

DOUBLESPEAK

a film by HAZEL McKIBBIN



SHORT OF THE WEEK
OFFICIAL PREMIERE



Starring ANGELA WONG CARBONE and TONY COSTA and FRANK LEWALLEN
with KEN DRIESSLEIN and TRICIA MERRICK and REECE ENNIS

Cinematographer ALLISON ANDERSON Production Design JULIA PAYNE Gaffer ARIEL NEHORAYOFF
Editor JORDAN ANSTATT Associate Producer MEERA VAIDYA Executive Producers CABIRIA FILMS and WORN
Produced by STEPHANIE FINE Written & Directed by HAZEL McKIBBIN



DOUBLESPEAK

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Running Time: 9:45

Aspect Ratio: 4:3

Shooting Format: Digital 3.2k UHD

Audio Format: 5.1

Color, English

CONTACT INFORMATION

WRITER & DIRECTOR Hazel McKibbin

hazelmckibbin.com

hazelcmckibbin@gmail.com

PRODUCER Stephanie Fine

stephanieannefine.com

stephaniefine744@gmail.com

LOGLINE

A young woman grapples with the aftermath of reporting sexual harassment in the workplace.

SYNOPSIS

After Emma lodges a complaint of sexual harassment against Peter, her supervisor, she meets with senior management to discuss the results of their investigation. Despite multiple incidents of predatory behavior, Emma is told that Peter's conduct is deemed to be inappropriate but not illegal, and no meaningful action will be taken. Emma walks outside to compose herself and calls her mother, assuring her that the meeting went well. Then, Emma goes back inside and returns to work.



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

After Trump got elected in 2016, I finally decided to report that I was being sexually harassed in the workplace. It was before the #metoo movement and the company's response was not what I hoped for. I felt like I didn't have a voice in the situation, so when I went to Columbia for my MFA, **DOUBLE SPEAK** was the first thing I felt compelled to write.

In making the short, it was really important to me to work with as many womxn as possible. I knew that watching Angela re-enact my experiences would be grueling, and so I surrounded myself with a diverse crew of friends who supported and championed me. I couldn't have made the film without them.

I'd like this film to be part of a conversation about sexual harassment in the workplace and serve as a reminder that, even after the #metoo movement, it happens all too often. If someone can watch the film and feel what Emma feels - how I felt - I'd like to think they'd want to be part of changing these practices.

I'm interested in continuing to make films rooted in exploring power dynamics and informed by my own experience. As an artist, I am drawn towards realism, often through a feminist lens, and the idea that compelling stories can be created from ordinary relationships and interactions.





PRESS RELEASE

New short film **DOUBLESPEAK** tells the story of a young woman grappling with the aftermath of reporting sexual harassment in the workplace and the barriers standing in the way of her ordeal being acknowledged.

Studies estimate that anywhere from a quarter to more than eight in ten women have experienced workplace sexual harassment in their lifetimes (Source: Feldblum and Lipnic). Filmmaker Hazel McKibbin wanted to draw attention to the stories of harassment that take place in offices across the country but never make the news. The film is based on McKibbin's own experience of navigating sexual harassment. Much of the dialogue is taken from her recording of a meeting similar to that depicted in the film, and she used the real name of her harasser. Because of that, the truth was important in writing the script: the only scenes that are not based in reality are those that show Emma alone. About making the film, McKibbin says: "I felt like I couldn't really explain to anyone what it was like to be in that situation until I watched the first cut of **DOUBLESPEAK**. Our lead Angela managed to perfectly capture what I could never say myself".

Filmed in a 4:3 aspect ratio with mostly static shots, the visual language of the short reflects the claustrophobic situation in which Emma finds herself. Sparing use of camera movement highlights the shifting power dynamics and ultimate betrayal of Emma, by the only other woman in the room.

McKibbin wrote and directed **DOUBLESPEAK**, and it was produced by Stephanie Fine and Meera Vaidya, with a New York City based crew. Allison Anderson served as the director of photography and Angela Wong Carbone played the lead role of Emma. The film's running time is 10 minutes.

DOUBLESPEAK premiered on Short of the Week, was named a Vimeo Staff Pick: Best of the Month and will have its festival debut at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival.



KEY BIOS

WRITER AND DIRECTOR

HAZEL MCKIBBIN is a British-American writer and director based in Brooklyn. She is a 2020 BAFTA Newcomer and is currently in pre-production for her thesis short film at Columbia University, where she is pursuing an MFA in Screenwriting and Directing. McKibbin is developing the screenplay for her debut feature film, along with a tv pilot and has three short films scheduled to go into production in 2021. Her directorial debut **DOUBLESPEAK** premiered on Short of the Week, is a Vimeo Staff Pick Best of the Month and will have its festival debut at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

ALLISON ANDERSON is a cinematographer working in film, television, and commercials. She has worked with award winning directors including Director X, Mohammad Gorgestani, Henry Alex-Rubin, and Vania Heyman. She has received critical acclaim for her work in Victoria Rivera's award-winning short film Night Swim and for Director X's debut short film Seven Mothers, for fashion label Pyer Moss. She is represented by United Talent Agency in North America and My Management in Europe.

LEAD ACTRESS (EMMA)

ANGELA WONG CARBONE is an actor and writer who started her film career when she was discovered in Rome, Italy. Her career spans indie and mainstream markets from her first feature film, Terra (dir. Marco de Angelis, winner Pesaro Film Fest) to her internationally acclaimed episodic series Swipe Night (dir. Karena Evans, winner Webby Awards). She was recently selected as a member of the 2020 ABC Talent Showcase under Marci Phillips. Wong Carbone is also an award-winning screenwriter whose latest film, Postmarked (Rob Morgan, Loretta Devine), was executive produced by Lena Waithe and AT&T after her script won her a spot in AT&T Hello Lab's Mentorship Program in 2019.

PRODUCER

STEPHANIE FINE is a New York-based producer and Creative Producing MFA candidate at Columbia University, where she also received her Bachelor's degree in Film Studies in 2018. She has interned throughout New York City at companies including HBO, FilmNation Entertainment, Oscilloscope Laboratories and Darren Aronofsky's Protozoa Pictures. She is currently working for Film Movement as a distribution intern, and is preparing her thesis project as she finishes the final year of her MFA.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

MEERA VAIDYA was born in Mumbai, India and is now a New York based producer. Before moving to the United States, she worked as an assistant director and a production assistant on commercial films for Chrome Pictures in Mumbai where their clients included Tata Salt, Amazon India, and Samsung. She is now finishing her MFA in Creative Producing at Columbia University. She is passionate about telling stories that not only entertain people but also provoke conversations around social issues.

CAST

Angela Wong Carbone
Tony Costa
Tricia Merrick
Ken Driesslein
Frank Lewallen
Reece Ennis
Grace Merriman



CREW

Writer & Director: Hazel McKibbin
Producer: Stephanie Fine
Cinematographer: Allison Anderson
Associate Producer: Meera Vaidya
Production Designer: Julia Payne
Editors: Jordan Anstatt & Hazel McKibbin
Gaffer: Ariel Nehorayoff
First Assistant Camera: Jack Berner
Colorist: Jacob McKee
Sound Design/Mix: Tom Morris & Evan Anderson
Production Coordinator: Silvia Chen
Assistant Director: Meera Vaidya
Hair/Makeup: Camila Zepeda
Wardrobe: Grace Merriman
Sound Recording: An Chu & Rider Laskin
Second Assistant Camera: Walker Smith
Script Supervisor: Jeff Chiyang Chang & Michael Kenny
DIT: Elizabeth Navarro
Grip: Robert Jones
PA: Ethan Mermelstein



PRESS AND REVIEWS

“Doublespeak may not be a horror film in the traditional sense, but it’ll make your skin crawl....It all feels eerily real, and a lot of the film’s dialogue is heavily based on McKibbin’s own experiences with reporting sexual harassment. Some of the verbiage used in the film is taken verbatim from writer/director’s recordings of her experience, which makes it even more chilling and she does a fantastic job of transforming an awful personal experience into something that many viewers will relate to.”

ADAM BANKS
SHORT OF THE WEEK

“It’s woefully common to hear of sexual harassment in the workplace. But it’s rare to get a glimpse into the damaging, dismissive behavior of those tasked with identifying and ousting predators. To put it bluntly, “Doublespeak” is a powerful demonstration of the ways in which employers fail to protect their victims, while shaming and insulting them in the process.”

MEGAN ORETSKY
VIMEO STAFF PICK

“The language of the writing is deft, agile and slippery in how it inflicts its own violence upon Emma, but the visual approach is clear, deliberate and powerfully lucid, with coolly clear tones and a sense of composition that is almost abstract in its attention to the small but telling detail. Every camera movement emphasizes the shifting of power in the room, and the editing captures the small gestures and unspoken behavior that reveals the real agendas at work in the meeting.”

CLARE COONEY
OMELETO

