

BEAT THE CITY

Experimental Short Film by Claudinho Andres Gomez

Director's Statement

I decided to shoot this story on my iPhone for two reasons: I thought it was not fair to rely on my former experience with digital cameras when most of my classmates had to deal with their first time filmmaking adventure.

On the other hand, it was challenging to shot an entire 3 minutes video for the first time on a smartphone, without the help of attached gears nor lighting kits. I also think that for the purposes of this story, the aesthetic results of using an iPhone under available light conditions was the right choice to transmit the desired tone of the story.

Once our schedule was very tight, this video was shot and edited one week before the graduation screening. No changes to the video since the graduation date. I hope that the viewers will enjoy this short film whatever the result of the selection.

Thanks for taking in consideration.

Claudinho Andres G.



About the Director

Claudinho Andres Gomez is Vice President of Chilean Society of Playwrights. Graduated in Film Critics by Film School of Chile and is author of "A Vontade do Vento" (The Will of the Wind"), a journalistic documentary about political and religious factors on international help to the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan in Phillipines.

Claudinho has also directed and produced music videos for chilean artists. Some of these works have more than one or two million views.

He recently went to study at New York Film Academy as a startpoint for a filmmaking career.





How 'Beath The City' was Shot

Beat The City was essentially shot in two locations: the streets of Down Manhattan and a room in John Street Residence from Pace University, also in NY financial district.

As I was my own actor in the short film I had to film myself in the interior scenes, but my assigned crew was not available that day. So I used the carton box of my french press (I like coffee) as a tripod head with fluid capabilities by making a cut on one side, enough for my cellphone stand still.

Whenever I needed a different shooting angle I leaned the iPhone a little bit or simply switched to another height by using a chair, the bed or whatever I had at hand. Always using that french press carton box. It was my personal challenge.

Prizes and Screenings

'Beat The City' has recently won Best Cinematography at IndieWise Competition and is officially selected to other 13 film festivals around the world.

About Lighting in 'Beat The City'

I believe that there is no need for explanation about the exterior shots. An smartphone like the iPhone 6S Plus performs in a superb way under natural light. A totally different thing was to shoot inside the room walls. In that case, I used the sun light coming from the street through the window, taking advantage of the natural special effect provided by the blinds.

I also used the existing artificial lights in the room, decreasing or increasing the exposure directly in the smartphone while shooting. In key moments like the slow-mo shots when exposure had drastic changes against my will, there was no more solution than making some adjustments in post.

Nevertheless, I have to point out that there was no "accidental ideas" when producing this short. I made a techno-artistic decision on behalf of the story I wanted to tell and I feel that it was a good choice.

Official Site

<http://www.beatthecityfilm.com>

