

Steve's Problem

Synopsis:

One man's journey to independence – a short film inspired by the too-closeness of men's urinals.

Technical Specs:

Running time: 12:54

Camera: Canon EOS C300

Aspect ratio: 16:9

Awards:

Winner, Best Short Film, Idyllwild Intl Festival of Cinema 2014

Winner, Best Narrative Short, Albany FilmFest 2014

Remi Winner, Worldfest-Houston 2014

Screenings:

Seattle Intl Film Festival 2014 / NewFilmmakers New York 2014

Flickers: Rhode Island Intl Film Festival / Athens Intl Film + Video Fest 2014

NewFilmmakers Los Angeles / Hollyshorts Film Festival / Sunscreen Film Festival

Interrobang Film Festival / Dam Short Film Festival 2014 / Idyllwild Intl Festival of Cinema 2014 / Albany FilmFest 2014 / KahBang Film Festival 2014

Links:

Film: <https://vimeo.com/121005854>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stevesproblem>

Official Website: <http://www.stevesproblem.com>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MikeLarsWhite>

IMDb: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3278934/>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/84782801>

Director Website: <http://www.mikelarswhite.com>

Press:

The Daily Dot:

<http://www.dailydot.com/entertainment/steves-problem-vimeo-stream-public-peeing/>

BroBible.com:

<http://www.brobible.com/life/article/best-short-film-taking-a-piss/>

Refined Geekery:

<http://refinedgeekery.com/2015/03/06/short-film-friday-steves-problem-dir-mike-lars-white/>

NewFilmmakers LA Interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eptftFe-lz4>

MovieMaker Magazine interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zzz4ATG-PM>

SF Weekly:

http://blogs.sfweekly.com/exhibitionist/2013/12/a_film_about_peeing_steves_problem.php

Idyllwild IFF / Film Review:

<http://idyllwild2014.blogspot.com>

Trivia:

The restroom scenes were shot at San Francisco's Candlestick Park, and is perhaps the only film to shoot at the renowned stadium *exclusively* for its restroom facilities.

Peeing stunts in the film were done using plastic bladders slung around the actors' necks, while the pee itself was made using a mixture of beer and lemonade.

SPOILER: The film features a surprise cameo by what appears to be John Wayne in the sky, a part that was performed using two actors—one as the embodiment of Wayne and the other as voice—played respectively by actor Gregory Scott Bedford and stand-up legend Denny Johnston (as seen on *The Tonight Show* and *David Letterman*). Custom facial prosthetics for John Wayne were created by Margaret Caragan with Pandora FX, who can also be seen in Season 6 of the Syfy Network's *Face Off*.

For further advice on the production, writer/director Mike Lars White turned to friend and exec producer Barry Chattington, a former music video director for Pink Floyd and Paul McCartney.

Principal Cast:

Matt Nelsen, Robert Miles, Veronica Valencia, Pearl Marill, Daniel Burt, Gregory Scott Bedford, Denny Johnston

Written and Directed by: Mike Lars White

Produced by: T.E. Marshall

Cinematographer: Eric Herron

Executive Producer: Barry Chattington

Editor: Jon Felix

Music: Antonio Vivaldi

Director Statement:

"I was working at this ad agency where the men's room had two urinals that were very close to each other—not allowing much privacy. So I had this idea of two men striking up a conversation there, and what if they enjoyed each other's pissing company so much that they decided, "we should piss together again some time!" About a month later I came up with a more interesting way for this scenario to come about: That the main character is pee shy, and that the stranger in the next urinal has a little "trick" for that.

Director Bio (short):

After a career writing for TV commercials out of Warsaw, Poland – White returned stateside to study improv and acting at the Upright Citizens Brigade and the American Conservatory Theater. "Steve's Problem" is his directorial debut.

Director Bio (long):

A former nationally-ranked cross-country skier, Mike Lars White began writing for TV commercials after winning an award for a coffee shop poster in Reno, Nevada. He then worked out of Warsaw, Poland – with his scripts translated into Polish – creating a series of internationally recognized TV and print ads for IKEA and a European

mosquito repellent. Mike's essays and prose have appeared in *Word Riot*, [Poor Mojo's Almanac\(k\)](#), and *Dark Sky Magazine*, while his work in advertising has been recognized by the Clios, One Show, and Cannes advertising festivals. He has studied at the American Conservatory Theater, BATS improv, and Upright Citizens Brigade, and has worked alongside such filmmakers as Pawel Edelman (*The Pianist*), Andrzej Fidyk (*Defilada*), and Nicola Pecorini (*Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*). "Steve's Problem" is his directorial debut.

Mike is currently at work on his first feature film, and a television pilot.

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