**A Proposal for FMP**

**Time Spent**

Prepared by Brandon Shears and Ella Cakebread

**NIGHTCALL PRODUCTIONS**

*19/02/18*

PROPOSAL

**Log Line**

* Lonely teenager is determined to prove his profound love to his new girlfriend; no matter the cost.

**Tag Line**

* *“It's not what you do with your time… but who you spend that time with”.*

**Synopsis**

* After meeting a girl called Nancy in a coffee shop, Archie; a typically shy, fortuneless boy, is instantly taken away by her. Despite being from different ends of the social ladder, the two discover they’re not so different; and fall for each other. Their time spent together is the happiest they’ve ever been. But when an old face resurfaces in Archie’s life bearing unlawful opportunities, he begins to realise that the only way to keep Nancy, might be through criminal undergoing. Unaware to him; it will be their undoing.

**Treatment**

* Act One

The opening shot of the film is of our main protagonist, Archie. He’s standing in the middle of a beach; seemingly alone. He’s gazing of into the distance, but we don’t know what. This is when we cut to Nancy, she’s standing on the over end, starring right back at him. Slowly the sound of a busy coffee shop creeps in, then suddenly, a shot of till flinging open interrupts the previous scene. The shop is extremely busy, with a crowd of people at the counter waiting to be served. Among them, we see Archie again; he’s trying to get the waiter’s attention to order his coffee. Despite several efforts, he just can’t find the confidence to raise his voice up. It doesn’t help either when a young couple rudely barges in-front of him. Archie’s about to give up, when all of a sudden, he hears a voice asking him a question; “What do you want?” He turns, and it’s reveal that it’s in-fact Nancy. This is the first time the two have met. Puzzled by what she meant, Nancy quickly leans over the counter and grabs the waiter’s attention instantly, allowing Archie to order his drink. Amazed by what he’s just witnessed, Nancy leaves the coffee shop and smiles at him. We then see Archie back in his bedroom. His phone goes off, and he sees that not only is he invited to a party, but so is Nancy. Despite hating most social interactions, Archie decides to go. Arriving into the party, must people are giving him odd looks. The girlfriend of his old mate and host of the party; Sophia, questions him why he’s here. She also tries to bring up the topic of his old mate called Caleb, but Archie walks off. He finally finds Nancy, who’s with a group of friends. However she looks slightly uncomfortable. Finally building up the courage to approach her, Nancy spots Archie and moves away from her friends. The two start to talk and bond over the consumption of alcohol. Nancy then decides to take Archie to the beach. This allows the two to truly open up to each other. Archie tells Nancy about him being lonely, longing to fit in, and how he got into a big argument with Caleb before he had to leave. While Nancy explains that she doesn’t really fit in with her friends either, and misses being truly happy. Through their understanding of each other, the two hold hand; and finally, they kiss.

* Act Two

A montage of Archie and Nancy going out on dates and adventures is shown. The days out together consist of nothing fancy; the two are just happy to be with each other’s company. Intercutting with this, is Archie slowly filling up a glass jar with money. The montage stops when the glass is full. Archie is looking extremely happy with himself as he finally has enough money to take Nancy out to somewhere really expensive. However, he hears a knock on his door. When Archie opens it, to his complete surprise; it’s Caleb. We then see Archie, Nancy, Caleb and his girlfriend, Sophia all walk into a fancy restaurant. They’re all having a great time; especially Nancy. After the meal, Archie and Caleb are leaned against the back entrance of the restaurant. Caleb has now witness how happy Nancy makes Archie, and decides to take advantage of it. He brings up that he wants Archie to take up his offer for this “job” again. Archie is stunned that Caleb even dared to bring this up again. This is what caused them to argue before Caleb had to move away. They get into another argument, with Caleb arguing that they (girlfriends) “Always want more, and more tends to be expensive”. Archie, completely unconvinced by this walks away. A couple of days have passed since then, and Archie is in Nancy’s room waiting for her to get off the phone. He’s reminiscing over some photos of the two of them on their adventures. Nancy gets off the phone, and Archie asks who she was talking to. It was Sophia, and she was explaining to Nancy about how beautiful her new necklace is that Caleb bought her. Nancy seems to be gushing over it also. She then brings up Caleb, and how they haven’t spoken in since the restaurant. Unwilling to take about it, Archie just says everything is fine; but Nancy knows better. Attempting to cheer her boyfriend up, Nancy goes on about how amazing the restaurant was. This is the last thing Archie wants to hear. The more Nancy goes on about it, the more he realises that maybe Caleb was right. Archie leaves the room abruptly, and promises to make this up to her. Arriving outside Caleb’s house, Archie knocks on the door. Caleb opens, and without saying a word, he knows why Archie is here. He invites him in the house, and the door slams shut.

* Act Three

Another montage, similar to the one at the start of act two, is shown. However, Archie is treating Nancy to more expensive dates and presents. Archie style and fashion sense is also changing; wearing more high quality clothes and jewellery. Nancy knows that something is off. Archie keeps going off mysteriously with Caleb and he won’t tell her where. Archie has never been the wealthiest, so she knows that all the money being spent doesn’t make sense. The montage is interrupted by a shot of Archie and Nancy sat on a sofa together, they’re both separated apart sitting on opposite ends. The doorbell goes off, and Archie doesn’t flinch; he’s glued to the TV that’s playing a news report of a recent string of robberies. Nancy sighs, and goes to answer the door. It’s Caleb. He asks Nancy if Caleb’s in; she goes get him. Once Nancy seemingly goes away, the boys start to discuss. Firstly however, Caleb hands Archie over a gift bag that he requested. Then, Archie starts to press Caleb about the next “hit”, however Caleb insists that they got to stop now as the risk is too high. Furious that Caleb is backing out, Archie starts an argument. Meanwhile, Nancy is listening in on their conversation; shocked by how Archie is acting. Caleb gets fed up with Archie and leaves. The next scene is Archie and Nancy on a date. To his side hidden away, Archie has the gift. Bragging about how much money he’s spending, Nancy finally confronts him about both how different he’s acting, and the money. They argue, and Archie then decides to walk away; thinking that Nancy is being ungrateful for all he’s doing for her. Left behind, is the gift bag. Nancy looks to see what’s within. Inside, is the exact same necklace that Caleb bought Sophia. In his room alone now, something in Archie snaps. He storms out of his room, knocking over the glass jar that has the label “Nancy” on.

Act Four (conclusion)

Nancy hasn’t seen or heard from Archie in days; she’s concerned. Looking over some old pictures of the two, she decides to act. The next scene we see Nancy knocking on Caleb’s door, he opens and instantly knows what she’s here about; so, invites her in. In his living Caleb starts explaining what he and Archie have been up to. Intercutting with this, Archie is prepping, and then committing a robbery; that’s how he’s been getting all the money. As Caleb is telling Nancy all this, she begins to break down. After Archie runs out of the store, with the cash in his hands, police sirens being to go off. The sound of police cars zooming past Caleb’s house can be heard, and Nancy goes out to investigate. On the run from the police, Archie ends up on a beach. It takes him a while, but he soon realises that this is the same beach that him and Nancy first kissed. Taking off his mask; memories of before Caleb start to rush through his head. Archie finally realises that he was truly happiest when it was him and Nancy spending time together. It’s not about going to fancy places and how much money he spent on her thinking that this will make Nancy happy. Turning around, he sees Nancy on the other end of the beach, looking directly at him. It’s the same shots from the first scene of the movie. Police sirens start to creep in, and suddenly two cops come from behind Archie, arresting him. It’s too little to late for him.

**Character Briefs**

* Archie

A 19-year-old boy; Archie spends most of his time alone after his only friend Caleb moved away from the area. He’s scruffy looking and hasn’t really got any fashion sense. His financially difficult background doesn’t allow for much spending on clothes. Being socially awkward and shy from most human confrontation, Archie finds it hard to speak up for himself sometimes. He enjoys spending time in his room listening to music, thinking about where life has taken him. He regrets how things ended between him and Caleb; Archie wants nothing more than to have someone in his life that cares. However, by meeting a girl called Nancy in a coffee shop, Archie is amazed by how confident she presents herself. Feeling determined to shred his old habits and meet this girl again, he decides to put himself out there for the first time in a long while.

* Nancy
* Nancy is also 19-year’s old, and unlike Archie she’s popular, and goes out to parties regularly with her friends; drinking until dawn. However, Nancy doesn’t really feel like she fits in with them. While she does enjoy going out, it may just be with the wrong people. Nancy misses the days that she spent with her mother, going out on wild, silly adventures. Nowadays its like she’s pretending to be something she’s not, just to “fit” in. But after meeting and getting to know Archie, she starts to see that despite their social rankings; they’re not so different.
* Caleb

Once Archie’s best and only friend, Caleb is 20 years old and had to move away from the area due to his illegal profession. While he was away, both him and Archie lost contact with each other due to a disagreement on certain life choices. Caleb is, confident to the point of being a bit full of himself. He’s very stylish and smartly dressed, with a tendency to wear expensive items. Caleb also enjoys spending the money he gets from his “job” on his girlfriend Sophia. They go out to outlandish restaurants and he buys even more expensive jewellery for her. However, he soon returns into Archie’s life when he moves into the area once again. After seeing Archie and Nancy’s love first-hand, Caleb decides now is the perfect opportunity to reel Archie into his profession. As now Caleb understands that Archie finally has something to fight for; his love for Nancy.

**The underlying message of the film**

* Essentially the main message that we’re attempting to get across on the film is summed up in the tag line; “It’s not about what you do, but who spend that time with”. In relationships, couples have a tendency of thinking what makes a great relationship is the things you do with your partner. The places you go to, the adventures you may have together. But it’s really not about what you do. It doesn’t matter how outlandish the places you and your partner go to, nor how expensive the gifts you may get them. At the end of the day, it’s all about who you chose to spend that time with. Their company, is all you need. The film also has messages of accepting yourself for who you are. It’s okay to be the person that you are; because that’s who you are. It’s better than putting on a mask and pretending to be something you’re not.

**Examples of similar films**

* *“The Place Beyond the Pines”, “Blue Valentine”, “500 days of Summer”, “Submarine”*

**Purpose**

* Due to the use of copyright music which is quite prevalent in the current version of the film, it cannot be submitted for any film festivals or profit. This means we would only use “Time Spent” for non-profit uses like YouTube and Vimeo, as a showcase for our work.

**Resources needed (crew, cast, props, locations, equipment)**

* Crew

Ella Cakebread (Co-Director, Producer, Camera Operator)

Brandon Shears (Co-Director, Editor, Camera Operator)

Jake Mason (DOP, Sound Operator)

* Cast

Archie (Archie Settle)

Nancy (Phoebe Williams)

Caleb (Brandon Shears)

Sophia (Ella Cakebread)

* Props

Glass Jar

Pistol

Balaclava

Duffle bag

Polaroid Camera

Necklace

Watch

* Locations

Coffee shop

Archie’s bedroom

Nancy’s bedroom/front room

Sand Bay (5 Beach Rd, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare, BS22)

Sophia’s house (21 Tansy Lane, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 7JL)

Restaurant

* Equipment

Canon 700D

Shoulder Rig

Rode microphone

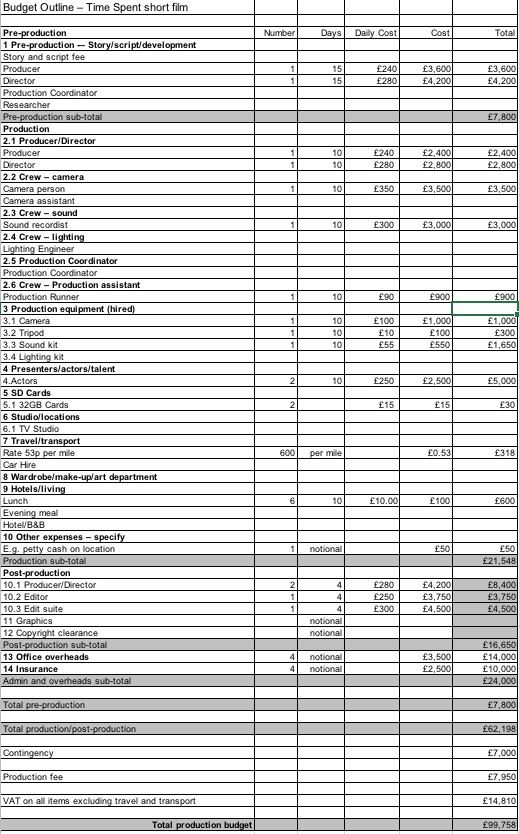
Boom Pole

XLR cable

Zoom

**Feasibility**

* This will be our most ambitious film to date; mainly because of the length. We’ve made short films before, but never on this scale. This means that managing our time and making sure that we meet deadlines is crucial in making sure that the final product is to the best standard possible. If not, then not only will the quality drop, but we may not even have a full finished film. Other than that, out story is pretty grounded. Everything that happens within the film is entirely possible to do. The only two problems is location permissions and the police chase. Firstly, we need both a coffee shop, and a restaurant. The restaurant we could work around by using the TV studio in College. By doing it up, and making it visually stylish; it could work in our benefit. However if we do manage to get permission to film in one, then that would be great too. Same goes for the coffee shop, yet we do need to actually film in one for the purpose of the story. As for the police chase, we can just not show any police, but instead indicate that they are in pursuit. This can be done by having the flash of the sirens appear on screen, and the noise alongside it.

**Industry Budget**

**Genre and target audience**

* The genre for our film is an Indi-romance which fits well with the context of the story. Also, our demographic would typically be females between the ages of 16-21; however, the film is suited for everyone.

**Research results**

* We presented the outline of our story and a read through of the script, to a panel of about 5. The people involved were Jake Mason, Morgan Orme, Elliot Boon, Leah Cooper and Hannah Jupe. Overall, they loved the story and were heavily invested in what was happening to the characters. Also, they appreciated the use of several underlying themes that are integrated throughout the film. Some constructive criticism however was also shared. The main overall concern was the length of film, we some thinking that is may drag if it goes over the 20 minute mark. Through talking that point over with them, we came to the conclusion that the first act of the film is too long. In our second draft of the script we will try to cut down on both dialogue and scenes, but still keep the overall purpose of the act.

**Conclusion**

* Overall, we are asking for £99,758 to create our short film. In doing so, we can guarantee a truly compelling romantic drama touching on the themes of spending time with the person you love, and not how much money you spend on them. As that’s what really makes a relationship; and through “Time Spent”, we hope that the film will portray this message to our target audience.