

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY'S FIRST
FEATURE FILM IN FORTY
YEARS.**

BREAKWATER



INTRODUCTION TO BREAKWATER

Breakwater is Oxford University's second feature film ever, with 2022 marking the 40th anniversary of *Privileged*, the 1982 film by Oxford undergraduates that launched the Hollywood careers of Hugh Grant, Andy Paterson, Mike Hoffman, Mark Williams, Imogen Stubbs and others.

Our project is very kindly being supported by Andy, Mike and other members of the *Privileged* crew, as well as successful filmmaking alumni from the University such as Rupert Wainwright and members of the University itself such as Lord Neil Mendoza, who is also Oxford University Filmmaking Foundation's (OUFF) Senior Tutor.

Director: Max Morgan

Producer: Jemima Chen

Chief Financial Officer: Minna Moody-Stuart

Production Company: Breakwater Pictures Ltd.

Distribution: United Kingdom

Genre: Psychological thriller, drama, LGBTQ

Runtime: 75 minutes.

Cast: TBC (to be finalised before the end of the year).

Production: March–April 2023

Post-Production: May–August 2023

Festival Run and Distribution: September 2023 onwards

SYNOPSIS

Set between the glorious sandstone colleges of Oxford and the salt-encrusted shingle of the Suffolk coast, Breakwater blurs the genres of psychological drama and horror to explore how we connect, forgive and grieve for both others and ourselves.

The film follows the relationship between Otto, a university student, and John, a retired angler who lives on the coast. Their lives collide and fuse irreversibly over the shared trauma of losing a loved one. However, their tentative romance develops into something more sinister after the past exhumes itself in the form of guilt, grief and ghosts to devastating effect.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Breakwater has already been six months in the making, with the development phase beginning in May of this year. The decision to make Oxford University's second feature film since *Privileged* in 1982 came about after a discussion with the original film's team – now industry professionals – about how to bolster the university's already vibrant and thriving film culture. Since then the project has snowballed into something far greater than we had ever anticipated, thanks to the devotion of our crew and the traction *Breakwater* has gained across the university and beyond.

The overwhelming engagement with the project is due in part to the nature of the film itself. The screenplay was written over the summer and is in constant development with the scrutinous assistance of *Privileged*'s Mike Hoffman and Andy Paterson, as well as our team of student script consultants. The story is a complex and probing one about forgiveness, grief and guilt, told through the protagonists of Otto and John in the vein of a psychological thriller. It is a film about atonement and the chaos that ensues when that need to atone dissipates, set between Oxford and Aldeburgh in a way that clashes the city's glorious sandstone with the rugged and salt-encrusted Suffolk coast. We are fortunate to have Evan Bridges, a professional camera assistant and our Director of Photography, on the crew to curate the film's rich tonal palette and enhance its visual storytelling. Our score is also being written by talented student composers Bella Simpson and Alessandro MacKinnon-Botti, with the advice of Academy Award-winning Rachel Portman.

Alongside the compelling plot, aesthetics and music, *Breakwater*'s production value is also a crucial part of its appeal. We have a growing crew of over 35 dedicated students and professionals striving to create a film that stands out not just as a student production, but as a brilliant feature-length film in its own right. Though the Oxford student body are vital to the project as both facilitators and audience-members of the film, *Breakwater* follows the relationship of two deeply different but intriguing characters in a way that resonates beyond just a university-wide audience. It is a film deeply immersed in contemporary themes of classism, ageism and the stigma surrounding queer relationships, with something for everyone to enjoy and empathise with.

THE BREAKWATER TEAM

LEADS



JEMIMA CHEN:
PRODUCER

Jemima is a second-year undergraduate studying English and Italian at Balliol. Having mainly produced theatre, Jemima spent the Easter and Summer holiday working on Netflix, Paramount Plus, Apple TV and Disney+ projects in the Locations Department (her biggest claim to fame is Owen Wilson asking her to turn the aircon on for him). As producer of Breakwater, Jemima oversees the running of the project from locations agreements, fundraising, event planning and marketing to most importantly liaising between all the members of our wonderful crew! For more information on Breakwater check the link in our bio.



MAX MORGAN:
WRITER/DIRECTOR

Max Morgan is a second-year undergraduate studying English Language and Literature at Christ Church. The bulk of Max's experience as a writer and director comes from the theatre, but he has written and developed several short films in addition to working in the Production and Locations Department for ITV, the BBC, Amazon Prime and Disney +. 'Breakwater' is the biggest undertaking as a writer for Max so far, constantly developing the script over a period of five months with an incredible team of student and professional script consultants. As director of the film, Max shapes the artistic vision of the film by liaising with the actors, camera department and production design team. He can't wait to start on the project and see the world of Breakwater come to life.

THE BREAKWATER TEAM

TEAM

Minna Moody Stuart:
Chief Financial Advisor

Emma Earnshaw:
Associate Producer

Evan Bridges:
Director of
Photography

Sanaa Estibal-Tekaia:
1st AD

Finance Assistant:
Amelie Todd

Esmé Briggs:
Legal Advisor

Clemmie Read:
Legal Advisor

Shaan Sidhu:
Costume Designer

Zoë Heimann:
Production Designer/
Assistant Producer

Helena Aeberli:
Assistant Producer

Sophia Kapsalis:
Costume Designer
/ Storyboard Artist

George Rushton:
Script Assistant

Michal Krenz:
Script Assistant

Mia Beechey:
Hair and Make Up Artist

James Newbery:
Co-Head of Marketing

Anya Biletsky:
Co-Head of Marketing

Alessandro MacKinnon-Botti:
Score Composer

Bella Simpson:
Score Composer

Lucas Ipkendanz:
Assistant Camera/
Assistant Editor

Jack Curtis:
Gaffer

Talia Caouki:
Editor

Tom Sheridan:
Marketing Assisant

Rit Anand:
Marketing Assistant

Monica Laudini:
Marketing Assistant

Liv Fugger:
Marketing Assistant

Ellie Moriuchi
Art Assistant

Dylan Maggs:
Production Assistant

FIND OUT MORE

Breakwater will be hosting a silent auction and gala on **February 11th at Oriel College from 19:00–21:30pm**. If you are interested in attending this event, please email us:



breakwaterox@gmail.com

You can also find out more about the project on social media:



@breakwaterfilmox

If you would like to donate to help us make this film as great as possible, please check out our fundraising website or scan the QR code below!

<https://igg.me/at/breakwaterdonations/x/30355488#/>





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