



# LIGHT

# YEARS





‘Campbell’s enticingly sensuous, heat-hazed drama demonstrates the meticulous command of composition and romantically desolate atmosphere that won her a short-film BAFTA...’

*Variety*





Rose longs to see mum. But nobody will take her. Ever. Dad disappears to work. Sister waits for a boy on a damp golf course while their brother communes with spirits online. But Rose reckons a family's like a constellation - connected up there in the infinite. Stars feel each other, even if they've died millions of years ago, even if they're light years apart. Taking destiny into her hands, Rose slips out at dawn into England's forgotten edgelands. Her departure provokes a family to change, to search for Rose and each other, until discovering the truth of their own awesome inheritance.



Light Years is a startling story of loss, hope and the deepest of human connections.





*Light Years* stars singer/songwriter Beth Orton in her first acting role with Turkish actor Muhammet Uzner (*Once Upon A Time in Anatolia*) alongside a cast of westcountry vagabonds - actors and non-actors alike.

Music score is from Constellation Records' Eric Cheneau in collaboration with sound artist Chris Watson. The music was played in the locations where the film was shot, responding to the space and sense of sound.

Using a mix of formats from 16mm to high def, images come from a collaboration between Zac Nicholson and Will Pugh.





‘Campbell wrote and directed her first feature like a wonder-dream, full of amazing audio/visuals that stir the audience and satisfy the critics. Nothing is there by chance. Like a lyrical symphony sounding powerful and tender at the same time. Acclaimed at Venice 2015.’

*Venice Critics’ Week*





‘Campbell’s moving and reflective first feature more than fulfils the promise of her garlanded short. Joining a select, honourable lineage of British works that display an acute sense of the potencies of place, weather and the edgelands (active agents in the telling rather than simple background), *Light Years* is at once a quietly insistent rites-of-passage and subtle meditation of the ripple effects of mental distress and a lyrical celebration of childhood resilience, imagination and common cause in the face of parental absence (locational or emotional).

‘With excellent use of painting, stills and a genuinely evocative sound-scape, it explores the fundamental unknowability at the heart of families and between generations, and what might be thought of as the intimate otherness of people (sensitively caught in the ventriloquising witness of a silent night window familial encounter).

‘*Light Years* shines with an artist’s pleasure in associative narrative and place-making. A true-to-life tale of growing up, a fable of being lost and found, a journey into the woods - and out again - that deserves to be widely seen, and striking evidence of a welcome new ensemble of talent, full of conviction in the possibilities of their art.’

*Gareth Evans / Whitechapel Gallery*

‘A first feature of fragile beauty, *Light Years* offers dazzling fractured moments to savour: a stolen kiss witnessed in glimpses as a speeding train passes; a golf ball spiralling into a hole, a mother and her children filing gracefully through a forest of silver birch trees. Campbell’s film is a poignant and poetic eulogy to a lost parent, and asks what happens when someone is physically present but no longer ‘there’, like stars that are light years away.’  
*BFI London Film Festival 2015*





Esther May Campbell / Writer & Director

Self-taught photographer and filmmaker, Esther has directed music videos for the likes of Bass Clef, Nancy Elizabeth and James Blackshaw and sex education films, corporates for and about randy sailors as well as Channel 4 and BBC dramas. But it's her personal, captivating stories that tell of lost souls, tragic lovers, limbo lives and daydreamers, very much found in self-penned short, the multi awarded and BAFTA winning *September*. Working with the Cube Cinema collective, she mobilises a community cinema for displaced children in Haiti, Nepal and the camps of Europe.

Samm Haillay / Producer

Samm has produced multi-award winning short films by Duane Hopkins and his feature *Better Things*, which premiered to critical acclaim at Critics Week, Cannes. Samm produces for renowned critic and writer Mark Cousins, Sundance winning Simon Ellis, Silver Bear winning Daniel Elliott, and the Venice screening Joseph Bull & Luke Seomore. Samm's short film productions have won over 45 awards inc. Berlin, Venice Edinburgh, and Chicago.

Keith Griffiths / Executive Producer

Keith has been a crucial factor in bringing to the screen work by talents as the Brothers Quay, Patrick Keiller, Chris Petit and the Czech animator Jan Svankmajer, as well as many outstanding documentaries on some of cinema and the art world's more marginal figures. His credits include *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* (2010), *Berberian Sound Studio* (2012) and *Greedy Guts* (2000).













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