

**verve**  
PICTURES

Released **16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Running time **134 minutes**

Certificate **15**

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**IN FROM THE SIDE**

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# SYNOPSIS

## Logline

Following a drunken encounter, two equally attached men from a cash-strapped and divided gay rugby club unwittingly sleepwalk into an adulterous affair in Matt Carter's startlingly sensitive debut feature.

## Short Synopsis

Fresh from sold out screenings at BFI Flare, writer-director Matt Carter's debut feature explores life on and off the pitch at a gay rugby club.

Mark (Alexander Lincoln), a new and inexperienced rugby club member, finds himself drawn to Warren (Alexander King), a seasoned first team player. When a series of happenstances at an away fixture lead to a drunken encounter, Mark and Warren unwittingly embark on a romantic affair they struggle to hide from their partners and teammates. As the secret begins to unravel, team spirit, loyalties and camaraderie are tested in writer-director Matt Carter's startlingly sensitive story about forbidden love and finding your tribe.



## **Long Synopsis**

Mark (Alexander Lincoln) has recently joined the South London Stags, an inclusive rugby club. In a dysfunctional relationship with Richard, an older man often working abroad, Mark soon finds himself drawn to equally unavailable Warren (Alexander King), a seasoned first team player in long-term relationship with his teammate, John.

But when a series of happenstances at an away fixture lead to a drunken encounter, Mark and Warren unwittingly embark on a romantic affair they struggle to hide from their partners and teammates alike. As their secret begins to unravel, team spirit, loyalties and camaraderie are tested.

A startlingly sensitive story about forbidden love and finding your tribe, writer-director Matt Carter's debut feature premiered to sold out audiences at this year's BFI Flare Film Festival.





# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I've been involved in inclusive rugby for eight years as both a player, coach and referee. Rugby has a rich and extensive culture that has been under-explored on film. I felt deeply that this should be brought to a wider audience with the hopes of raising the public profile of 'inclusive' sports clubs and their benefits to society.

There is often discussion around the concept of masculinity surrounding sport - especially with rugby. Assumptions are made that because rugby is very physical, it must be inherently 'toxically' masculine. *In From the Side* takes aim at these preconceived notions, tackling common stereotypes of gay men in sport and how it is possible for healthy, non-toxic masculinity to thrive in this environment. A phrase often heard in the rugby community is 'rugby family': it really boils down to the deep sense of community and belonging the sport can bring. I wanted this to be a key theme in the film.

It was an important decision, made early on, that we'd have no 'coming out' or homophobia storylines. It is far too easy to default to these as sources of dramatic conflict in gay cinema. Once freed from this narrative constraint, our approach to the *In From the Side* story allowed us to really explore the nuanced interpersonal relationships that occur within a group of men living their authentic lives.

**Matt Carter**



# FILMMAKERS

## **Matt Carter - Co-writer, Director, Editor & Producer**

A freelance Visual Effects artist by trade, Matt has been working in the creative industries since studying Computer Animation at Bournemouth University. He has worked across a number of sectors, including Film, Broadcast/Television, Commercials, Virtual Reality, Projection Installations, and Theatre effects. Notable clients include BBC, Hulu, Channel 4, National Geographic, PBS and History Channel. He has also worked in the camera department for a number of TV shows and documentaries and is also a freelance cinematographer. Coming from a general creative background as an independent film director, photographer and musician, Matt brings these creative sensibilities to his work. *In From the Side* is Matt's first feature.

## **Adam Silver - Co-writer & Producer**

Adam has been working in LBGT film for over 15 years as head of acquisitions at one of the world's largest genre film distributors, TLA Releasing. *In From the Side* is his first project as both co-writer and producer.



# CAST

## **Alexander Lincoln - Mark**

Alexander Lincoln is an English actor and writer.

He is familiar to millions from his breakout role in ITV's hit British soap *Emmerdale*, where he portrayed the unforgettably evil Jamie Tate. Most recently seen in BBC's *Everything I know About Love*, he is currently working alongside Mark Rylance in *Inland*. Alex's other credits include featured roles in features *Philiphobia*, *Infinite* and *As I Am*.

## **Alexander King - Warren**

Alexander King is a fresh-faced British actor on the rise.

Other roles for Alexander include stage performances of Kenickie in *Grease* and Riff in *West Side Story*. He has also recently filmed a part in an independent thriller *Charlotte*, directed by Georgia Conlan and Martin Hardwick. *In From The Side* is Alexander's debut feature film performance in a starring role.





# CREDITS

Director  
**Matt Carter**

Screenplay  
**Matt Carter & Adam Silver**

Producer  
**Andrew Faure**

Director of Photography  
**Matt Carter**

Editor  
**Matt Carter**

Original Soundtrack  
**Matt Carter**

Executive Producers  
**Matt Carter**  
**Adam Silver**  
**Andrew Faure**  
**Richard Aikens**

Cast

**Alexander Lincoln** as Mark  
**Alexander King** as Warern  
**Will Hearle** as Henry  
**Pearce Egan** as Pinky  
**Christopher Sherwood** as Jimmy  
**Peter McPherson** as John  
**Alex Hammond** as Richard  
**Ivan Comisso** as Carlos  
**Carl Loughlin** as Gareth  
**Franck Assi** as Neil  
**Chris Garner** as Stuart  
**Tom Murphy** as Barry  
**Mary Lincoln** as Alice  
**Nigel Fairs** as Leonard