



'LOUIE LOUIE'

SHORT FILM

BEHIND THE SCENES

PRESS RELEASE, OCTOBER. 2015

Director Daniel Cooper-Kamodsky talks about the unusual settings at the heart of the Louie's encapsulation and explains some interesting facts behind the making of 'Louie Louie':



In this film I have touched on the very sensitive subject of human encapsulation, purposely utilizing a fairy-tale format to address it. In spite of the fact that I'm conveying this story in fantasy style I actually show it in an existent world and not in the unreal settings you would normally expect in such a genre. I guess that 'unreal settings' were substituted with 'unusual settings' or should I say 'bizarre settings' in real world.



During the process of crafting this film I was also very much preoccupied with the psychological part of such encapsulation i.e. human behaviour during rejection and isolation, which could lead to an insidious form of entrapment.

In this bizarre plot Louie experiences a similar psychological state immediately after he's turned into porcelain by his girlfriend's wicked mother's magic spell and as it first appeared - with no prospect of surviving the ordeal.



To make our protagonist's condition even more isolated and his unfolding drama even more controversial I've placed Louie in a very unusual and bizarre place: a public lavatory.

This kind of place is rarely discussed with loved ones, and generally considered to be unpleasant. So it was a challenge for me, as a director and cinematographer to make it appealing! At the same time I was trying to effectively engage viewers and win their participation by narrating the story from the 'loo's' POV which was another uneasy task to perform.

So, I spent a lot of time on the locations with a camera to get a feel of the place and make it looked acceptable and pleasant to the eyes! I was doing it prior to shooting! Very quickly I realised that I need to do a lot of compositing

in post to achieve this - for example when shooting the loo from the behind. So I started using blue/green screens in many shots, especially on the location at the Bathroom Showroom in order to eliminate unwanted details and backgrounds. To keep the shots minimalistic and some of them in the style of Film Noir I had to block some light on other locations and also use studio shooting for passionate scenes between Heather and Louie to create the darkness around them.

In addition I also had to resolve the another “unpleasant” issue... related to the lavatory! The process that normally takes place in the lavatory is scientifically called 'elimination'. My aim was, at any cost, to avoid any direct reference to it or showing of it.

I'd rather let the viewer take control and imagine what could've happened to Louie during his unpleasant entrapment than showing those details. So I did it by giving some visual clues and by showing some elements and components of the loo and the whole place.



Interestingly enough, until recently, the psychological profile of the person in such bizarre circumstances has never been researched or appeared in the official scientific psychological journals or publications. However, the act of elimination was well known for its psychological impact on our psyche for decades as a number of the psychologists (most notably Sigmund Freud in 19century and quite recently the professor Nick Haslam (University of Melbourne), have clearly stated in their research that this biological process has direct links to our 'rich assortment of intense emotions, mental disorders, personality traits, social attitudes and linguistic practices' (volume 25, The Psychologist Journal)

From a historical point of view, that process had a hidden influence, or even inspiration, in the life of many famous or ordinary people which has never previously been addressed or revealed for many various reasons. However, recent events seem to show that the interest in it is growing, in spite of the many taboos in the past!



By using cinematic imagery of the place I let each individual viewer imagine his/her own world in this entrapment, which I guess will be very different in each individual's mind. However all the viewers are equally subjected and going through the same viewing experience while the story of Louie unfolds in front of them.

That psychological link and at the same time the contradiction between the forbidden (not allowed to think or imagine such places from within) and reality - the place that everyone visits at least a couple of time a day or more as an everyday necessity - in this plot and story metaphorically addresses a much

bigger and deeper problem of human loneliness, unfair rejection and isolation. In theory – the story should work on the subliminal level too.

Please see the link to some scientific publications that have started emerging in the past few years:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/subject-news/?p=735>

<http://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-25/edition-6/toilet-psychology>

According to a 2010 survey in the same article, 'the British public considers the flush toilet to be the ninth greatest invention of all time, just above the combustion engine.' Toilet paper, ranked 22nd, wipes the floor with trains, shoes and e-mail, and nappies, at 62nd, is a better thing than sliced bread (70th)! Are these rankings just another sign of British perversity, or do they reveal something important about human concerns?

I did not show the perverted side of the subject of the toilet (loo) as it's commonly perceived, as I was preoccupied with a kind of slick and classy imagery with a touch of Film Noir in it! The graffiti's, filthy toilet walls and floors were not the focus of my attention (as it has already been shown in many films before, such as in this part of the Trainspotting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4LFM7b5Ckc>)

I was seriously preoccupied with the tragic plight of Louie and his entrapment with no prospect of surviving the ordeal and let the viewer to imagine the worst.



By the way we were actually very privileged to work in such sterile and hygiene conditions filming on the locations at the Bathroom Showroom in Ormskirk and in the lavatory of the Medical Department of EHU, that we did not actually need to do a lot of cleaning or preparation prior to shooting.

Only a few months later I found out that 85% of the world doesn't have elementary sanitary conditions and adequate toilet facilities.

For the first time in our lives our team realised that there was another problem indirectly related to our film and our main location (the toilet & loo). The problem was on the global scale and it's the Defecation in the Open!

So we thought that it would nice to support the UN initiative to STOP OPEN DEFECATION by preparing to donate all the proceeds from the film to the campaign to eliminate this problem by 2025.

Please read about the extend of this problem in the UN article below.

<http://opendefecation.org/?lang=english>

(25 slides in English) – you might be terrified by some of these facts!



Trivia:

Every year, on 19th November the world celebrates the TOILET DAY

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Toilet_Day



Quite recently a few artistic events and protests took place in Australia regarding the same theme and awareness:

<http://www.digitalspy.co.uk/fun/news/a400807/aussies-drop-pants-in-beach-toilet-protest-picture.html#~ppH67HacrOuYJM>

<http://www.trover.com/d/hmJ7-circular-quay-wharf-6-sydney-australia>

Australia seems leading the way in this field of awareness.