

**Sink**

Starring Martin Herdman





For all publicity enquiries please contact:

Sue Porter/Lizzie Frith @ Porter firth porterfrith@hotmail.com

07940 584066   07825 603705

For press materials: [http://www.vivaverve.com](http://www.vivaverve.com/)

Certificate: tbc /Running time: 90 minutes

**SHORT SYNOPSIS**

A man battling the disruption and instability of working zero hours contracts is driven to do something completely out of character to keep his family together. He knows he’s done wrong, so do we. But do we blame him?

**SYNOPSIS**

Micky Mason is working hard for the money. Formerly a skilled manual worker, now all he can find are menial, zero hours jobs. He’s in the position, familiar to many, of looking after the generation above and below; his Dad is slowly losing himself to dementia, his son is desperately trying to stay clean on an estate where drugs are everywhere.

He tries everything to find real work but there’s nothing but more of the same. His Dad’s private care home has been bought out and Micky refuses to leave him in the dismal place the Local Authority offer him. He brings him back to his bedsit.

He thinks they’ll be fine. He tries so hard to be. But he’s drowning. It’s not one big thing that sends him over, it’s the death by a thousand cuts. He’s done nothing wrong, all he’s ever tried to do is work hard to provide for his family. He takes a course of action that is completely out of character but that seems to him to be the only way to make a REAL change. For all of them.

We’re left with a moral dilemma; in a world where the moral compass has shifted so far, so fast, whose version of right and wrong do we go with? But it’s not all anguish and despair. It’s also warm and tender. And funny. It’s about people finding their way through.

It’s about Micky Mason; a man out there right now doing his best.

**DIRECTORS STATEMENT**

I live in the area where the film is set and there are pockets of really quite challenged estates. There are also the skyscrapers of Canary Wharf, looming up seemingly at the end of the road. The point barely needs making – people whose lives have been changed beyond recognition living in the shadow of the institutions directly responsible. Yet nobody has been prosecuted. It made me question where we are morally; if people who benefitted hugely from the system can defraud that system on an industrial scale and never be brought to justice, can we condemn somebody for doing whatever’s necessary to stay afloat?

Out of all this came the idea for a character caught up in the thick of it; Micky Mason, a man who has always done the right thing - a good man - and yet here he is, battling simply to survive. Life lived on a financial knife edge is pulverising. It’s rarely one big thing that sends people over, it’s the constant drip of seemingly innocuous events that together makes people lose their sense of self. Micky does something completely out of character and we’re left wondering what we would do in his situation. It’s a moral question the film doesn’t answer – it’s for us to decide.

I felt particularly strongly about the portrayal of the film’s working class characters. I grew up on a council estate and wanted characters I recognised. Peoples’ circumstances might be difficult but they still laugh, they still talk, they help each other out, they fall in love; they’re still human beings, they just live on a council estate. I don’t often see that in stories set around working class lives.

I was also very interested in how working class men’s relationship to work has changed: Micky was once a skilled worker who can now find only menial, zero hours jobs; his father has only ever known skilled manual work and his son has never really had a relationship to work. That’s a massive change over three generations and a theme I was eager to explore.

Visually, I wanted a very quiet way of watching these lives. We occasionally follow Micky with a handheld camera to feel more connected to his actions but otherwise I just wanted us to be in the corner of the room, watching what’s going on – as if invited into a neighbour’s home. I kept the Grade very simple - no crushed blacks - so that we get a sense of normality, leaving our brilliant DOP’s (Simon Archer BSC) deceptively simple lighting to give a lovely soft, natural look to each scene. As we move through the story and head for France, the muted greys of South East London change to something bolder, the colours more to the fore. When we return to his flat, visually, like Micky, we have moved on.

Finally, I knew music would be fundamental to the story. I had the idea to have something like a street band, as if just off screen, commenting on the action, the same instruments playing throughout. The folk songs were a happy accident. I was at a Natalie Merchant concert when she mentioned a song she had discovered; Rigs of the Time. The lyrics date back to the Napoleonic wars but were perfect; “honesty’s all out of fashion, these are the rigs of the time.” I researched other British folk songs to find others. They are all performed by Oliver Hoare and the Late Great and these same musicians also play Kallim Gris’ incidental music, giving a wonderful sense of continuity to the whole soundtrack.

**FILMMAKERS**

**MARK GILLIS** (Writer/Director)

While at university (studying for a degree in Biochemistry) Mark formed the three man comedy act, 76a, and toured the UK as a writer and performer. After performing at the Edinburgh Festival he was asked to write for BBC Radio 4s topical comedy show Week Ending and he has combined writing, performing and directing ever since.

As an actor he has worked extensively in the theatre, most recently playing Agrippa in Antony & Cleopatra with Kim Cattrall and Michael Pennington (Chichester). As a member of the RSC he performed in As You Like It, Macbeth and Troilus and Cressida during seasons at Stratford and The Barbican. He played Mark in the Irish premiere of Mark Ravenhill’s play Shopping and F\*\*\*ing. He co-founded and was artistic director of the touring production company LPC, with whom he produced and directed several European tours of modern classic plays such as Waiting for Godot, The Caretaker, The Importance of Being Ernest and GB Shaw’s The White Lady.

He has appeared in several television and film roles including: Silent Witness, The Bill, Emmerdale, Grange Hill, Eastenders, Holby, The Brittas Empire, Absolute Hell, Prick, Jean Moulin, Either/Or, Going Home and An Ideal Husband. Most recently he plays Mr. Hogg Diggins in the Channel 4 comedy Lee & Dean.

He wrote and directed the short film, A Quiet Drink, which was produced by UK Film Council. He has written several feature length screenplays, two of which are currently under option and his first stage play, Needs Must, received a rehearsed reading at the National Theatre Studios.

Sink is his first feature film as writer/director.

**SIMON ARCHER BSC** (Director Of Photography)

Simon trained at the National Film and Television School where he was mentored by Oscar winning cinematographers Vittorio Storaro AIC ASC , Billy Williams BSC and Oswald Morris BSC, among others.

His career has covered all areas of Film and Television production - music, commercials, documentary, television drama and feature films. He was DOP on the feature films Coming Home with Peter O’Toole, The Bachelor with Chris O’Donnell and Renee Zellwegger, Another Life with Tom Wilkinson and and Stiff Upper Lips with Frank Finlay. His television work includes Doctor Who, Ashes to Ashes, Hustle, Bedlam, Doc Martin, Call the Midwife, Endeavour and Humans.

**CHRIS BLUNDEN** ACE (Editor)

Chris Blunden discovered his love of movies and of film editing from his father, Bill Blunden, who was an Emmy award winning editor. He made his first film splice when he was only 6 years old. Chris followed in his father’s footstep and started his career editing documentaries for the BBC and was soon offered an opportunity to work on feature films and worked as an assistant editor, visual effects editor and sound editor on many films.

He graduated to full editor on Michael Tuchner’s “Wilt”. During the making of “Wilt” Chris met Mel Smith, Chris went on to work with Mel for many years, notably on “Bean” which was hugely successful worldwide.

Chris has continued editing feature films both in the UK and worldwide. He has worked in Europe, the USA and China and edited some 30 feature films and 10 Television series.

His dedication to the craft of film editing is widely recognised and applauded. Chris was invited to become a member of the hugely respected American Cinema Editors, ACE, in 2010.

**CAST**

**MARTIN HERDMAN** (Micky)

Before his acting career, Martin was an international sportsman, representing his country as a Super Heavyweight boxer and becoming the Heavyweight champion of London. He also played for Fulham as a professional rugby League player, during which time he played internationally for Wales. Injury cut short his rugby career and he turned his attentions towards his childhood dream of becoming an actor.

Theatre includes; Lepidus in Anthony & Cleopatra (Chichester Festival Theatre and Liverpool Playhouse), Sing Song in Car Thieves (Birmingham Rep), Bottom in A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Matey Butler In Dear Brutus (Nottingham Playhouse), One Round in The Ladykillers (National Tour), Mr Constable in A mad World My Masters, Charles in As You Like It (both at the Globe Theatre, London then Tokyo)

On television he has appeared in; Holby City, Waking The Dead, Parents Of The Band, The Bill, My Family Christmas Special, The Catherine Tate Show, The Gill Mayo Murders, Holby City, Class Of 76, Big Dippers, Max & Paddy, Rose & Maloney, The Gridd, Grass, Midsomer Murders, Murder In Mind, High Hopes, Doctors, Big Cat, Family Affairs, Wycliffe, Berkley Square, Bramwell, Coronation Street, Have Your Cake, McLiable, Trial & Retribution, Drop The Dead Donkey, East Enders, Silent Witness, The Govenor, The Knock, Bodyguards, Open Fire, Demob, Soldier Soldier, London’s Burning and Fools Gold.

Films include; Rite (BAFTA nominated), Stormbreaker, Revolver, The Great Dome Robbery, Unconditional Love, First Knight, Savage Hearts, The Tooting Lions and Loving Vincent.

**MARLENE SIDAWAY** (Jean)

Born on Tees-Side, Marlene originally trained as an adding machine operator before moving to London to attend East 15 Acting School. Theatre includes: Macbeth and The Daughter in Law (Sheffield Crucible) Uncle Vanya (The Print Room) The Enchantment and A Prayer for Owen Meany (National Theatre) Lady in the Van - Miss Shepherd (Salisbury) We’ll Always Have Paris (Sonning) A Lady of Letters & Just Between Ourselves (Scarborough) A Cream Cracker & Under the Settee (Harrogate) Kiss Me Like You Mean It (Soho Theatre) All My Sons (Bristol Old Vic) Hedda Gabler (Manchester Royal Exchange) Noises Off (Liverpool) The Madness of Esme & Shaz (Royal Court) Dearly Beloved (Hampstead theatre).

Film & T.V: Hustle, Me and Orson Welles, Sensitive Skin, Foyle’s War, Midsomer Murders,Doctors, Kiss of Death (Mike Leigh), Pride & Prejudice, Coronation Street, Brother Cadfael, Peak Practice, Casualty, The Bill, Miss Marple, Shine on Harvey Moon, a Landing on the Sun, The Magic Toyshop, Inspector Lynley, Wallander, Doc Martin and most recently she has appeared as Maureen in Mum.

She has had a long radio career for the BBC and played Miss Lewis for 100 episodes of King Street Junior. She also recorded over 50 Audio Books.

**IAN HOGG** (Sam)

Trained at The Central School of Speech and Drama and The Drama Centre, London. He joined the Royal Shakespeare Company straight from drama school in 1964. He worked with Peter Brook in his acclaimed productions ‘ Marat/Sade’ which in 1966 played on Broadway at The Martin Beck Theatre where it won an Emmy.

 He was at The Royal National Theatre 1979-81 playing Howard in For Services Rendered by Somerset Maugham. Jeremiah Stiggins in Thee and Me by Philip Martin.

The Man in The Interlude by Gabriel Josipovici. He has toured worldwide with The Royal Shakespeare Company, The Royal National Theatre and Birmingham Rep. in Russia, Finland, USA India and Hong Kong. He played the title role in Macbeth in Stratford Ontario, Canada.

His extensive Television work includes: David Copperfield, Lorna Doone, Total Eclipse, Penda’s Fen, Last Night Another Dissident, Father and Son, Bleak House, December Rose, Northern Crescent, Fair and Easy Passage, Taggart - (Hit Man), and Death of a Salesman. He created the part of Rockliffe in the popular BBC police series Rockliffe’s Babies and Rockliffe’s Folly.

Films include Peter Brook's King Lear and Meetings with Remarkable Men Roman Polanski's Macbeth, A Last Valley, To Build a Fire, Henessy, Escape from the Dark, Lady Jane, Very Like a Whale and Alan Bridge'sThe Hireling, Little Dorrit , Pin for a Butterfly and Rasputin.

In 2007 he played Captain Shotover in ‘Heartbreak House’ at Watford Palace Theatre.and Ephraim Cabot in ‘Desire under the Elms’ for Glasgow Citizens Theatre.

In 2008 he again played Joe in ‘Haunting Julia’ in Alan Ayckbourn’s final season as Artistic Director at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough.

In 2011 he played Enobarbus in Shakespeare’s ‘Antony & Cleopatra’ at the Liverpool Playhouse and again in 2012 at the Chichester Festival Theatre.

**JOSHUA HERDMAN** (Jason)

Joshua played Gregory Goyle in all 8 Harry Potter films.

His other film and TV work includes; Thunderpants, Piggy, The Estate Film, Common People, UGetMe, Wizards vs Aliens and Coming Up. Most recently he played one of the key suspects, Eric, in the second series of Marcella.

**CAST**

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| Micky | [**Martin Herdman**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0378832/) |
| Sam | [**Ian Hogg**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0389707/) |
| Jean | [**Marlene Sidaway**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0796484/) |
| Lorraine | [**Tracey Wilkinson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0929491/) |
| Jason | [**Joshua Herdman**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0378830/) |
| Paul | [**Mark Gillis**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0319303/) |
| Marion | [**Sadie Shimmin**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0793708/) |
| Job Centre Mgr | [**Joanna Monro**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0598447/) |
| Parkside Manager | [**Karen Archer**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0033691/) |
| Mr Wilson | [**Robert Calvert**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0130832/) |
| Parkside Director | [**Oliver Senton**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1336710/) |
| Billy | [**Bradley Hall**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1174623/) |
| Factory Boss | [**Glen Supple**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1070390/) |
| Vic | [**Ken Shorter**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0795144/) |
| Cheryl | [**Anne Bird**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1711024/) |
| Customs Officer | [**Simon Hepworth**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1668300/) |
| Care Asst. 1 | [**Tara Cowley**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm6415304/) |
| Mercedes Man | [**Oliver Stoney**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm6174672/) |
| Job Ctr. Receptionist | [**Pepter Lunkuse**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm5540371/) |
| Young Sam | [**Niall McNamee**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm6415305/) |
| Young Sam's fiance | [**Sophie Ellerby**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2595870/) |
| Pub Barman | [**Shaun Smith**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1653921/) |
| Hoodie | [**Dandave Roach**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm6415307/) |
| Hoodie | [**Micah Loubon**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm6415308/) |
| Hoodie | [**Joshua Okusanya**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm5530987/) |
| Hoodie | [**Eddie Thompson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm6415309/) |
| Hoodie | [**Tre Medley**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm6415310/) |
| Alain | [**Matthew Hebden**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3195018/) |
| Mercedes Man's friend | [**Ed Brody**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0111029/) |
| Sam as a boy | [**Ashley Hewson**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm6415311/) |
| Boy Sam's Friend | [**Aina Allouane**](http://www.sinklondon.com/cast-and-crew) |
| Passport Officer | [**Annette Simpkins**](http://www.sinklondon.com/cast-and-crew) |
| Aiden | [**Luke Herdman**](http://www.sinklondon.com/cast-and-crew) |
| Dog Handler | [**Tim Cooper**](http://www.sinklondon.com/cast-and-crew) |
| Marion's Girlfriend | [**Marion Woodhouse**](http://www.sinklondon.com/cast-and-crew) |
| Sitcom actress | [**Rosie Holt**](http://www.sinklondon.com/cast-and-crew) |

**CREW**

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| --- | --- |
| Writer/Producer/Director | [**Mark Gillis**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0319303) |
| Director of Photography | [**Simon Archer**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0033727/) |
| Editor | **Miguel E. Rebagliato** |
| Editor | **Agnieszka Liggett** |
| Editor | **Mark Game** |
| Editor | **Jonathan Beer** |
| Editor | **Carl Rohumaa** |
| Editor - Final Cut | [**Chris Blunden**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0089887/) |
| Production Designer | **Lucy Cooper** |
| Line Producer | **Annette Simpkins** |
| Focus Puller | **Thomas McFarling** |
| Focus Puller | **Richard Bradbury** |
| Focus Puller | **Jessie Brough** |
| Focus Puller | **Kim Seber** |
| Focus Puller | **John Bailie** |
| Focus Puller | **Ravi Kang** |
| Focus Puller | **Alexandra Voikou** |
| Focus Puller | **Rana Darwish** |
| Focus Puller | **David Pearce** |
| Loader | **Roland C. Phillips** |
| Loader | **Alexandra Voikou** |
| Loader | **Emily Payne** |
| Loader | **Rana Darwish** |
| Loader | **Ed Ratcliffe** |
| Loader | **Luke Spencer** |
| Loader | **Matt King** |
| Camera Trainee | **Mathieu Treacy** |
| Camera Trainee | **Leon Willis** |
| Camera Trainee | **Luke Spencer** |
| Camera Trainee | **Rob Hawkins** |
| Camera Trainee | **Ed Ratcliffe** |
| Gaffer | **Jonny Franklin** |
| Gaffer | **Caspar Jones** |
| Gaffer | **Greg Whitbrook** |
| Gaffer | **Keiran Hodges** |
| DIT/Asst Editor | **Miguel E. Rebagliato** |
| Sound Recordist | **Jassim Jaffer** |
| Sound Recordist | **Tom Harburt** |
| Sound Recordist | **Grant Studart** |
| Sound Recordist | **Nathaniel Kastoryano** |
| Boom Operator | **Philip Walker** |
| Boom Operator | **Robbie Derrick** |
| Boom Operator | **Rodrigo Gil-Gonzalo** |
| Production Managers | **Bethan Harrison** |
| Production Managers | **Evelyn Rooney** |
| Make Up | **Vicky Covil** |
| Make Up | **Jade Levene-Endfield** |
| Make Up | **Emily Gunn** |
| Make Up | **Federica Sugliano** |
| Wardrobe Assistant | **Natalie Oakley** |
| Catering | **Jacqui Shimidzu** |
| Prestige vehicles by | **Kent Carriage Company** |
| Van Rental | **Ace Van Hire New Cross** |
| Runner | **Mac Nixon** |
| Runner | **Sabrina Corda** |
| Runner | **Katie Sohatski** |
| Runner | **Hannah Lawrence** |
| Runner | **Oliver Campbell** |
| Runner | **Alex Nash** |
| Runner | **Gareth Vaughan** |
| Runner | **Eva Adams** |
| Sound mixer | **Dominic Rippell** |
| Music Recording Engineer | **Al Franklinos** |
| Music Recording Engineer | **Dominic Rippell** |
| VFX Artist | **Jon Davey** |
| Website design & social media | [**Will Ibbetson**](http://willibbetson.me/) |
| Marketing Consultant | **Max Keegan** |

Post Production completed at Twickenham Film Studios by:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dialogue Editor | **William Miller** |
| Effects Editor | **Sophia Hardman** |
| Effects Editor | **Max Walsh** |
| Re-recording Mixer | **William Miller** |
| Re-recording Mixer | **Max Walsh** |
| Foley Recordist | **Sophia Hardman** |
| Colourist | **Tom Cairns** |
| DI Assistant | **Michelle Cort** |

Associate Producers

**Will Eaves, Maria Federico, David Foxxe, Andrew Hunt, Alan Rickman, Mark Rylance.**

To friends and supporters of this film who are greatly missed

**Jim Diamond, Tim Graham, Alan Rickman**

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**Maria Walker and all at Twickenham Film Studios.**

**And of course, to all our kickstarter friends.**