

A

UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER
westminster film school

PRODUCTION

PARTY ANIMAL



PRESS KIT

Starring:

Michael Oku

Laura Brailsford

Jason Imlach

Blu Hardy

Heather Carter-Drake

Freddie Merrydown

Directed and Written by:

Alexander Nijhoff and Olivia Parkinson

Producer:

Louis Holder

For additional information please contact:

Louis Holder - w1593701@my.westminster.ac.uk - +44 (0) 7928746495

SYNOPSIS:

Party Animal follows Finley; a university student whose first meeting with his in-laws, turns from awkward to disastrous when he accidentally kills their pet dog at a Christmas party.

Finley and Rachel begin, then continue, arguing throughout the first introduction between Rachel's parents and her new boyfriend. The differences and secrets in their relationship appear as Finley fights then fails to impress, and Rachel equally tries to impress in order to gain a contribution into her now empty student loan.

As a direct result of Rachel's father's racist remarks, Rachel's mother Jill is startled into panic as she aimlessly tries to keep herself and the party together. Rachel's own complete lack of interest in Finley is shown as she flirts with a former boyfriend present at the party.

Finley retreats dejectedly to an empty room. There he finds solace in a loveable dog and feeds it a piece of chocolate, only for it to collapse and die. Terrified and ignored by Rachel, Finley scrambles for a bag to hide the dead dog, noticing a bag of decorations under the Christmas tree to use.

Reaching for it, he is stopped by Rachel's mother, panicked by her Christmas party and forcing him to help decorate as he stares angrily at Rachel making advances on her ex. Distracted, he drops antique decorations, prompting a nervous breakdown in Rachel's mother and a call from Rachel's father to get spare decorations in the room secretly containing the dead dog.

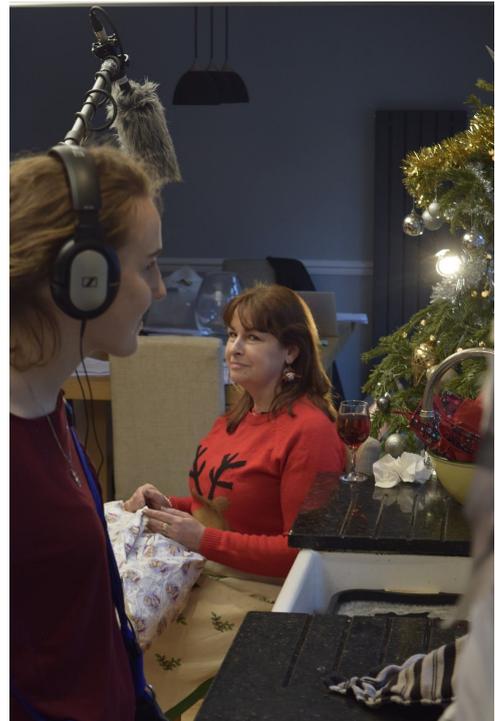
Alarmed, Finley offers to go, then meets a young woman, Hannah, whom he bonds with, then trusts with his secret. Opening the door, Hannah announces that her dog is in the room and that he should be careful as it does not like large crowds.

Startled, Finley tries to slam the door but suspicious, Hannah fights for the handle forcing Finley to grab her as she screams and pull her away. A crowd gathers, seeing Finley seemingly aggressively restrain Hannah. Then to Finley's horror, Rachel's father opens the door: Hannah runs in crying, Rachel stares disgusted, and Finley is left trapped with no way of escape.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

Shooting in my hometown of Liverpool, both the production and writing of *Party Animal* was a personal process for me. Of course when making something personal it naturally becomes challenging as you want to meet the high expectations you have set for the production, and I couldn't have expected to achieve anything I wanted without the cast and crew I had around me. The production team, actors (and dog!) showed dedication, patience and passion that not only created such an invigorating working environment, but that propelled the project into the final film that we are now all so proud of.

BEHIND THE SCENES



CAST BIOS



Michael Oku is a British actor, born in London, England on April 28, 1993. He began acting sporadically through his childhood, participating in various community theatre productions before deciding to create MySpace and later YouTube videos in his teen years, referring to himself as "The O.J.M.O" - a cocky, self-absorbed American vlogger. From there, Oku began acting professionally and has since been part of various theatre productions, most notably, "Blackta" at the Young Vic and most recently, "Calais" at Barons Court Theatre.



Laura Brailsford is a British actress with three years professional training under her belt; she graduated in 2010 with a Diploma in Acting and Performance and it was during this time at The School of Theatre in Dundee that she gained the technical skills such as strong vocal and physical work, an ability to devise theatre, and text analysis. In 2013, She worked with London based company Fourth Monkey, who specialise in Repertory Theatre and performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in two plays simultaneously over a month long run. Laura has experience in screen work also and is currently training with The Actors Class and The National Youth Theatre on their Playing Up course.



Jason Imlach is a British Actor who was trained at The National Youth Theatre where he performed *The Merchant of Venice*, *Wuthering Heights* and *Consensual*. His other theatre credits include; *The Cherry Orchard* and *Uncle Vanya* both with *The Stella Adler Studio of Acting* in New York, *All My Sons* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and *The Theatre of Illusion* and *A Sexual Congress* both with East 15 Acting School.



Heather Carter-Drake is an actress, known for *Warrior Sisters* (2004), *Honest* (2000) and *The Eleventh Hour* (2013). She is also a writer/filmmaker and directed her first short film for the Festival De Cannes in 2009. Heather was an extra for 10 years and worked on several major motion pictures such as *Fifth Element*, *Eyes Wide Shut* and *Shakespeare in Love*. She has also worked in SFX.



Freddie Merrydown is an actor, known for *Any Other Day* (2014), *Big Fat Gypsy Gangster* (2011) and *Odd One In* (2010). He has worked in television with a variety of production companies including Talkback TV, Endemol UK, ITV Studios and BBC.

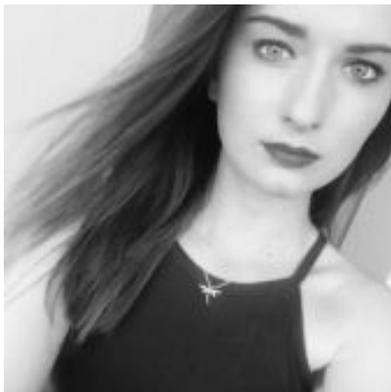


Blu Hardy is an Actress from Burton, England who is currently studying a 2 Year Acting Qualification from The Arts Educational School.



Charlotte Hulme is an Actress from Lancashire. Since September 2012, she has been training with Julie Anne Carr and is currently working towards Grade 8 for Musical Theatre and most recently has focussed on acting for stage with Stagebox Musical Theatre Elite Team.

CREW BIOS



Olivia Parkinson is a first year Film student at University of Westminster, she was the Editor on *One Night More* (2017), an independent feature film directed by Louis Holder. She says she is so happy to be involved in such an ambitious project and to collaborate with other people on her course. Additionally, she was the assistant editor on *The Substitute* (2015) and is currently working on a short film written and directed by fellow Westminster students Ross Dixon and Oscar Perillo entitled 'For Mum' of which she has also worked closely with the script through it's development and shows great passion for film.



Alexander Nijhoff is also a first year Film student at University of Westminster. Recently, Alex wrote, directed and edited the surreal existential short film 'Of the Beholder', a Zenith Films Production. Alex was the Co-Director of *Party Animal*, working with Olivia to direct the actors and ensure the best possible performances were grasped during principal photography.



Louis Holder BFIFA also studies film at Westminster and is an experienced Director-Producer, Cinematographer, Arts Activist and Broadcaster. He has created, directed and produced many shorts, documentaries and featurettes which have featured at film festivals worldwide and is an alumnus of the BFI Film Academy. He has finished touring the acclaimed short biopic on his grandfather; *John Holder: Illustrator*. He is currently working on his feature-length directorial debut *One Night More* and other



projects.

Cezar Tatarau is an emerging Cinematographer, Video Editor & Director with credits such as the short documentary *Soul of Bucharest*. He was commissioned to produce a series of commercials for Vagabond Hair Studio in his home town of Bucharest, Romania. He is also an experienced photographer and within post-production, including video manipulation and retouching. Cezar enjoys working in a high-paced environment using technology that is both advanced and practical for the task at hand.



Matilda Vidal is a First Year Film Student at University of Westminster and an aspiring filmmaker. Interested in all areas of filmmaking, Matilda is passionate about storytelling and in *Party Animal* used dialogue, Atmos and Sound FX to create a rich soundscape using advanced sound recording and editing equipment. She is currently learning ProTools as one of many pieces of specialist software. Recently she has finished production on Micah Hinchliffe and Ben Holt's surrealist short thriller *Rave* in the role of Sound Recordist.



Liam Winter is an aspiring filmmaker, designer and art director and is a first year student at Westminster Film School. He studied a Diploma in Performance Design at Central St Martins, and is considered influential in his style for his age. He recently directed the short documentary *Moonflower* and produced a short drama shot on 16mm entitled '*Rules, Regulations, Pastries*'.



Melina Namdar **BFIFA** **NYT** is an Actress, Artist & Director for stage and screen and Casting Director. She is a Screenwriting graduate of the BFI Film Academy, a graduate from the National Youth Theatre and a freelance producer. Recently, she directed 'Together We Can', a diverse theatre show of spoken word artists and musical performances played to a sold-out Lyric Hammersmith. Her theatrical connections combined with her professional casting process experience make her the perfect casting director.

CREDITS - END TITLES

WESTMINSTER FILM SCHOOL PRESENTS

A LOUIS HOLDER PRODUCTION

AN OLIVIA PARKINSON & ALEXANDER NIJHOFF FILM

Director and Writer	Olivia Parkinson Alexander Nijhoff
Producer	Louis Holder
Executive Producers	Trish Parkinson Andrew Parkinson
Finley	MICHAEL OKU
Rachel	LAURA BRAILSFORD
Ethan	JASON IMLACH
Hannah	BLU HARDY
Jill	HEATHER CARTER-DRAKE
Albert	FREDDIE MERRYDOWN
Guests	LOTTIE ROSE HULME GEORGINA HALL
1st Assistant Director	LOUIS HOLDER
Director of Photography	CEZAR TATARAU

Production Designer	LIAM WINTER
Sound Designer (& Sound Recordist)	MATILDA VIDAL
Editor	OLIVIA PARKINSON
Casting Director	MELINA NAMDAR
Composer	WILLIAM DAVIS
Colorist	AGNE DENAPAITE
Assistant Editor	NATHAN HUGHES-BERRY
Assistant Editor & Script Editor	BEN WILSON
Post Production Runner	ARMANPREET KAPOOR
With Thanks To Our Backers	PAM VIDAL VIDAN-4 FANNY VIDAL BEN HOLT LANA MAJEED LINDA GRINDLE NEVE EYLES BEN DAVIES HANNAH WILLIAMS ELIZABETH MORTON AINA LANCEN RIAZ HUSSEIN ROSS DIXON NATASHA HUGHES LUCY MANOTAM LOUIS EARLE