



VISUAL STORM

DESPAIR

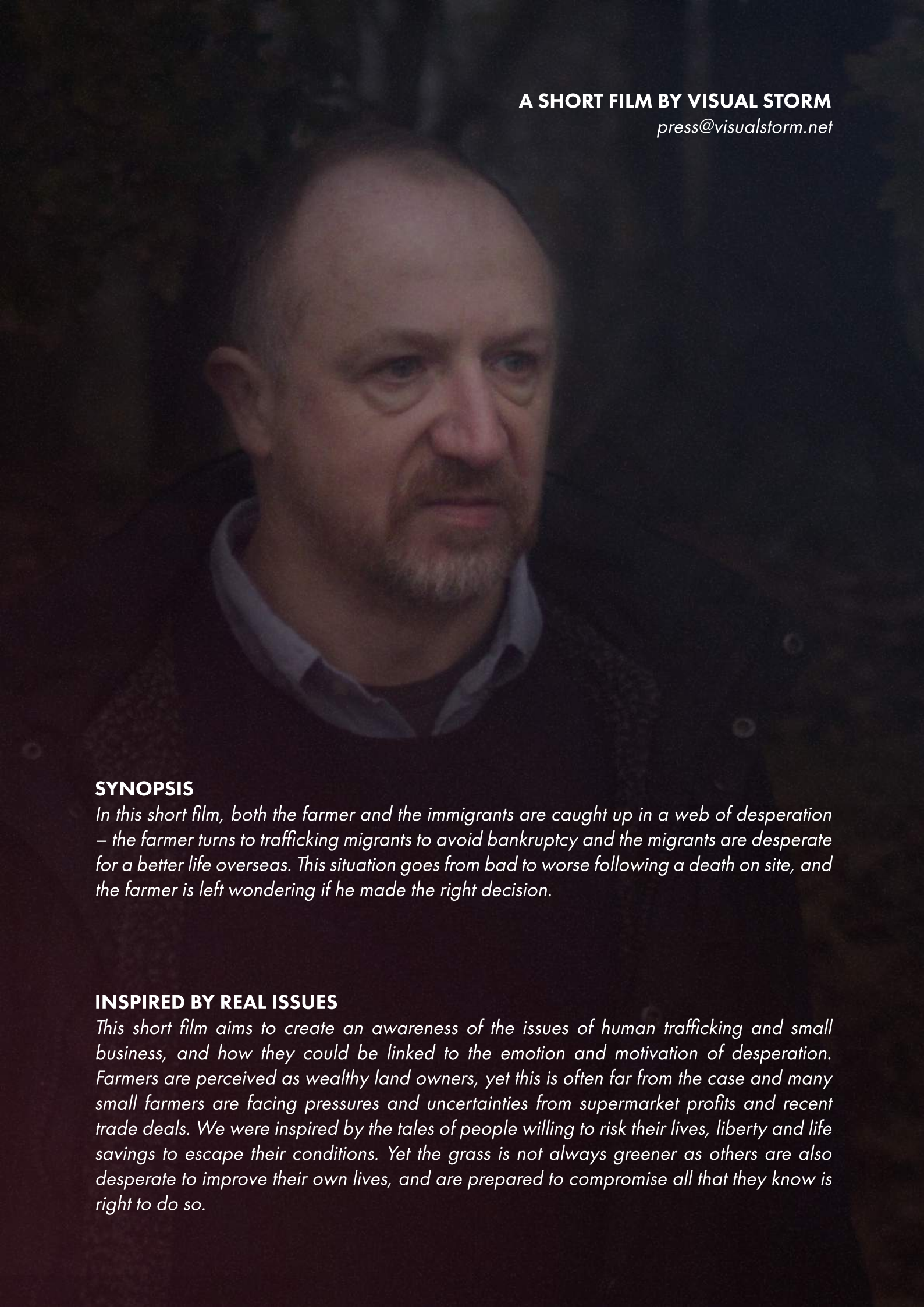
SHORT DESCRIPTION

A farmer turns to trafficking immigrants in order to avoid bankruptcy but plans quickly worsen when deaths occur and Henry is left wondering if he made the right decision.

TAGLINE

How far would desperation take you?

PRESSPACK



A SHORT FILM BY VISUAL STORM

press@visualstorm.net

SYNOPSIS

In this short film, both the farmer and the immigrants are caught up in a web of desperation – the farmer turns to trafficking migrants to avoid bankruptcy and the migrants are desperate for a better life overseas. This situation goes from bad to worse following a death on site, and the farmer is left wondering if he made the right decision.

INSPIRED BY REAL ISSUES

This short film aims to create an awareness of the issues of human trafficking and small business, and how they could be linked to the emotion and motivation of desperation. Farmers are perceived as wealthy land owners, yet this is often far from the case and many small farmers are facing pressures and uncertainties from supermarket profits and recent trade deals. We were inspired by the tales of people willing to risk their lives, liberty and life savings to escape their conditions. Yet the grass is not always greener as others are also desperate to improve their own lives, and are prepared to compromise all that they know is right to do so.



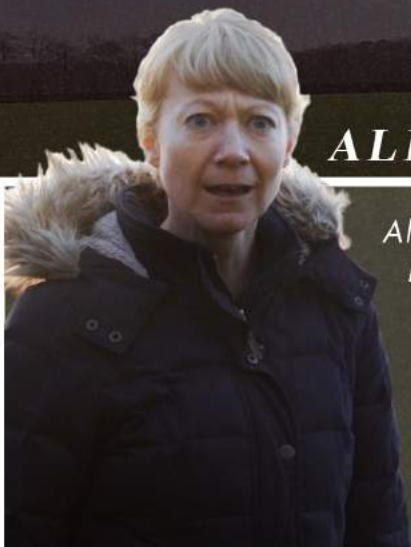
JONATHAN ABBOTT

Jonathan plays the role of Henry, a hard-working farmer who has fallen on hard times after inheriting the business from his father, and will do anything to keep it going. With red tape and supermarket pressure looming, Henry works long hours for little return. He can no longer keep up with his bills, and so looks to human trafficking for hard workers on the cheap, telling himself they will live a better life on his farm.



MATTHEW COUCHMAN

Matthew plays the role of a trafficker, a cold-hearted and selfish thug looking to make some quick money regardless of others. For him, humans are goods to be traded; he only cares if his goods are damaged or lost. While not completely heartless, he does not take disappointment well. He will carry out harsh actions following his chain of command from harder people above him, in order to keep his job and carry on living.



ALISON NICOL

Alison plays the role of Emma, Henry's wife. Emma is loyal to her husband and supportive of the business, and shares his pain when she sees Henry struggling under so much pressure. Her marriage is tested as a result of their pressing financial situation and the subsequent decisions made. She wants to help, but knows she is not much use in the fields, and so all she can do is watch and wait, for better or for worse.

DESPAIR

Directed & Produced by
Assistant Director

ED BARTHOLOMEW
JOEL HATTON

CAST

Henry
Trafficker
Emma
Immigrants

JONATHAN ABBOTT
MATTHEW COUCHMAN
ALISON NICOL
SIMONI VALENTINA
PETER ASHDOWN
NICK JAEGER
IAIN O'DONOHUE
ADRIAN DEVINE
LOUISE ABBOTT
MAGDALENA RUIZ PEREZ
NAURLANE EBAMBA
JAMIE LANGLANDS
ESMOND POPE
POLICE CAR HIRE UK

Police Officers

WRITERS

Screenplay by
From an idea by

MITCH WICKING
ED BARTHOLOMEW

CREW

Cinematographer & Editor
Sound Recordist
Runners
Catering

ED BARTHOLOMEW
JOEL HATTON
MARTIN BARTHOLOMEW
BETHANY WOOD
KATE BARTHOLOMEW



DESPAIR

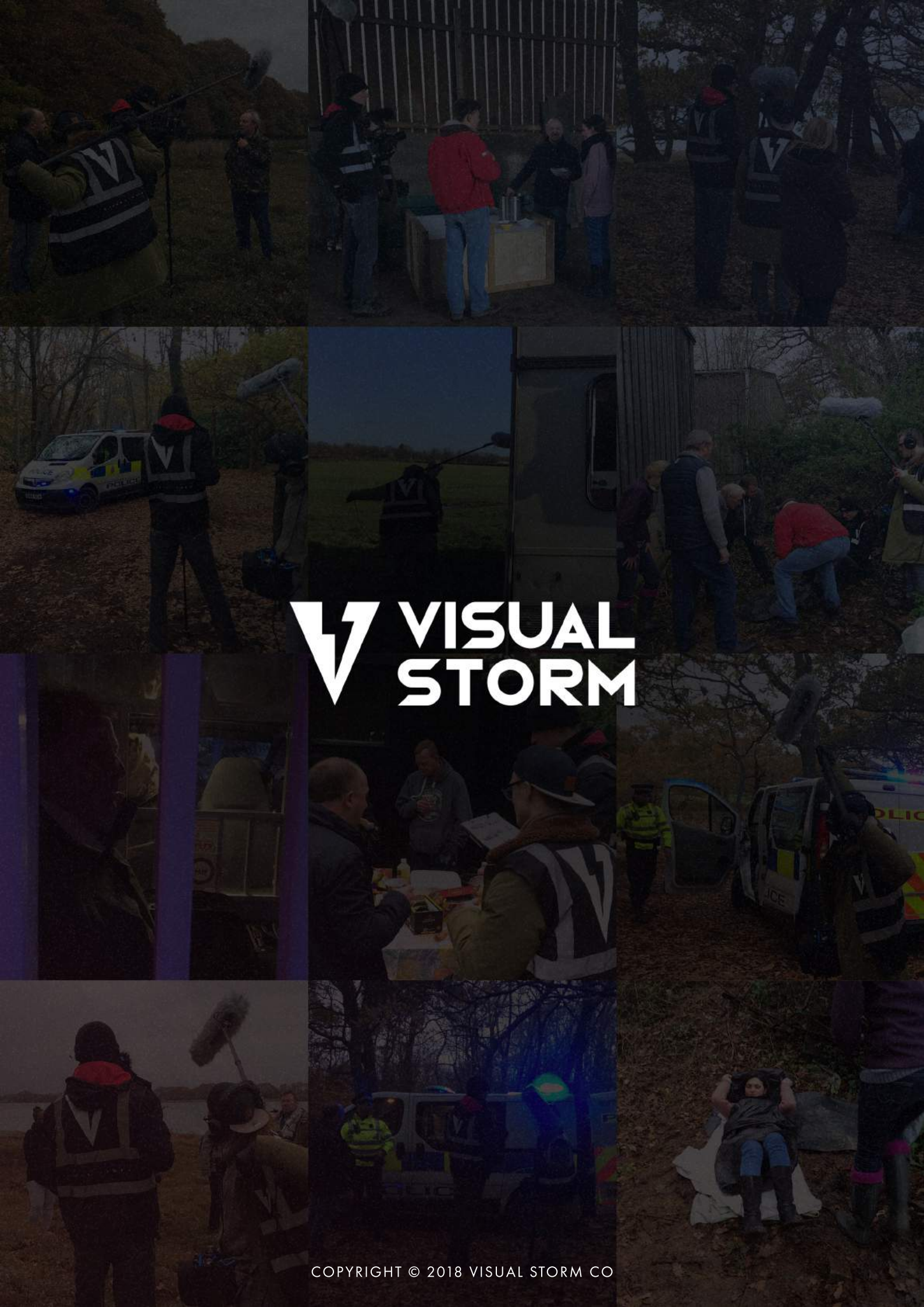
A FILM BY
ED BARTHOLOMEW

VISUAL STORM PRESENTS "DESPAIR" STARRING JONATHAN ABBOTT, MATTHEW COUCHMAN, ALISON NICOL, SIMONI VALENTINA, PETER ASHDOWN, NICK JAEGER, IAIN O'DONOHUE, ADRIAN DEVINE, LOUISE ABBOTT, MAGDALENA RUIZ PEREZ, NAURIANE EBAMBA, JAMIE LANGLANDS & ESMOND POPE SCREENPLAY BY MITCH WICKING DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY ED BARTHOLOMEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JOEL HATTON

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