music, media, and events platform. He is also a trained actor, studying under Jennifer Monaco at William Esper Studios in New York City.



MIKE FESWICK is a multi-disciplinary artist based in New York City. He directed the experimental erotic documentary *The Wash* (2024). He is the co-founder of the award winning publication *Phile*. He also produced and directed the web and live event series *Pubic Access*. *Solemates* (TIFF 2024) is his narrative directorial debut.



TORRIN BLADES is a producer, director, and writer based in Toronto. His directorial and production debut, the documentary short film “*The North Star: Finding Black Mecca*” (2021), was featured in the CBC Gem series “*Absolutely Canadian*.” As a producer, some of his recent works include the short films “*Your Hand is the Hand of God*” (2023) and “*Solemates*” (TIFF 2024). He is currently writing and developing several short films slated for production next year.

ACTOR BIOS



Born and raised in Montreal, Canada, Richard Jutras is an award winning actor who has been working in Theatre, Film and Television for over 45 years. He has worked and collaborated with some of the most prestigious artists in Canada, the United States and in Europe. Some of his Film and Television credits include: 'Stonewall' (Director Roland Emmerich), 'Dream Scenario' (opposite Nicolas Cage), CBC's hit series 'The Tournament' (for which he was nominated in the Best Ensemble category at the CSA's), the cult classic 'The Whole Nine Yards' and The Hunger (series directed by the late Tony Scott).



Garrett Hnatiuk is an actor and writer born in Winnipeg, Canada. During his bachelor's degree at the University of Manitoba, Garrett was introduced to the industry by avant-garde filmmaker Guy Maddin and was encouraged to pursue a career in the arts. He is best known for his role as the drug-addled street kid Walnut in Astron-Ó's grind house film Father's Day and for his role as Porky in the critically acclaimed web series teenagers. He is starring in the upcoming queer horror feature Son of Sara, premiering later this year.

CREW BIOS



Rico Moran is a Salvadorean-Canadian cinematographer from the Canadian prairies, renowned for his sharp compositions and attention to detail in crafting captivating narratives. His work has been showcased at festivals worldwide, including premieres at TIFF 2022 with “Pleasure Garden” by Rita Ferrando and the Canadian Screen Award-winning “I Like Movies” by Chandler Levack. TIFF 2024 presents his new work in “Solemates” by James Rathbone and Mike Feswick, and “Every Other Weekend” by Mick Robertson and Margaret Rose.



Bailey Scheepers is a Toronto-based Costume Designer. Her recent projects include Solemates which had its premiere at the 2024 Toronto International Film Festival.

