

SCREENLIFECONTEST.COM

FISH EYE

BY YULIA BUDOVSKAYA



Photo by Ryan Weideman. In My Taxi. 1982.

We are constantly being warned that new technologies can disrupt our privacy. With each new mobile app and laptop usability feature we have a new potential security hole. They (whoever they are) can listen what we say or write, they can see what we do. What they try to hide is the fact that each owner of a smartphone has also the power to hear and see, even without accepting an incoming call.

So what I want to do is...tell the story of

Logline: Jimmy, a young big city lodger, coming back home at night after a party, forgets his smartphone in a taxi. To locate it, he turns his phone camera into a spy eye. He gets entertained by peculiar situations happening in taxi at night, but suddenly things become too personal for him.

Summary

Jimmy is a young big city lodger and party-maker. He has no big responsibilities. His life is generally very relaxed. One day, on Saturday night, coming back home after a big party, Jimmy forgets his smartphone in a taxi, in the rear door pocket. Once he realizes it, he contacts his tech savvy friend Chris to help him to locate his phone. Chris, trying to locate Jimmy's phone from his laptop, discovers that actually they can spy on what is happening in the taxi using smartphone camera. They turn Jimmy's phone camera into a spy eye. They stick for some time to the screen being entertained by peculiar and funny situations happening in the taxi and by some weird passengers.



Photo by Ryan Weideman. In My Taxi. 1982.

At some point the two friends realize that all this time the taxi has been circulating around Jimmy's neighborhood. Jimmy then suspects that he didn't sit in this taxi by chance. **Some people are fishing on him. However, what they do not know is that the "fish" has an eye on them...**

Jimmy decides to use all his party-maker talent to get information about taxi driver and to provoke him to unveil why he is chasing Jimmy. Jimmy orders Chinese noodles delivery to taxi driver when he again parks in front of Jimmy's building. Then, Jimmy sends a group of go-go girls to "rock that taxi". Jimmy is inspired by the show he orchestrated. He almost forgot why he was doing it, but he was reminded... He sees his girlfriend, Gloria, getting inside the taxi with two handsome guys. They hit her in her head and bind her. After that, the taxi driver makes a photo of Gloria and sends it to ... Jimmy.



Photo by Ryan Weideman. In My Taxi. 1982.

Jimmy's father, well-known politician, crushed on very bad guys who want a revenge. They start a psychological game - they decide to blackmail not the debtor but his son. They bet

on Jimmy to get what they want. What they don't know is that the relationship between father and son is very complicated.

Jimmy's father is in front of his big screen in his cabinet with a glass of whiskey, drunk, being even more asshole as usual. He says that kids is the weakness and he never was weak and never will be. Jimmy says "Your weakness, dad, is that you love so much humiliating me". His father gets angry saying that whatever he does, he does it for Jimmy's own good.

Taxicab from a party stage transforms into a dangerous place where a crime is happening. Jimmy feels like he is a small kid hidden under his bed and he is watching how bad guys are getting closer and closer. He knows they are going to catch him. He knows his father won't help him. The only thing he has is his phone that is slowly running out of battery. But now Jimmy has a plan. He again takes advantage of his talent to orchestrate a show and he makes one in Internet to break a reputation of his father and bring him to the Court. In his last Skype call with his father, Jimmy says "I did it for your own good, dad".

After that, Jimmy asks Chris to observe and record everything that is going to happen. He leaves his apartment, goes down, cross the street and sits in the taxi on the back seat. He can hear his girlfriend crying in trunk. He looks at his smartphone. Battery is over. Phone turns off.

A Story

Jimmy's father is the despotic, self-concentrated person. But he is the only father that Jimmy has. In the end his dad is the only person Jimmy wants to be evaluated by. Jimmy hates him and needs him. During the movie father and son have one-to-one Skype conversations that unveil their relationship deeply. To the end of the movie Jimmy doesn't try to gain his respect anymore. He doesn't try to be rebelled - he has matured. The final decision of Jimmy was an act of taking responsibility over his life, life free of his father influence.

B Story

Big city life is full of unexpected situations, surrealistic events, weird people that suddenly enter in your circle to shake your reality. It's full of stories. Some of them happen just to be

told to close friends in a good occasion, accompanied with a bottle of beer. Other situations can have unforeseen consequences and become very personal. With new technologies, we have so much more opportunities to hear and see this big city vibe and we start taking things personally.

Format

Feature film unfolded on smartphone and computer screen.

Genre

Action thriller

Tone

Dramedy with elements of black comedy.

Why it can be valid only in screen life language

Nowadays we constantly engage with our relatives through Skype, FaceTime, Whatsapp etc. Technology helps maintain family relationships. But how it happens when the relationship is tense and complicated? How those interactions happen? How it can be different from live, present communication? I don't believe much in melodrama. I would like to elaborate on father-son relationships topic in a dynamic way, with smart, emotional but not melodramatic conversations.

Besides the father-son story line, I would love to explore screen life in transmitting cinematic moods. The story has two moods - a surrealistic and funny beginning gradually becomes suspenseful and dramatic. Screen life can perfectly transmit the surreality of weird night passengers in the taxi and create a feeling for audience that they are screwed in the floor or hidden somewhere in between the chairs of the taxi filled with criminals.

Aesthetics

Voices-over, whispering, not perfect image quality make audience feel presented. Story unfolded fully on the computer screen requires from its audience a continuous attention to not to lose any important detail. This mix of home video and screen spying can create a

cinematographic look-and-feel of immersed reality where audience feels being trapped in a taxi observing the story through the small eye of the smartphone camera.

Budget

Budget High-Level Estimation	
Above The Line	\$400.000
Production Expenses	\$200.000
Post-Production Expenses	\$300.000
Bond Fee	\$27.000
Contingency	\$90.000
TOTAL	\$1.017.000

Bio

Yulia Budovskaya, novice screenwriter with background in Marketing, Public Relations and Journalism. Yulia lives in Barcelona, Spain for the last 7 years. She is working as IT Project Manager in a big international corporation and doing her first steps in film industry in her free time. Working in Tech Industry Yulia is highly passionate about a wide range of topics related to technology, specially Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and Chatbots. Yulia assisted multiple programs and masterclasses in screenwriting, film directing and video editing. She wrote a screenplay for her first short film that she is planning to direct and produce this year.