

Vagrant (Short Film) -- CASTING CALL

Eigen Productions LTD, www.eigenproductions.co.uk

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Casting for a short film about the experience of an EU citizen in the UK seen through her tweets which run as an inner monologue as subtitles over the mostly non-verbal / improvised action.

We have scripted scenes but there will be also scenes which will be mostly improvised. In particular the central dinner scene.

The script requires an Italian national. However, we'd be also open for other nationalities from the EU (ideally Spanish, French, Greek, ...) and can accommodate it in the script.

The film will be offered to different channels: of course film festivals, TV channels, VOD outlets which support shorts, special screenings at events related to brexit and social media.

Please send applications to casting@eigenproductions.co.uk with the subject line "Vagrant". See the detailed character breakdown below.

Production details

Casting will take place in January.

Rehearsal/shoot in February at two weekends (one 8 hr day), agreed with cast/crew.

Pay

This is a privately funded film. We'll offer pay but just at minimum wage (£65/8hrs). The shoot is expected to take over two weekends plus one day for rehearsals. Because of the budget limitations we can only offer expenses for local transport. Food will be available on the days of the shoot / rehearsal.

Summary

An action plays out with sparse dialogue and at the same time subtitles which sound like an inner monologue:

During a single afternoon/evening we follow an EU citiz with her family around. It's mid-week. With her husband and one of the daughters they drive over to her in-laws to have dinner. However, it's loaded with unspoken issues. In particular, the in-laws have relayed to her husband that if she mentions Brexit in any form they are no longer welcomed in the house. In order to keep the peace, she played the game in the past but that day she decides to give the in-laws a present without her husband knowing: it's a book about testimonials from EU citiz -- called "In Limbo". The action plays out from her wrapping it, the visit, over to the drive home and and going on twitter which reveals the subtitles: they are all tweets and her consolation.

Director's statement

Brexit has thrown EU citizens in the UK in a two year limbo with existential threats not only to themselves but also to their families. Many are married to Brits and have kids. This puts a strain on relationship and causes further divisions and alienations in an already divided country. My aim here is to show how somebody who has been living in this country for 20+ years needs to question everything around her and how she deals with this situation to both keep her family together and at the same time finds channels to voice her anger, fear and frustrations.

Characters

Stefania, Female, 40 - 50, Italian/Mediterranean

She is an EU citizen from Italy (can be adapted to other EU nations such as France, Spain, Portugal), married and mother. She runs her own business and has the self-confidence to pull it off. She runs it with a quiet confidence without showing off. She has a strong sense for justice and can put her foot down. However, she also appreciates that people are different and is able to hold back to keep the peace. She has a strong interest in politics which has gone from healthy to worse after Brexit being anxious about her future. However, she has learned to contain these feelings to virtually everybody around her and has maintained the facade to others of the confident business woman, wife and mother. However, she has realised that keeping these things to herself hasn't been good and to keep her own sanity she decides no longer to play along and thus her decision to solve the Brexit silence head on.

Gareth, Male, 40 - 50, Native English speaker

Tall but slightly slouched over. Clean-shaven. Nice shirt and tie from work and nice sweater (with shirt) for dinner. Brown trousers. Avoids conflict. A-political but admires his dad who did well despite his working-class upbringing. Gareth is in an awkward situation where his wife and parents share very different views on Brexit. Given a previous awkward episode between them, he must do what he does best - avoid conflict Gareth must come clean to Stefania that she thinks she is overreacting in order to clear the air - but must also forgive her for any awkwardness her opinions could cause. Likes football and craft ales. Dislikes Extreme Sports and politics. He is a genuinely nice chap but because of his flaw to avoid conflicts causes collateral damage, in this case with his wife.

Alan, Male, 65+, Native English speaker

Grey-haired, clean shaven. Shirt collar visible under blue cashmere jumper. Overweight but not obese. Pinky-skinned potentially from a holiday. Alan grew up in a time before 'PC' was invented but as a self-made man knows it exists. Alan won't change - but not because he lacks empathy but because he is too set in his ways. Likes - Football and golf. Dislikes - Changes in his daily routine. He is confident what he does and say. He is loud and can easily dominate a conversation with his booming voice which shows his working class roots -- even that he's been middle class most of his life. As a brexiteer he could be lacking completely of empathy but he deeply cares about Gareth and it bugs him that his son is so content with his current job. What bugs him even more that his son is married to an EU citz who clearly has more ambitions and that his son is OK with it.

Beth, Female, 65+, Native English speaker

Wife to her husband Alan. She is a good soul in that she enjoys the small things in her retirement and generally likes to enjoy it. Perhaps a bit like her son Gareth she doesn't like conflicts and tries to avoid them. This also includes defusing outbursts of her husband Alan. She like to cook for the extended family and has a special eye on her grandchildren how they grow up. In particular Silvia.

Silvia, Female, 23-25, Native English speaker

English or Italian with very faint accent.
Contact lenses. In between tacky-teen and smart lady.
Hippy jeans but her trainers are still smart. A product of his upbringing despite her so-called rebellion.
Silvia is representing the grandchildren at this dinner. Whilst she is wise enough to know the world doesn't revolve around her, she is still a little self-involved due to the age gap and pace of her lifestyle compared to her grandparents. Silvia must think of her parents as member of society rather than "mum and dad." She should engage in what is important in her parents' lives. Likes - Tame Impala and Pinterest. Dislikes - Being associated as part of the 'selfie' generation.