

Ghosts I Have Known

Six characters. One City. Millions of possibilities...

Six individuals moving through the metropolis trying to make sense of the senseless world around them.

At the dawn of the twenty first century London is the capital of everywhere and nowhere.

The Plot

You're the plot - you and me. And the Barman, the Model, the Photographer, the Singer, the Mother, the Man.

Ghosts I Have Known sets six characters off on their journeys through the secret streets of this most photographed city. Lives collide, trajectories cross. Sometimes we barely notice the points at which we touch other people's worlds, sometimes they tear ours apart.

A disreputable mother in search of the son who sings to forget her. A photographer so used to surfaces that he can't see that below the waterline the people he holds dear are drowning. A barman who just wants to get to work, to shut the city and his past out. and a mysterious figure who might just know more about them all than they know themselves... In the end, is it the people that make the city, or the city that controls them?

The Place

Ghosts I Have Known is not a film about London, London is the film.

This is not the tourist capital of pillar boxes, red buses and Big Ben. No wheel, no Buck House, no British Museum here. Our London is the place where people live, love, die... Our icons are the ones that form lives and cast the shadows in our memories in the people who call this city home

A graveyard, a beach, a bridge, the canal, the cafés, the cityscape. These are the corners where Londoners steal space for themselves. Where ghosts reside in the shadows of their pasts. Where the mythology of London emanates from with vigour, without rhyme nor reason, but with purpose, a sense of place, a sense of belonging *somewhere*...

In ***Ghosts I Have Known*** you don't see and hear the capital - you smell it, taste it, feel it.

Ghosts I Have Known is the essence of London.



The Project

In an age of digital freedom and excess, with **Ghosts I Have Known** automatikfilms have looked both to the past and the future to find new ways of making film. Realised over the course of a year, to capture the changing seasons, this project will be shot entirely on Super 8, as a cinematic format where the technical restrictions will allow us to challenge the actors and ourselves to produce in closely rehearsed and choreographed bursts: re-introducing discipline to creating cinema: emulating in its own processes the constraints that fence in the characters' lives. As format, Super 8 is most traditionally associated by viewers with their memories, their pasts – telling our story through this medium will allow us to engage the viewer in past which could be their own. However, we will be using some of the latest technology and digital post production facilities to deliver a project that captures London now.

Just like life in a big city, **Ghosts I Have Known** can't work without collaboration: all the artists are active contributors to the project, working with the directors and writers to find the scene that works best, the line that sounds right and the story that's true.

The project will operate within a narrative structure, but throughout we will be looking to create space for the story to breathe - no closed off alleyways and avenues that can't be explored as the project evolves. Like the characters we're making choices based on our experiences, like the characters we're making decisions as questions arise.

But cities aren't a single entity and neither are we. Like neighbours that never meet, colleagues whose inner lives remain hidden, or commuters who share the trains but take different streets home, these people will never come together in one place at one time...until the wrap party!

We're a very modern, very London kind of a community.

The People

automatikfilms is the film and documentary collective formed by Grant Wilkinson and Niko Dayandas. Based in London and Athens, its 10 productions have won awards, television screenings and premieres at film festivals including the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, Raindance, the Tate Britain and Rushes.

Ghosts I Have Known is being co-written and co-directed by Grant Wilkinson and Berwyn Kinsey, a regular automatikfilms collaborator.

The cast includes some names such as Tim Taylor, Paul Downey, and Canelle Hoppé, all with a wealth of experience including acclaimed productions such as "Four Weddings and a Funeral", television like "Coronation Street" and "Red Lion Square", and new theatre such as "Pills Thrills and Automobiles".

For more information on this film, please see
www.automatikfilms.com