

Ephemeral

Written and Directed by:

Anthony James Brennan

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Starring:

Self publishing

Matthew Argæt as "Matt"

Anthony Brennan as "Anthony"

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EXT. FREMANTLE BUS STOP - NIGHT TIME

Anthony is waiting at a bus stop, he is trying to maintain his composure but he is noticeably crying. He is looking down. Some people walk past him. Matt is walking past when he stops

MATT

Mate, are you okay?

ANTHONY

Umm, yes, I'm fine

MATT

That's a stupid question of me to ask, it's a stupid question in general. You're sad, you look sad and I'm asking if you're okay and you aren't okay. Stupid question

ANTHONY

Can you.. I'm fine, I'm honestly okay

MATT

okay, it's just you don't look okay mate

ANTHONY

Please leave me alone! Don't you realise how embarrassing this is? I'm that guy, that guy that's crying at a bus stop in public and it's pathetic, it's sad. I know you're being kind but I don't need your pity

Matt walks away, and then comes back to sit down at the bus stop

ANTHONY

I don't need your pity

MATT

I know, I'm catching the bus

ANTHONY

Really? What bus?

MATT

The next one

(CONTINUED)

ANTHONY

Can you go so I can cry in the dark
by myself, can I at least be
pathetic in private?

MATT

Sorry, I'm waiting for a bus, when
is the next one?

ANTHONY

15 minutes

MATT

Okay, 15 minutes it is, then you
can cry alone all you want

Anthony and Matt sit quietly at the bus stop for a couple of
minutes

MATT

So... bad fight with your
girlfriend?

ANTHONY

I'm gay and I'm not doing this with
you, if you want to pretend wait
for a bus, then please do it
quietly. I'm trying to feel sorry
for myself and you're making it
very hard (anthony starts sobbing
quietly)

MATT

Sorry, carry on

ANTHONY

I'm sorry, I'm not a mean person,
I'm not this person. I'm just, I
feel exhausted, you know? I'm so
tired of worrying about everything,
I'm tired of being tired. I think
it's lovely that you are trying to
be nice to me but I'm not worth it,
I'm not worth your trouble. So
please go about the rest of your
night, I'm fine, honestly, I am

MATT

I'm okay here

Pause for contemplation from Anthony

(CONTINUED)

ANTHONY

Do you feel exhausted?

MATT

About?

ANTHONY

Everything; life, commitments, responsibilities. All that deep shit. I did everything right, I did, I was the perfect child. I studied hard and I never made friends because friends are a distraction, I finished university and I got a good job. Then today at work, some old guy died at his desk, just completely died. It hit me and I know how self involved this sounds, but it hit me that I could end up like him, you know? That could be me being wheeled away from my office desk. That was his whole life, his whole life was work. He came in, clocked in at 9 and clocked out at 5 and didn't get to know anyone, worked hard and then just died, gone. Could you imagine that, being normal one day and just dying the next? Hallow men, life is very long, it's not, he was lying

MATT

TS Elliot lied to you?

ANTHONY

yes, how did you...

MATT

A man said to the universe: "Sir, I exist!" "However," replied the universe, "The fact has not created in me a sense of obligation."

ANTHONY

Stephen Crane?

MATT

Yes, I can be fucking cultured when I need to be, I'm not as stupid as I look, you know?

(CONTINUED)

ANTHONY

I never said you were stupid, I don't even know you. You're the weirdo who sits down next to crying strangers, that's all I know about you

MATT

I'm the weirdo who recites Stephen Crane poems to you

ANTHONY

I'm Anthony

MATT

Matt

ANTHONY

Hi, I still think you're weird

MATT

I can do weird, I don't mind weird

ANTHONY

Things must come easy to you, life must be easy for you

MATT

what makes you say that?

ANTHONY

I don't know, it's just people like you, people who are charming and funny and all of that, they generally go through life without too much pain

MATT

You shouldn't make sweeping generalisations

ANTHONY

So I'm wrong, your life is hard?

MATT

no, it's not hard, it's..you and I are probably very similar

ANTHONY

I doubt that, I have never been the person people like, I'm cold, I'm rude and disconnected, I am, for lack of a better word, a robot.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANTHONY (cont'd)

You, you're the type of person people like, you're the type of person who has lot's of friends, you played football or some type of sports, you're probably very good at it. You have a longtime girlfriend, probably going to get engaged to her soon. You and I are not similar, you are I are very different. My life is never going to be yours because you are you and I am me

There is a noticeable pause for contemplation from both Matt and Anthony

MATT

I met a girl, she's from America, her family is wealthy, her fathers a lawyer and they all like me. I'm a likable person. I've been with her for 3 years and I'm at the next step, you know the one? Marriage and kids and the whole thing. It's just, I don't know if I want to

ANTHONY

why? Is she a horrible person

MATT

No

ANTHONY

Her family likes you, I don't understand

MATT

I don't feel anything, I don't feel that thing even though I'm not sure what that thing is, I don't feel it. I keep hoping I will feel that thing, I keep hoping that I will fall in love with her and I can't

pause

ANTHONY

Many times he had tried unsuccessfully to let go his hold on her. They had many fine times together, fine talks between the loves of the white nights, but

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANTHONY (cont'd)
always when he turned away from her
into himself he left her holding
nothing in her hands and staring at
it, calling it many names, but
knowing it was only the hope that
he would come back soon

MATT
F. Scott Fitzgerald? That was about
incest, wasn't it?

ANTHONY
among other things, look I tried

MATT
And wasn't their something about
molestation in that?

ANTHONY
okay, maybe I didn't choose the
best one

MATT
Just don't try and outdo me mate,
you won't win

ANTHONY
ha ha ha ha (sarcastically). Can I
ask you, why do you stay with her,
if you don't love her? Isn't it
better for you both to leave

MATT
I wished she was a bad person, a
mean person, I wished she would
cheat on me. It doesn't feel right
to leave because I just don't feel
it

ANTHONY
I'm no relationship expert but
sometimes things don't work,
sometimes relationships they don't
work and sometimes..

MATT
Sometimes people die. See, you and
I are very similar, we all have
issues, we all have shit mate, so a
guy died at work, it happens,
people die, your life doesn't have
to be his

(CONTINUED)

ANTHONY

I'm so scared, all the time, I'm scared that I'm just going to go through life and just be ordinary. My whole life has been planned out, I had a plan and it was flawless. It's the one thing I have, knowing what I want out of life, it's what I hang my bravado on and now I'm not so sure and I know I sound like a whiny naive idiot but it's how I feel. All this because some old man decided to croak it

MATT

You can't spend your life constantly worried about shit, if you do that, if you spend your life fretting about every little thing then you will have truly missed out on everything. I guess we're both in no place to offer life advice but this is something I can tell you with certainty.

ANTHONY

stop worrying?

MATT

Stop worrying, just you know, fuck it. Live a hedonistic life. Go have as much gay sex as you heart desires, taste food that you wouldn't normally eat, show up late to work because you have a hangover, travel

ANTHONY

Hedonism? really?

MATT

Yes really, the Greeks know pleasure. Aristippus knew what he was talking about

ANTHONY

Yes, they knew pleasure, it's half the reason the country is bankrupt. There's a moral from that story somewhere. I wish I was older so I had the maturity to deal with this

(CONTINUED)

MATT

What I'm telling you is that their is so much more. You're scared of being ordinary, right? You say people don't like you, right? So be a better person, take a risk and speak to someone, talk about their family. Go do things that aren't ordinary, be bolder, take that bravado back but take it back in the sense of uncertainty and adventure. You're right, you could end up like that guy, I could end up like him but it doesn't have to be that way for either of us. Life is fucking ridiculous, sometimes you think you know what you want and then the next day you're spinning out of control and nothing seems like it was before. Those feelings don't change as you get older, you just learn to deal with them better

Matt realises that he has just answered his own question about his situation

ANTHONY

It's harder said then done

MATT

yes,

ANTHONY

I want to want to change, I'm just scared. I like plans, I like knowing, I like being sure. If I change now, I won't be sure

MATT

No, you won't be sure, but you might be free and that's at least worth trying, right?

ANTHONY

Right, you're right

MATT

That poem, the Stephen Crane one, do you know what it's about?

(CONTINUED)

ANTHONY

Roughly, existential crisis?

MATT

It's about recognition, it's about a man's need for the universe to recognise him. The universe answers back that although it recognises him, it isn't obligated to feed him his significance. You are anything but ordinary Anthony, I can tell, you're going to go on and do amazing things in your life, you're going to be extraordinary but first you have to create your own significance in the world, because no one else will. Your bus is here

The bus is noticeable down the road, the two have a couple of minutes left

ANTHONY

Matt, I..

MATT

I know, I'm amazing

ANTHONY

I'm so..

MATT

I know, it's okay

Bus arrives at stop

MATT

Promise you will let go of the plans

ANTHONY

promise you'll let go of the girl

they both smile at each other

MATT

Not as stupid as I look am I?

ANTHONY

No and for what it matters, I think your life will be extraordinary too

(CONTINUED)

MATT
two extraordinary people

Anthony hops on the bus, he sits down and is trying to
restrain himself from crying, he mouths "Thank you" to Matt
and the bus drives off

END OF SCENE