

ONE STOP

A Short Film by Robin Johnston

Written by Robin Johnston

Logline

On a rainy morning bus ride, a quiet man locks eyes with a stranger – and in that fleeting moment imagines an entire lifetime with her, from first love to last goodbye, before reality and the bus pull away.

Synopsis

One Stop follows a man whose life is defined by quiet routine – the same route, the same seat, the same silence. One morning, he notices a young woman who rides the same bus. Over several days, their glances linger longer, until one morning she smiles at him. As she steps off, time seems to slow.

In that suspended moment, he imagines getting off too – and living out an entire romance with her: laughter, intimacy, conflict, and loss. When reality returns, he is still on the bus, still watching her disappear into the city. The moment is gone, but the imagined world lingers like an afterimage.

A story about the extraordinary within the ordinary – a quiet meditation on longing, imagination, and the lives that almost were.

Themes

Connection and Isolation: How even the briefest human contact can ignite vast inner worlds.

The Romance of the Everyday: Finding poetry and beauty in routine and stillness.

The Power of Imagination: How the mind can create entire relationships from a single spark.

Transience and Regret: The ache of missed moments and the acceptance that some stories are meant to stay imagined.

Visual Style

Look: Muted, natural tones of the rainy city morning; contrasted with the warm, saturated palette of the imagined romance.

Cinematography: Static compositions for the bus sequences, fluid handheld or Steadicam movement in the fantasy. Reflections, glass, and soft focus play key visual roles.

Lighting: Overcast realism shifting to golden, dreamlike warmth – visualizing the transition between reality and imagination.

Sound Design: The hum of the bus as a recurring motif. Ambient city noise dissolves into gentle score during the fantasy, then returns sharply with the bus door clank.

Tone & Influences

Evocative of films like *Before Sunrise*, *Lost in Translation*, and *Her*.

Minimalist dialogue – emotion expressed through gesture, sound, and rhythm.

Romantic but restrained, introspective, and deeply cinematic.

A modern short for audiences drawn to quiet, character-driven storytelling.

Target Audience

Festival audiences who appreciate visual storytelling and emotional subtlety.

Viewers drawn to short, reflective dramas with universal themes of love, loss, and memory.

Fans of short films by directors such as Wong Kar-wai, Lynne Ramsay, and Richard Linklater.