



# WAKE

A BRENDAN KISSANE FILM



# WAKE

*Running Time*

**25 minutes**

*Writer, Producer and Director*

**Brendan Kissane**

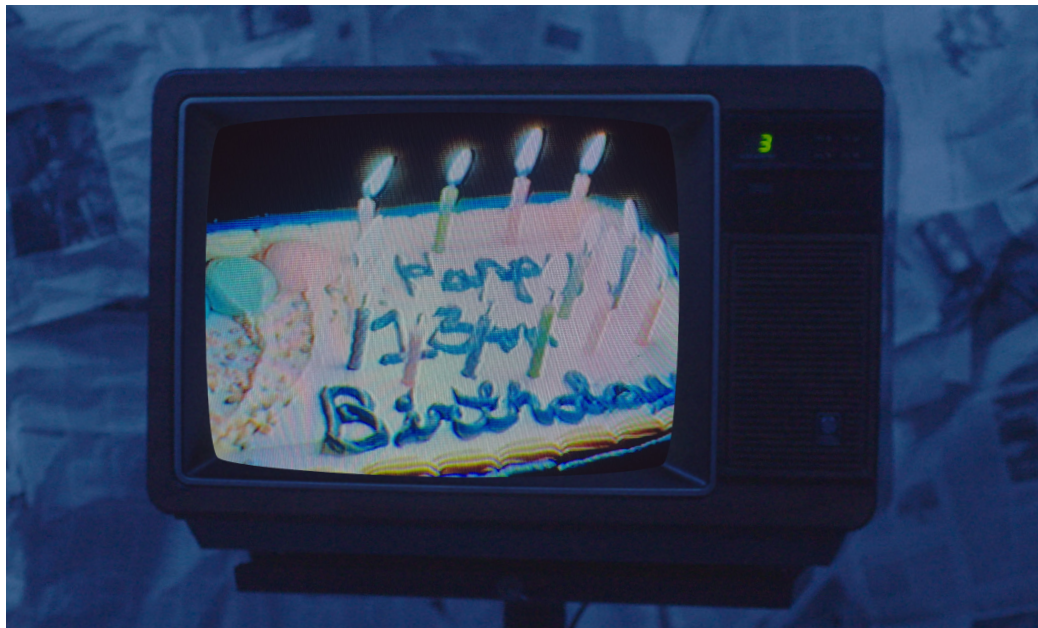
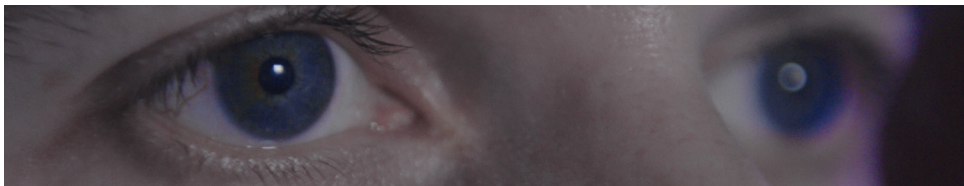
*Cinematographer  
Editor*

**Reuben Kleiner  
Brendan Kissane**

# LOG LINE

Confined in a surreal and otherworldly landscape, a captive man encounters a mysterious drifter who coerces him to unearth an irrecoverable past.







# SYNOPSIS

Unfolding much like an allegory, *Wake* follows a Man (Leo DeFriend) in two spiraling narratives as he descends into a maelstrom of strange and surreal events. In one, he finds himself chained to a deserted beach, digging for an escape, but uncanny forces seem to block him at every pass. In the other, he's haunted by a twisted sitcom version of his life being broadcast on an old television. Led by a mysterious Fisherman (Gys de Villiers), the Man excavates a torturous past that he's forced to reckon with.







### Leo DeFriend as *Man*

Leo DeFriend is British actor living in NYC. He's been in dozens of on screen roles, which includes the feature film **Hell House LLC III (AMC/Shudder)** and a recurring role on the webseries **Mordeo (Crypt TV)**.



### Gys de Villiers as *Fisherman*

Gys is a South African actor whose career spans more than three decades and stretches across countless films, TV and theater. He has done a stint in the immersive theater production of **Sleep No More** and his most recent international features include **Mandela Long Walk to Freedom** with Idris Elba and **Vehicle 19** with the late Paul Walker.



## DIRECTOR, BRENDAN KISSANE

Brendan is a Brooklyn, NY based filmmaker and editor. In a 13+ year career his editing has encompassed all unscripted genres, ranging comedy through drama. Some of his most recent projects include **Shark Week**, **Real Housewives of Atlanta** and **Impractical Jokers**. Editing has uniquely informed his sensibilities as a director and storyteller, *Wake* being the director's first scripted film. He's currently developing his next project.





## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Inspired by the personal struggles and sometimes crippling effects of anxiety and depression, *Wake* is an evocative, explorative catharsis. It delves into the haunting self-destructive nature of grief, guilt and rumination, which when left unchecked, burgeons in spiraling consciousnesses. I implore viewers to embrace the dream within a dream and let the film wash over them.

-Brendan Kissane

# PRODUCTION

*Wake* was filmed over four days in the New York City area in 2018. In order to take advantage of Long Island's vacant beaches, the film's beach b-roll was captured in March both before the script was finalized and months prior to principal photography. When principal photography did take place that August, there were obvious photographic challenges to shooting on New York's busy Rockaway Beach in the summer -- buildings, boats and beach goers. These obstacles, however, only enhanced the film's texture, as much of the exteriors were shot handheld and framed tighter giving it a palpable claustrophobic and uneasy effect.

The film has had a long journey since production began in 2018. As a side passion project, *Wake* was sidelined sometimes for months at a time due to budgetary restrictions, the director's long term editing commitments as well as the pandemic before it was finally completed in 2021.





# CREDITS

*Writer, Producer and Director*

*Cinematographer*

*Editor*

*Production Designer*

*Composer*

*Composer*

**Brendan Kissane**

**Reuben Kleiner**

**Brendan Kissane**

**Xahra Gilbert**

**Ryan McTear**

**Marc G. Pattini**



*Man*

**Leo DeFriend**

*Fisherman*

**Gys de Villiers**

*Mom*

**Kate Sheridan**

*Boy*

**Sara Parcesepe**

*Dad*

**Michael Pate**

*Doctor*

**Shelby Hightower**

*Production Coordinator*

**Donica Shye**

*Gaffer*

**Milton De La Cruz**

*2nd Unit Director of Photography*

**Russell Denniston**

*Sound Mixer*

**Jared Grove**

*Hair and Makeup*

**Brittlynn Hall**

*Colorist*

**Chris DiBeradino**

*Re-Recording Mixer*

**Vinny Alfano**

*Storyboard Artist*

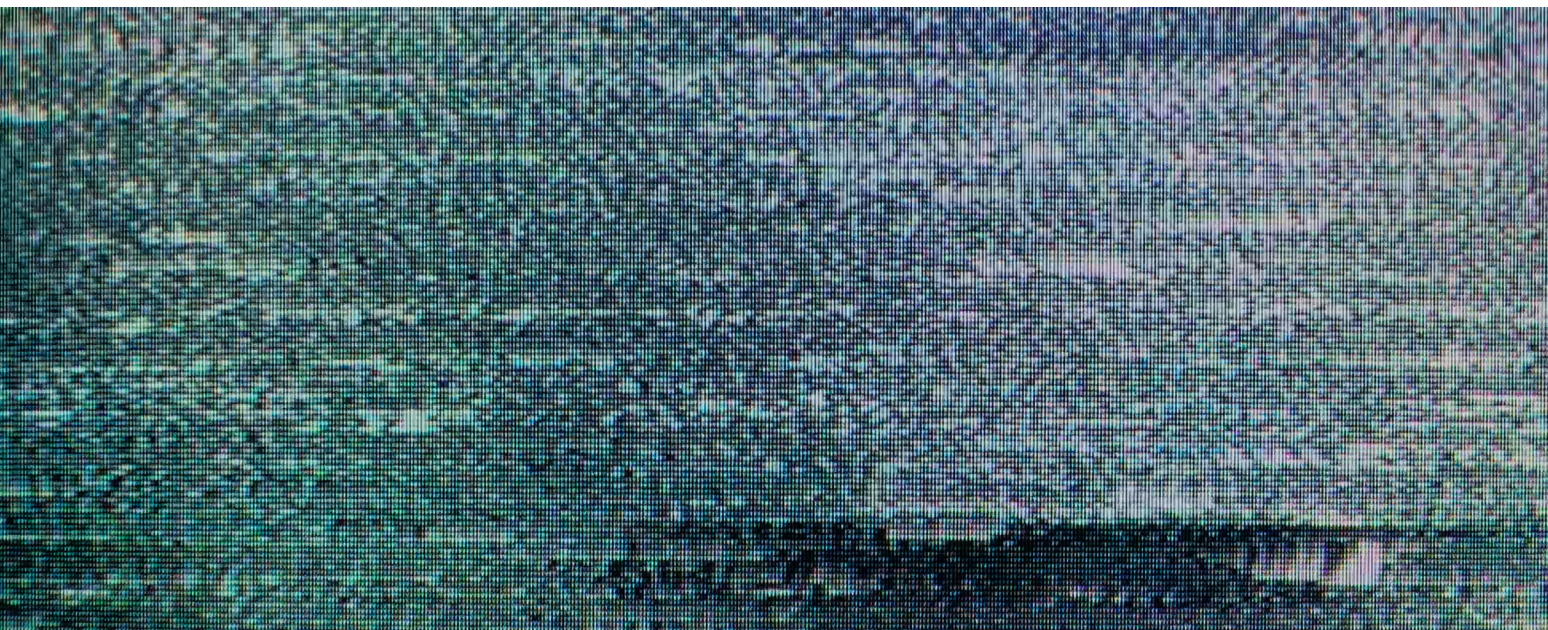
**Kate Glasheen**

# CONTACT INFO

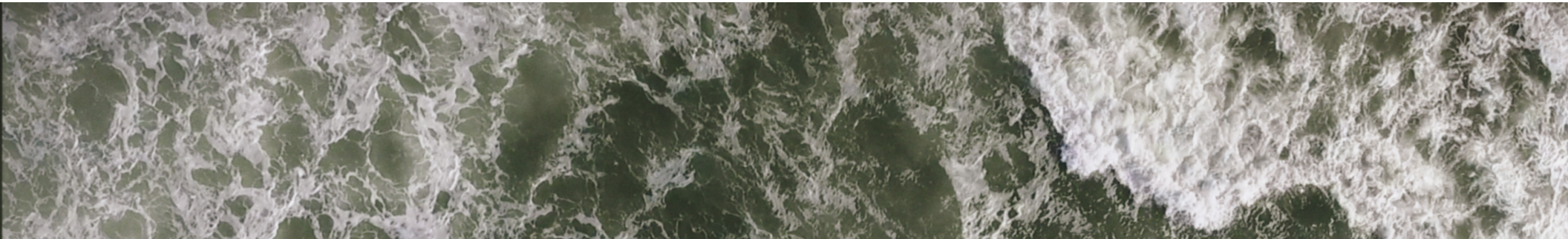
**Ambergris Productions**  
**Brendan Kissane**

brendankissane.com  
four3films@gmail.com









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