

SPLIT SECOND FILMS

WEST OF THE MOON

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"THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER."
— CARSON MCCULLERS

A SCI-FI / DRAMA / FANTASY

SYNOPSIS

Summer 1998. Eleven-year-old Pierre's world is changed forever when his best friend Jake drowns during a summer of boyhood adventures. Haunted by guilt, Pierre takes on the dream that once belonged to Jake: to become an astronaut.

Decades later, that dream has carried Pierre all the way to the Moon. But a pioneering lunar mission has ended in disaster. His partner and lover Selena is dead, communications with Earth have failed, and Pierre has spent five years stranded and alone.

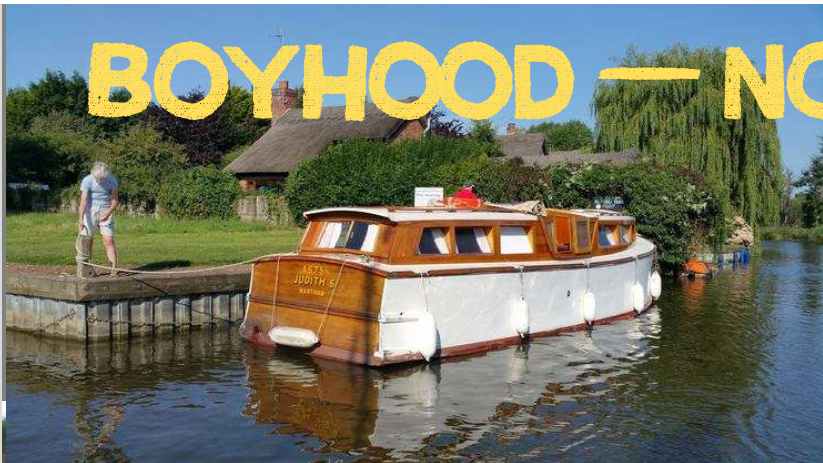
When unexpected radio contact finally brings news from home, Pierre discovers that climate catastrophe has devastated Earth. Having found a possible way back, he faces an extraordinary choice: attempt to return to what remains, or journey onwards into the unknown.

Moving between boyhood and the Moon, WEST OF THE MOON is a story of friendship, love, guilt and the dreams that shape a lifetime.

BOYHOOD — NORFOLK, 1998

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THE MOON — NEAR FUTURE



FIVE YEARS STRANDED. EVERYONE ON EARTH BELIEVES PIERRE IS DEAD.

WHY THIS FILM ?

WEST OF THE MOON moves between rural England in 1998 and the Moon in the near future, combining intimate drama with fantasy, humour, songs and the wonder of space exploration, against the backdrop of a climate-devastated Earth.

A BOYHOOD FRIENDSHIP THAT REACHES ALL THE WAY TO THE MOON.

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WRITER

BERNARD BESSERGLIK

Bernard Besserglik is a Paris-based British-French screenwriter and former journalist. He spent twenty years as a foreign correspondent with Agence France-Presse, including four years in Moscow, before reviewing French cinema for The Hollywood Reporter. His screen projects include the development-funded miniseries LE MANDAT and LE RETOUR, while his short film L'AMOUR, TOUJOURS L'AMOUR screened at festivals in France and the US. His musical comedy A NIGHT IN THE KREMLIN was produced at New York's Midtown International Theater Festival, running for six performances. His writing explores memory, identity and the ways individual lives are shaped by history.

British-French | Based in Paris

[IMDb](#)

“WEST OF THE MOON is deliberately hybrid: a story of boyhood friendship, grief, love and how a burden of guilt can shape a life. Its logic is emotional and poetic, punctuated by moments of fantasy, flashes of humour and Moon-related songs.”

— Bernard Besserglik



DIRECTOR

DAVID BLAIR

David Blair is an eight-time BAFTA-nominated director, winning twice for TAKIN' OVER THE ASYLUM and THE STREET. His work has also received International Emmy and RTS Awards, alongside numerous international accolades.

Across film and television, he has directed some of Britain's most acclaimed actors, including Michael Gambon, John Hurt, Colin Firth, Tim Roth, Stephen Graham, Olivia Colman, Jim Broadbent, Bob Hoskins, Dougray Scott and Christopher Eccleston. He also played a role in the early development of David Tennant, Gemma Arterton and Eddie Redmayne.

David's long creative relationship with writer Jimmy McGovern stretched from THE LAKES to CARE. His feature films include TABLOID, BEST LAID PLANS, AWAY and MISSION OF HONOR, while recent television work includes producing and directing CRIME and directing FOUR LIVES and THE RECKONING.

Scottish | Based in Scotland

[IMDb](#)



PRODUCER

MARGARET MILNER / SPLIT SECOND FILMS

Margaret Milner is an Irish producer and founder of Split Second Films, based in Ireland and the UK. Her credits include the animated short *OVER THE HILL*, which qualified for and was submitted for Academy Award consideration; the UK-German feature *INBRED*, sold internationally by Arclight Films; and the BFI-funded *TICKER*, subsequently acquired by Channel 4. Recent work includes Screen Ireland-funded *THE KEVIN INTERVENTION* and European co-production *THE REEF*, now in post-production.

Through Split Second Films, Margaret develops distinctive, character-driven films with a particular interest in stories that combine emotional drama with genre.

Irish | Split Second Films — Ireland / UK

[IMDb](#)



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CURRENTLY SEEKING DEVELOPMENT & CO-PRODUCTION PARTNERS

"Your project is wonderful and potently original, tender, imaginative, other-worldly, even mystical — highly cinematic — and all the other things I love."

— Martha Fiennes, director

"A great concept, where the sci-fi is merely the backdrop for a greater human story"

— Courtney Noble, film & television executive

"A fascinating piece of art. Very emotional, clever and well-written. I love it "

— Arno Ortmair, producer

