

The making of...



“A lot is said, but little is talked about.” Perhaps it’s inevitable that a family obsessed with Scrabble would struggle to lift the words off the board. Adapted from “Triple Word Score” by Frank Cottrell Boyce, Sometimes Always Never is my film about communication – closing the gaps between mothers, daughters, fathers and sons.

For my first feature, I wanted a Liverpool-set saga with international influences. Inspired by the films of Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda and the photography of Russian auteur Andrei Tarkovsky, I crafted a distinct visual world, one family’s emotional turmoil through a far-away Polaroid. Although Sometimes is a very British film, I’m also drawn to American popular culture. As a musician, I toured America and was



Test shot, Peter walking looking for his dad. Hightown Sand dunes



*Scrubby woods - good colour palette.  
highlighted sense of reality.*

fascinated by its architecture, design and landscapes. Cafes and rooms echo my love of Edward Hopper and photographer Gregory Crewdson, and the latest Wes Anderson film is always a delight I look forward to. Sometimes Always Never draws in signifiers from American New Hollywood cinema, Finnish auteurs and classic Americana photographers. I'm intrigued by shape, colour, composition and symmetry, and took Polaroids for inspiration.

Inhabiting this frame is Bill Nighy, a quintessentially British star best known stateside for his roles in Harry Potter and Love Actually. Nighy brings sparkling charm to his role as an English tailor, teaching the “three-button rule” of suit jackets that gives the film its name - “sometimes” the top, “always” the middle, “never” the bottom. It was an absolute delight to work with Bill, who brought something new and exciting to the shoot every single day.



But the rules for suits and Scrabble are much simpler than the rules of life, a lesson Nighy's Alan is about to learn the hard way as he looks for his missing son. The film is the glue of life, of lives lived in the shadow of a possible death, and I'm honored to share it with everyone at the Angelika. Sometimes Always Never is a light-hearted film - it lightens the heart and allows light into the heart, lighting it up with its humanity and good humour. As Leonard Cohen wrote, "There's a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in."

*Carl Hunter is an award-winning British director, musician, and photographer. Sometimes Always Never is his debut feature.*

