

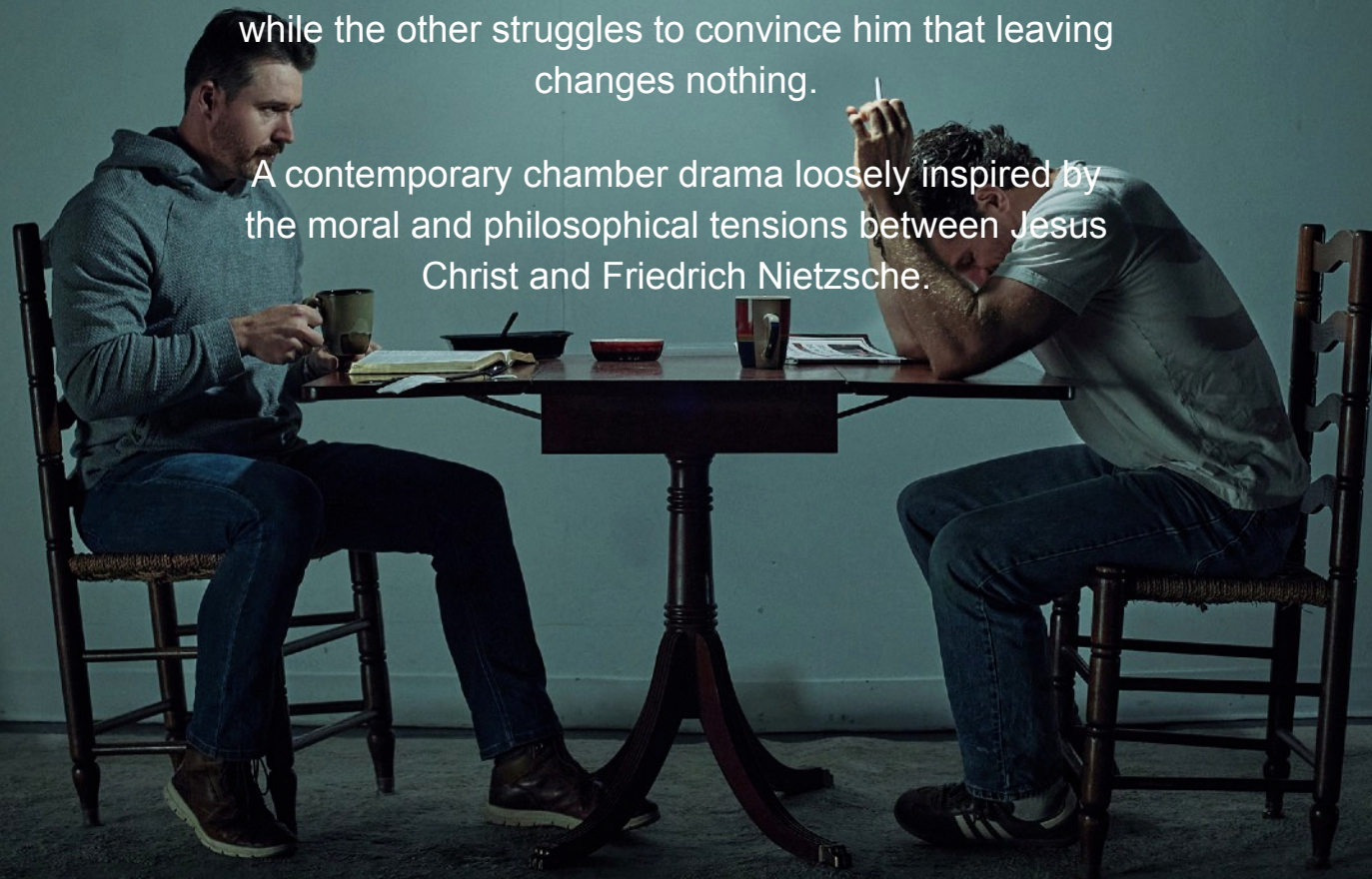
ROOMMATES OF THE SILENCE



LOGLINE

As unrest spreads outside their NYC apartment, two estranged roommates reach a breaking point when one decides to leave and help a collapsing world, while the other struggles to convince him that leaving changes nothing.

A contemporary chamber drama loosely inspired by the moral and philosophical tensions between Jesus Christ and Friedrich Nietzsche.



BRIEF SUMMARY

On a rain-soaked night in a small apartment, two estranged roommates find themselves trapped in a familiar cycle of debate. One believes action still matters, even in a world that appears to be unraveling. The other is convinced humanity never changes and that every attempt to help is ultimately futile.

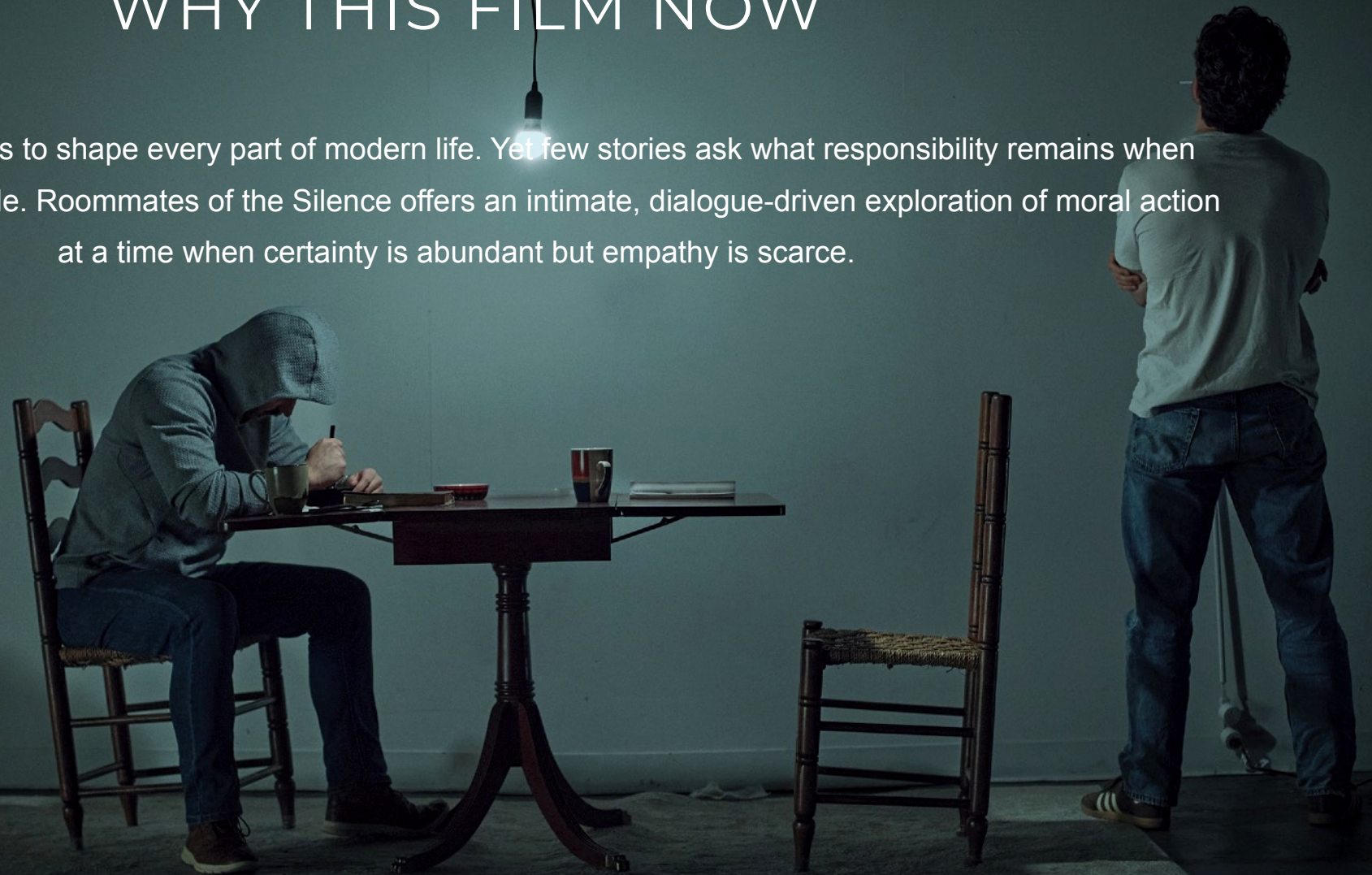
As their conversation deepens, each man is forced to defend not only his beliefs, but the life he has chosen to live. What begins as an argument gradually reveals something more personal. Neither man can persuade the other. Neither can escape the consequences of his convictions.

As the night reaches its breaking point, one must decide whether to remain in the safety of certainty or step into an uncertain world that may never reward his efforts.



WHY THIS FILM NOW

Polarization continues to shape every part of modern life. Yet few stories ask what responsibility remains when agreement is impossible. *Roommates of the Silence* offers an intimate, dialogue-driven exploration of moral action at a time when certainty is abundant but empathy is scarce.



WRITER'S STATEMENT

ROOMMATES OF THE SILENCE began as a response to a growing sense of deadlock in the world around me.

Everywhere I looked, I saw people convinced they possessed the truth, yet unable to move toward one another. We debate belief, politics, morality, and identity as though winning the argument will somehow change the world. Meanwhile, the problems demanding our attention remain.

I wanted to write a story about that paralysis—and about the cost of remaining in it.

Set over a single night in a cramped apartment, the film brings two exhausted worldviews into the same room. What interested me was never who would win the argument, but what remains when persuasion no longer works. At that point, a deeper question emerges: what gives our beliefs meaning if they never become action?

That became the moral center of the film.

Inspired by the moral and philosophical tensions between Jesus Christ and Friedrich Nietzsche, **ROOMMATES OF THE SILENCE** explores whether meaningful change begins when people finally agree—or when someone chooses to act without certainty, without control, and without the comfort of knowing the outcome.

As a filmmaker, I'm drawn to stories that ask difficult questions rather than offer easy answers. My hope is that audiences leave the film less concerned with who was right and more willing to ask what responsibility each of us has to one another, especially when agreement feels impossible.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

A man and a woman are sitting across from each other at a small, dark wooden table. The man, on the left, is wearing a grey hoodie and blue jeans, resting his chin on his hand. The woman, on the right, is wearing a light blue t-shirt and blue jeans, holding a cigarette. They are in a dimly lit room with a single light bulb hanging above them, casting a soft glow. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

JESS

Jess believes action still matters, even when success seems impossible. Compassionate but weary, he continues showing up for a world that rarely changes as quickly as he hopes. His struggle is not whether to act, but whether he can continue to care when disappointment feels endless.

FRED

Fred has spent years watching humanity repeat the same mistakes. Intelligent, restless, and deeply disillusioned, he believes most attempts to change the world end in disappointment. Beneath his sharp arguments and philosophical certainty, however, lies a deeper fear: that cynicism may protect him from being hurt, but it also leaves him alone.

THEMES

Action vs. Certainty

Is it better to act imperfectly in an uncertain world, or retreat into the safety of conviction?

Faith vs. Control

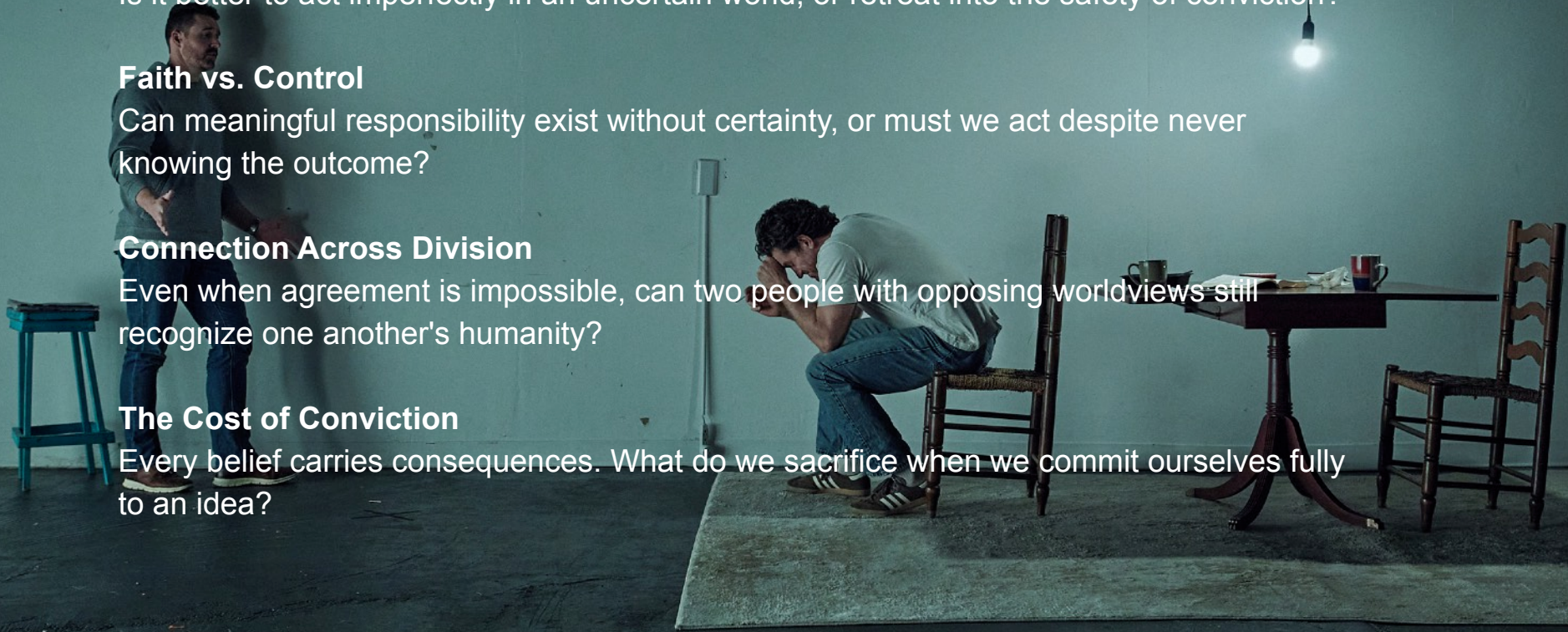
Can meaningful responsibility exist without certainty, or must we act despite never knowing the outcome?

Connection Across Division

Even when agreement is impossible, can two people with opposing worldviews still recognize one another's humanity?

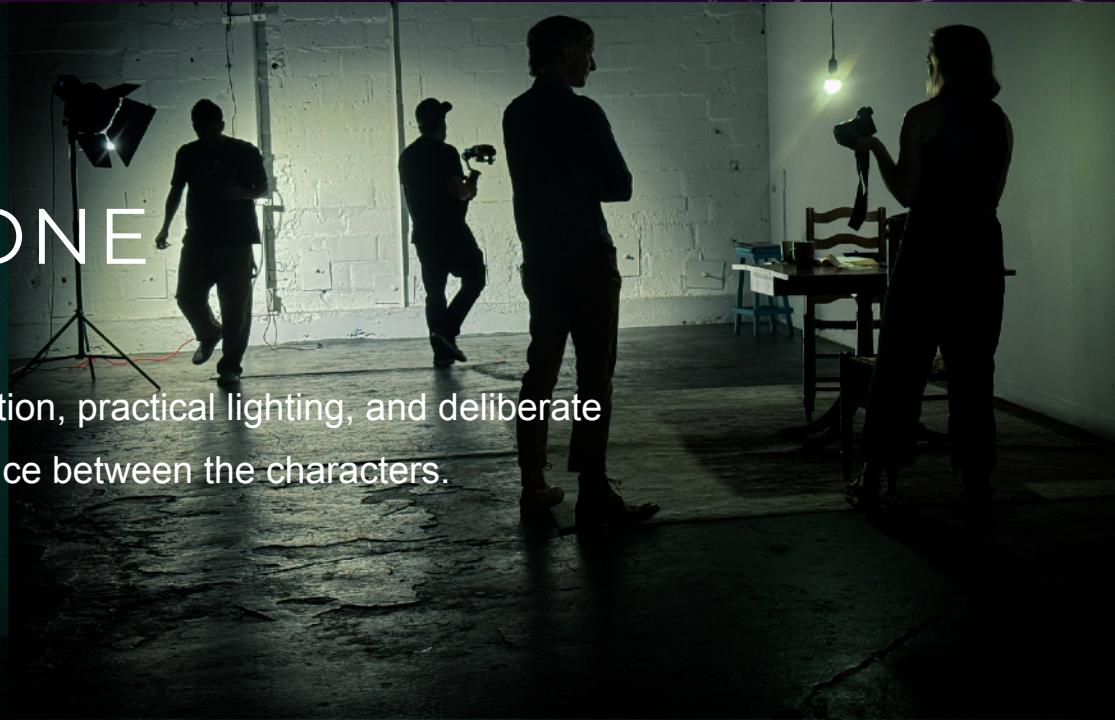
The Cost of Conviction

Every belief carries consequences. What do we sacrifice when we commit ourselves fully to an idea?



LOOK & TONE

A restrained visual language built around a single location, practical lighting, and deliberate composition that reflects the emotional distance between the characters.



COMPARABLE FILMS

FIRST REFORMED

A spiritually searching contemporary drama that confronts despair, responsibility, and the question of whether meaningful action is still possible in a fractured world.

THE SUNSET LIMITED

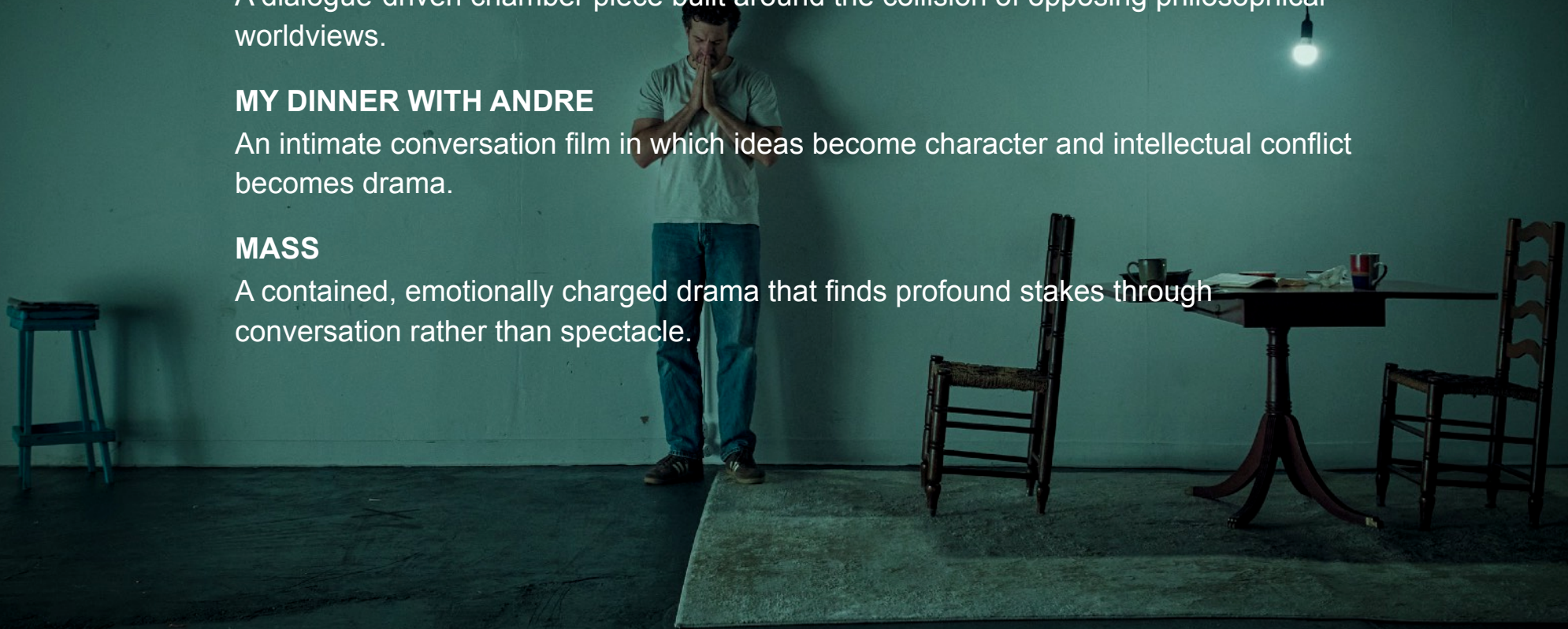
A dialogue-driven chamber piece built around the collision of opposing philosophical worldviews.

MY DINNER WITH ANDRE

An intimate conversation film in which ideas become character and intellectual conflict becomes drama.

MASS

A contained, emotionally charged drama that finds profound stakes through conversation rather than spectacle.



ABOUT THE WRITER



Victor Atkins is a Nashville-based writer, director, and visual artist whose work blends visual restraint with emotionally driven storytelling. Trained as a painter and sculptor, he began his creative career in New York, where his artwork was represented by the Louis Meisel Gallery and exhibited at institutions including The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art.

Since returning to filmmaking, Atkins has written and directed the award-winning short films *Landing* and *The Market*. His screenplay *Roommates of the Silence* received the Best Short Screenplay award from the Author Script Awards and was named a Semi-Finalist in both the BlueCat Screenplay Competition and Outstanding Screenplays.

His work explores questions of meaning, responsibility, faith, and human connection through intimate, character-driven stories that place moral choice at their center.

PROJECT STATUS

Best Short Screenplay — Author Script Awards

Semi-Finalist — BlueCat Screenplay Competition

Semi-Finalist — Outstanding Screenplays

Film Independent Fiscal Sponsorship

Seeking Production Financing

Planned Production: Late 2026





FILM INDEPENDENT FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Roommates of the Silence is a fiscally sponsored project of Film Independent, a non-profit independent media arts organization. Film Independent will receive grants for the charitable purposes of *Roommates of the Silence*, provide oversight to ensure that grant funds are used in accordance with grant agreements, and provide reports as required by the grantor. Contributions for the charitable purposes of *Roommates of the Silence* must be made payable to Film Independent and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

ROOMMATES OF THE SILENCE

Victor Atkins

Writer • Director • Producer

victor-atkins.com

victorbatkins@icloud.com

