

*MAY CONTAIN SPOILERS*

A short film

By

Paul Laight © 2019

EMAIL: [fixfilms@gmail.com](mailto:fixfilms@gmail.com)

INT. CINEMA - NIGHT

Opening credits ROLL on screen. Dramatic MUSIC plays.

Blood red writing on BLACK SCREEN and TITLE: HAMLETTI

In the audience ALICE WICK (20s) and her boyfriend JOHN REEVES (20s) stare at the screen transfixed. Their concentration is spiked by a presence: DARREN KETTLE (20s) squeezes his ungainly frame along the seats huffing and puffing on the way.

ALICE

Shhhushh!!!

DARREN

Who you shushing?

A chorus of SHHHUUSSHHING ensues from other audience members!

Darren SLUMPS behind Alice and John. Popcorn flies up and hits Alice on the neck. She brushes it out of her hair.

He has enough food to feed five armies: crisps, Maltesers, popcorn, Pick N Mix, bucket of fizzy drink with THREE straws.

On Alice's face: WE hear the RUSTLE of CRISPS.

Mood MUSIC plays on the film soundtrack but it is completely wiped out by RUSTLING and more RUSTLING.

Darren's hand digs into the crisps. He places a handful in his gob and chomps on them. In the silence of the auditorium this sounds incredibly LOUD!

Alice shifts in her seat. Irked. Looks back at Darren scoffing his crisps.

Leans into John. Nudges him. Points her head in the direction of Darren and mouths: "Say something!"

John has a look which says: "Do I have to?" Points at the screen.

Suddenly Darren takes a big SUCK from his drink.

JOHN

(whisper)

Excuse me. Excuse me. Can you--

Darren looks at John. Pauses. Then sucks even louder.

JOHN  
(louder whisper)  
Do you mind? We're trying to--

Ironically an AUDIENCE MEMBER from the dark SHUSHES John. He turns. Looks at Alice. Shrugs his shoulders. Eyes widen as if to say: "I give up!"

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT - *ON CINEMA SCREEN*

Brooding Italian PAULIE HAMLETTI (20s) concentrates on his shot. Light from the lamp burns shadow shards into his face.

A picture of study he pulls his cue back when SUDDENLY:

FAT TONY CASCARINO (40s) bursts in.

TONY  
Paulie! Paulie!

Hamletti misses his shot. Opponent JIMMY SALIERI (30s) smiles.

HAMLETTI  
This better be good Tony! You made  
me miss my fucking shot!

TONY  
Your father. It's about your father.

HAMLETTI  
My father? My father's dead, Tony!

TONY  
I know. But me and Benny. We... We  
only saw his fucking ghost.

HAMLETTI  
You saw my father's ghost? You saw  
my father's ghost? Where?

TONY  
Last night at the Mook!

HAMLETTI

The Mook? What's the fucking Mook?

JIMMY

It's a new club, Paulie. Just opened.

TONY

Yeah. I saw him there large as fucking life.

HAMLETTI

You better not be lying to me Tony.

TONY

I'm not. I swear.

Hamletti picks up the cue ball. Stares into it. A quick camera push moves to a close-up. FREEZE FRAME on his face.

HAMLETTI (V.O.)

And that's when I knew it. There was something fucking rotten going on!

INT. CINEMA - NIGHT

Alice and John are transfixed by the drama. Suddenly they hear a packet of MALTESERS opened followed by more rustling from Darren behind them. Alice TUTS.

INT. CINEMA - SAME TIME - ON SCREEN

JIMMY

Whatcha gonna do boss?

HAMLETTI

I'm thinking. I'm thinking.

Off-screen we HEAR: the CHOMPING and RUSTLING and SLURPING of fizzy pop.

Hamletti screws his face up and looks into the audience.

HAMLETTI

Hey buddy! You! With the eating!

Darren stops eating. A malteser falls from his mouth. He points to himself.

HAMLETTI

Yeah, you! Can you maybe give your jaws  
a fucking break?

MURMURS and WHISPERS whisk around the cinema.

HAMLETTI (CONT.)

I'm can't hear myself fucking think?

Jimmy pokes his nose forward.

JIMMY

Yeah. You ain't stopped munching. You're  
a walking advert for diabetes.

TONY

I got diabetes.

JIMMY

Exactly. Look at Tony.

DARREN

Aah - who cares! Get on with the story!

Darren's reached the bottom so SLURPS even louder.

JIMMY

Are you disrespecting us?! You piece of--

ALICE

Be quiet. I want to watch the film!

DARREN

I've seen it already. And I read the play!  
Boring.

JOHN

Hamlet is NOT boring. It's one of the great  
existential tragedies of our time.

DARREN

It's boring. Paulie tries to track down his Dad's killers but goes all whiny. Does some long speeches - boo-hoo-hoo! Tony dies in the next scene.

ALICE

Hey! Spoilers!

TONY

I die? How do I fucking die?

DARREN

He! Jimmy shoots you cos he's plotting against his boss Paulie. The ending's good though as everyone dies in a shootout at a wedding. So, take your diabetes and stick it where the sun don't shine. You can't hurt me because you're not real! Arseholes!

Darren looks smug after his speech. SUDDENLY: GUNSHOTS are fired and Darren takes four shots in the chest.

On screen Paulie stands there with a smoking gun in his hand.

There is a pause and then Alice starts APPLAUDING! Then John does too. Soon, everyone in the cinema is CLAPPING!

Paulie smiles. Takes a bow.

Darren is slumped dead in the cinema seat smoke leaving the bloody holes on his chest. APPLAUSE dies down.

PAULIE

Now. Where was I? Oh, yeah. There's something fucking rotten going on? Jimmy!

He raises his gun at Jimmy.

JIMMY

Boss! No! I can explain!

FADE OUT: