

Against Your Nature

A narrative short executive produced by Paul Mulraney for S/ICL, working alongside a crew of alumni and undergraduate Film BA students

The film has screened alongside Q&As and panel discussions at film festivals, community events and academic contexts in 2025 and 2026.

Paul Mulraney

Research Theme – S/ICL, Screen & Identity



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Project details

Against Your Nature (2025)

Dir: Alessandro Magnabosco | 14mins |

Narrative | UK

- Shot in 2025, premiered in 2026
- Partners: Prince & Pilgrim Productions, Sound/Image Cinema Lab
- Staff Collaborators: Paul Mulraney (Executive Producer), Laura Canning (S/ICL Researcher)
- R&I Programme Alignment: S/ICL, Screen & Identity



300-word supporting statement

Against Your Nature is a dystopian sci-fi short set in a post viral world, the film uses the genre to explore LGBTQ+ and reproductive issues.

Executive produced by senior lecturer Paul Mulraney and crewed by a team of 2018 Falmouth alumni including producer Enrico Artuso (*J, Lost in the Noise*) DoP Dan Simpkins (*Lost Boys of Carbis Bay*) and sound designer Laurence Pearson (*An Indirect Message*).

During pre-production the screenplay was workshopped through writer's rooms in the Film BA's second year Creative Delivery: Screenwriting module, the student writers working with writer/director Alessandro Magnabosco (*Achilles' Prayer, The Second Prince*) over a number of script drafts to develop the story.

The film's production and post-production phases were supported by a team of filmmakers, costume designers and fine artists from the 2025 graduating cohort, with over 50% of the crew comprising third year students, with some winning senior HoD roles on the film.

The film is a great example of how the Film BA collaborates with industry, alumni, staff and students to create high production value - low budget cinema, as supported by the kit hire and student crewing framework put in place by SICL (Sound/Image Cinema Lab), working within the ethos of Paul Mulraney's [Vernacular Films](#) research-based practice project.

Community building and knowledge exchange through film practice have led to alumni hiring students onto industry projects, the film giving students a showcase for their talents, and a proving ground for their developing skills.

Against Your Nature has gone on to official selection at a number of national and international film festivals including both the London and European Independent Film Festivals, winning Best LGBTQ+ film at the Wolverhampton Film Festival and securing an Honourable Mention at the Brighton Rocks Film Festival.



Research Output

Pending the completion of its festival run, *Against Your Nature* can be viewed at the private link:

<https://vimeo.com/eart95/against-your-nature>



Against Your Nature, BTS



Dissemination

- **Queer Expression Film Fest, Chicago — Official Selection**
- **London Independent Film Festival, London — Official Selection**
- **LGBT+ Film Festival Poland, Poland — Official Selection**
- **Lisboa Indie Film Festival, Lisbon — Official Selection**
- **ÉCU — The European Independent Film Festival, Paris — Official Selection**
- **Wolverhampton Film Festival, Wolverhampton — Official Selection; nominated for Best Film Overall, Best Editing and Best Original Score; winner of Best LGBTQ+**
- **Love & Hope International Film Festival, Barcelona — Official Selection**
- **QFest St. Louis, USA — Official Selection**
- **Brighton Rocks Film Festival, Brighton — Honourable Mention**
- **SoFT Screening, Q&A – SoFT Masterclass series**

| **Community Dissemination** | National Dissemination | International Dissemination |



Contextual Evidence

“The word *subtle* is exemplified here. I absolutely loved it”

Scott Hillier, Festival President,
The European Independent Film Festival

An interview with Scott Hillier and the filmmakers can be heard here:

www.creators.spotify.com

Press

Devon and Cornwall Film:

<https://www.devon-cornwall-film.co.uk/2025/05/27/against-your-nature-queer-sci-fi-short-to-film-in-cornwall/>

Devon and Cornwall Film:

<https://www.devon-cornwall-film.co.uk/2026/04/22/against-your-nature-enters-international-festival-circuit-following-cornwall-shoot/>

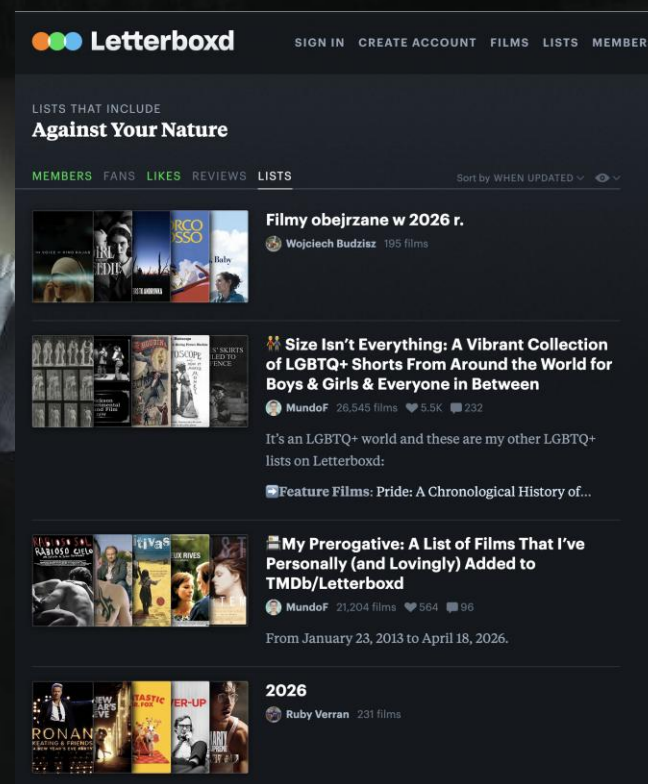
Letterboxd Lists:

<https://letterboxd.com/film/against-your-nature/lists/>

Recognition

Featured Letterboxd lists:

<https://letterboxd.com/film/against-your-nature/lists/>



Contextual Evidence

Alumni and Student KE

- Jasmin Zimmerli was connected with Ndo Simpito, another Falmouth alumnus currently working on high-profile HBO shows in the costume department.
- Tom Churchill and Aidan Brook worked together with Frankie Ashcroft on projects after AYN.

Testimonials

"It was such an amazing opportunity and I'd love to be back on set with you guys at some point"

(Isaac Wilson)

"I just wanted to send a message to thank you for the amazing shoot. I had a really lovely time, and enjoyed getting to know everyone"

(Jasmin Zimmerli)

Testimonials

"I can't express how grateful I am to have been a part of the production and I've learned so much." (Ethan Lee)

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity on this film" (Natacha Simpson)

Contextual Evidence

Student crew

Ethan Lee: Associate Producer

Emily Hester: Intimacy Advisor

Lee Fennessy: Script
Supervisor

Jasper Hignett: Second
Assistant Camera

Aidan Brook: Spark

Tom Churchill: Spark

Student crew (cont.)

Natacha Simpson:
Production Designer

Jasmin Zimmerli: Costume
Assistant

Flossie Wilson: Hair &
Make-Up Artist

Alumni

Enrico Artuso: Producer

Daniel Simpkins: Director of
Photography

Laurence Pearson: Sound
Designer & Sound Mixer

Winston Tjia: Sound
Recordist & Boom Operator

Script development process – example student coverage reports

Coverage Report

Report Author: Wren Tarling
Report Date: 18/11/2024
Script Title: "Against your nature"
Format: Script table read
Length: 12 Pages
Budget: N/A
Location: N/A
Circa: N/A
Genre: Dystopian, queer

Writers: Alessandro Magnabosco
Logline:

In a dystopian future, where a pandemic wipes out most of the global population those who are immune are being forced to reproduce, to repopulate and for Sarah and Rachael this is a problem.

Grading/Verdict:

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	PROFICIENT	NEEDS ATTENTION
PREMISE			X	
STORY			X	
CHARACTERS			X	
STRUCTURE		X		
DIALOGUE				X
MARKETABILITY		X		

COMMENTS:

- Premise** Really need to realise the difference between the queer identity vs "my body, my choice" your portraying, maybe changing some phrases to show how painful it can be to not be understood and how angry feeling controlled can make you.
- Marketability** I worry that if you are not careful it may come off as insensitive.
- Character** The characters are good but quite generic, there is little difference between "Gay woman #1" and "Gay woman #2", getting the perspective of actual women and basing the character of women you actually know would really help flesh out the personalities of these women.
- Dialogue** The dialogue is on the nose.
RACHEL: I mean... Adam could have been unpleasant? Also, I don't know but... we could both be gay? That'd be worse for this I suppose.
SARAH: Because you're bi and you can have sex with him.
- Structure** There has to be a better way of showing this then stating it in that way.
The pacing is good but also a bit fast maybe show more of "Normal life" before dropping into the problem.
- Conclusion** I like the premise but it has to be worked on so that as men writing about women you actually get a women's perspective.

Coverage Report

Report Author: Stanley Harman
Report Date: 18/11/2024
Script Title: Against Your Nature
Format: Festival Cut
Length: 10 minutes
Budget: £200,000
Location: Both a hospital and a Cabin away from the rest of the world
Circa: 2025
Genre: Sci-Fi

Writers: Alessandro Magnabosco
Logline: Two lesbian lovers who have survived a pandemic and are immune to the virus are thrust into emotional uncertainty when they are required to mandatory reproduce.

Grading/Verdict:

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	PROFICIENT	NEEDS ATTENTION
PREMISE	X			
STORY		X		
CHARACTERS		X		
STRUCTURE	X			
DIALOGUE		X		
MARKETABILITY		X		

□

COMMENTS:

Premise :

I really like the premise, and I think this script is very provocative as the characters actions and how they interact with each other is greatly interesting to watch.

Marketability

I think this script is very marketable as I feel this story needs to be told as I feel there are very few stories out there dealing with these questions and insecurities.

Character

I really like the characters but as others will probably say I think the two female characters are a bit too similar. However, some good feedback I really like Adam and I really like how fleshed out and how real he feels with how he acts and talks.

Dialogue/Sound

I think the dialogue is very strong maybe adding an accent/colloquialism for one of the female leads but Adams is greatly written.

Structure/Pace

I think the pace is steady, but I think that greatly helps with this narrative and I don't feel it needs much changing.

Conclusion

I think that this script is honestly one or two drafts away from being perfect I really like it and I really like the narrative and characters.

Coverage Report

Report Author: Isabelle Dix
Report Date: 18/11/2024
Script Title: Against Your Nature
Format:
Length:
Budget:
Location:
Circa:
Genre:
Writers: Alessandro Magnabosco
Logline:

Grading/Verdict:

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	PROFICIENT	NEEDS ATTENTION
PREMISE	x			
STORY		x		
CHARACTERS			x	
STRUCTURE		x		
DIALOGUE			x	
MARKETABILITY		x		

COMMENTS:

Premise

I do enjoy the premise of the story, I think it has interest and importance but you need to know what you want your final fight to be. The struggle of forced motherhood, forced sexuality and birth or the focus on the struggle of romantic and sexual identity along with biphobia. Because the final moment feels like the focus on biphobia is lost to forced birth which im unsure if its what you want.

Marketability

I do believe it is marketable, queer stories are focus on womanhood but you have to be careful to not create offence to certain groups and push towards a problematic point of view.

Character

I think the development of characters is interesting but Sarah is lacking in her own arc. She is unfortunately assuming the worst of Rachel because of her bisexuality however she never seems to learn and understand that Rachel does not want Adam just because she likes men too. I don't think she ever gets to learn and understand Rachel from her point of view, the script accepts Sarahs level of biphobia and then brushes it under the rug at the end for the quick change. This is especially important because of the heightened levels of biphobia from lesbians in the current social climate.

I would like to see more of Rachel by the end, she was trying to sacrifice something the entire time by hiding behind a calm demeanour. I sort of believe that the conversation between sarah and Adam should maybe be with Rachel. For Rachels voice is to be heard against Sarahs pre judgments.

Dialogue/Sound

Sarah and Rachel could have more voice in their words and slang. Adam I think tells his personality in his speeches.

I also think the line 'I didn't want you to do something against your nature' feels slightly forced.

Structure/Pace

Structure works well, I think the pace works most of the way however the ending scene between Rachel and Sarah felt very rushed. This could be broken up with the conversation between Sam and Adam happening between Rachel and Sarah.