

Too dark to see... Too loud to hear!



THE
REALISTIC
PROJECT

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GENRE: Comedy/Mockumentary
FORMAT: 16:9 - Short Film
LENGTH: 11'35"
LOCATION: Friedrichshain, Berlin, Germany

TAGLINES: When reality is an interpretation.

LOGLINE: Survival of the realest: one actor battles a director obsessed with realism.

SYNOPSIS: A classically trained actor lands a role in what he believes will be a first-rate thriller TV series. But when the director shows himself to be obsessed with his version of realism, the actor's talent, intelligence, and professional instincts are put to the test. As he questions his craft and the director as it becomes a battle of wills. Will he survive series one? Or will the first day of shooting be his last?

With the added bonus of the (never seen before found) footage of the making of The Realistic Project, the audience gains an insight into the workings of the production and its main cast.



WRITER/PRODUCERS STATEMENT:

The film and TV-viewing public have complained about dark pictures, loud soundscapes & music for many years. Added to this are actors (male and female) that continually mumble and whisper incoherently, and you have a recipe for frustration seen in the increase in the number of complaints.

Many films and TV series have received criticism in recent years for being visually too dark. Viewers are struggling to make out what's happening on screen. The reasons for this trend are complex and multifaceted. Some filmmakers intentionally use low-light environments and muted colours to create a particular mood or atmosphere. Others use the technique as a shortcut to create their sense of realism or grittiness. It has been suggested that improper calibration for different viewing environments may be at fault (home theatres or mobile devices). But in the world of 4k Dolby TVs it seems a little far-fetched.

The other criticism levelled at many productions is the volume of dialogue set against music and sound effects. In recent years, some filmmakers and studios have responded to these criticisms by releasing alternate audio mixes that prioritize dialogue over music and sound effects. But when you compare films made in eras when the technical ability to mix was lower, you have to question the hearing and reasoning of the sound editors and producers.

I find all three aspects annoying, and after reading many articles, statistics and information about such complaints, it gave me an idea. It was time to fight or bitch-slap back. One specific Netflix series inspired me to formulate this short film. This series was derided from day one on all of the above accounts. It shall remain nameless, but clues are in the script and story as to which one. I think this film is relevant to many people. The aim is to make something that will make people laugh and say - That is so true!

The justification by film & TV production companies and their directors for their unrealistic reality is quite pitiful. I want my audience to nod in agreement and laugh at the absurdity of the arrogance of these high-level production companies, who have lost sight of the fact that half the time you can't see it is so dark and can't hear the actors for the noise. It is about their aesthetic reality.

The film was inspired by the many complaints from viewers about the prevalence of dark visuals, overwhelming soundscapes, and incoherent mumbling from actors. Through humour and satire, "The Realistic Project" aims to expose the absurdity of these trends and encourage a return to true realism in film and television.

SELECTED ARTICLES:

mumbling incoherent actors. One day, even the actors

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10348997/Mumbling-actors-TV-shows-deliberate-make-scenes-realistic-technicians-say.html>

Speak up! How 'mumble acting' is ruining TV and film

<https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/tv-and-radio/speak-up-how-mumble-acting-is-ruining-tv-and-film-20170201-qu2u5j.html>

The REAL reason why actors mumble in dramas? Because the directors know the lines so well they don't even notice, acclaimed writer reveals

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4283070/The-REAL-reason-actors-mumble-dramas.html>

Will someone please turn on the lights: Why have TV dramas literally become so dark?

<https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/tv-and-radio/will-someone-please-turn-on-the-lights-why-have-tv-dramas-literally-become-so-dark-20160909-grchcu.html>

There have been many TV series and films that have been criticized for being too dark visually, having a loud soundscape, and featuring mumbling actors. Here are a few examples:

1. **Game of Thrones** - The final season of this popular fantasy series was criticized for being too dark visually, making it difficult for viewers to see the action on screen.
2. **The Dark Knight Rises** - This Batman movie was criticized for having a loud soundscape, with some viewers claiming that the dialogue was difficult to hear over the music and sound effects.
3. **True Detective** - This crime drama series was criticized for featuring actors who mumbled their lines, making it difficult for viewers to understand what was being said.
4. **The Revenant** - This survival drama film was criticized for its dark and gritty visuals, which some viewers found hard to watch.
5. **Dunkirk** - This war film was criticized for having a loud soundscape, with some viewers claiming that the music and sound effects overpowered the dialogue.

It's worth noting that these criticisms are subjective and not everyone will agree with them. However, they do highlight the ongoing debate around the use of visual and audio elements in film and TV.



CREDITS

Cast: O'neil Sharma - RAV
Anthony Straeger - TOM

Voice Talent: Joshua van 't Hoff - Director
Viktoria Ngotsé - AD
David Bravo - German Dubb
Oleg Karpenko - Ukraine Dubb
Sara Crusi - Italian Dubb

Crew: Alexander Pfander - Director
Philippe Rives - Director of Photography
Marco Puerto - Sound
Tor Neilsen - 1st Assistant Director

Post Production: Mirko Rizzello - Composer
Reinier van der Veer - Voice Over Director
Philippe Rive - Editor
Ben Rompotis - Sound Mix
Poster Design – ZoomVid Productions

Written & Produced by Anthony Straeger



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