



GETTING CLOSER

7 MINUTES / 4K / B&W / 2.00:1 / STEREO / USA / ENGLISH
press: <http://ethanroberts.weebly.com/projects>
contact: ethanroberts13@gmail.com

LOGLINE

Two stoned boyfriends navigate unexpected vulnerability (as well as the giggles) while attempting to get off.

SYNOPSIS

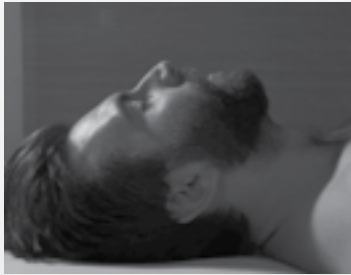
In the midst of naked shenanigans, two stoned boyfriends combat the giggles while attempting to finish. A micro-budget chamber piece, *Getting Closer* utilizes the immediacy of iPhone cinematography to explore modern intimacy, vulnerability, and what it takes to *get there*.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

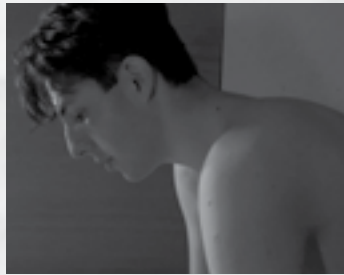
As a millennial (a term I am ambivalent about), I wanted to limn what I consider some of the most admirable aspects of my generation: our sex-positivity and our tendency toward self-effacing didacticism. We're woke, but wokeness can't take away from the pervasive farcical nature of quote-unquote "taking someone to the bone zone." Sex can be goofy and that's partly what makes it so magical. With *Getting Closer*, I aspired to look in on a moment in a modern queer relationship, where intimacy is organic and low-stakes, physicality is spirited, and vulnerability is not treated like a grave catharsis, but as something to delight in, the way a powerful afterglow can make you laugh for no particular reason.

I was inspired by the DIY attitude and talky, sexual frankness of late 80s/early 90s homo films like P. J. Castellaneta's *Together Alone* (1991), Hugh Harrison's *Jerker* (1991), and Gregg Araki's *Three Bewildered People in the Night* (1987). With James Broughton's horny, facetious poetry also in my mind, I endeavored to capture something both singular and macro: how joy can be just as powerful and affecting as sorrow.

CAST



TRISTAN HANRETTY



EMI LARRAUD
emilarraud.com

CREW

ETHAN ROBERTS - writer/director/editor - ethanroberts.weebly.com

Born, raised, and educated in Ohio, Ethan currently works out of Austin, Texas. With a religious background, a distinctive political eye, and an interest in queer history and discourse, Ethan makes up one half of the filmmaking partnership CINEMA-PARMESAN. His 2014 short *FURIOUS SAINT JACK & OTTER, ALONE* played at over thirty festivals and special screenings worldwide, winning Best Drama at the Canton Film Festival and the LGBT Honorable Mention Award at the Columbus International Film+Video Festival. It was called “a beautifully shot and exquisitely narrated spoken word tale” by the Wotever DIY Film Festival and was mentioned by the Calgary Herald as one of the “Five to See” at the Fairy Tales Queer Film Festival. His 2016 short *DADS* won Second Place in the Best Shorts Competition at the Maumee Film Festival, where actress Katie Holmes served as a judge.

NIGEL COUTINHO - cinematography/sound mix/color - nigelc.info

Rounding out the CINEMA-PARMESAN duo is Nigel, a Las Vegas-based cinematographer and sound editor. His work on *FURIOUS SAINT JACK & OTTER, ALONE* earned him the Best Cinematography Award at the Q Cinema LGBTQ Film Festival. His other work includes editing *VERA* (2014), a feature-length documentary directed by Nic Floyd, and location sound for Mike Olenick’s *THE CURE*, which was featured as a Vimeo Staff Pick and premiered at the 2017 Slamdance Film. Nigel lensed a pair of music videos for the band September Stories released by InVogue Records, and his narrative audio piece “BEYOND BELIEF” aired as an episode of the podcast *This Is Actually Happening*.

FULL CREW

ETHAN ROBERTS - writer/director/editor

NIGEL COUTINHO - cinematographer/sound mix/color

MATTHEW SATTERFIELD - assistant director

PATRIC WAYN - casting assistant

PRODUCTION NOTES

Production for *Getting Closer* took place in the Cherrywood neighborhood of Austin, Texas over the course of a weekend, November 2019.

Embracing a low-budget aesthetic, the production team opted to film using an iPhone XS in lieu of a traditional camera.

Getting Closer was shot in 4K using the Filmic Pro mobile app, the same application used with other phone-shot pieces including Sean Baker's award-winning trans dramedy *Tangerine* (2015), Steven Soderbergh's *Unsane* (2018), and the music video for Lady Gaga's "Stupid Love" (2020).