



**DDP Films
&
King's College Filmmakers Society
present**

Mind The Gap

A Film by Abdullah Munshi

Story by Abdullah Munshi & Cassandra Moss



This is a story of how mistrust can affect relationships. There are three main characters.

Marcello is a young, handsome male in his early 20s who lives and studies Classics at university in London. He meets a beautiful, young girl named Claudia who is around 19-20 and in her gap year just before starting university. However, she is about to start traveling around Europe soon for a few months. She is visiting London for shopping purposes and we meet her for the first time around Covent Garden. Marcello sees her from a distance and observes quite keenly, but she disappears amongst the crowds and so he goes back to his own business.

Marcello decides to go to **Caffé Nero** for a coffee and spots Claudia again. She doesn't notice him and grabs a coffee and heads off to continue with her shopping. Marcello thinks it's a sign that he has run into her again and decides to follow her into the next shop. Claudia heads into **Blackwell's** and Marcello is stunned to see Claudia is looking in the Classics section and finally gathers the courage to speak to her. Claudia says she wants to study Classics after her gap year but isn't sure where yet. The initial conversation revolves around the books they both like and why Marcello loves studying in London. Claudia suggests that London's a bit cliché and that there's no mystery left to it, to which Marcello replies that she only has that opinion because she doesn't live in London.

Since she has spent most of the day alone, Claudia does not mind company for the time being and allows the conversation to progress. They find that they like each others personalities and they are quite honest about everything.

They only talk for a few hours whilst hanging out in cafes and pubs, but they have bonded incredibly well and decide to stay in touch. The dialogue must be quick and witty so that a bond between the two has been established. They wander around Covent Garden and even go to **The Disney Store** where Marcello buys Claudia a gift.

Marcello invites her to stay on, but she insists she has to get home. They head off to Waterloo Station on the tube. Marcello is even helping her carry her bags now.

Upon getting upstairs into the main area of Waterloo Station, it turns out that her train is about to leave soon. In a huge rush, it is a truly cinematic moment with Claudia desperately attempting to write her e-mail address



down so as to pass it on to her new friend Marcello. She struggles to find something to write with, and ultimately uses her eyeliner pencil and writes it on a scrap of paper and hands it to him. She barely makes the train and waves back to him, hoping that he takes the initiative to stay in touch. This was a remarkable day where she met this mysterious stranger.

Marcello e-mails her and sends her pictures of their short time together. She keeps these pictures as memorable artifacts of a pleasant time together. They keep in touch via e-mail and text messaging using **Orange** phones.

A few months pass, and they have not met since their first meeting since Claudia is still traveling. However, something has changed now. Marcello has a new girlfriend. Her name is Sophie. She is pretty but more like a girl next door type rather than a stunning model. She is an English student at a university in London and is aged around 19-22.

Marcello is sitting at his flat desk on his **Compaq Laptop** responding to an e-mail from Claudia that informs him of her arrival back into London from traveling abroad. Sophie sees him writing this e-mail and immediately gets suspicious of who this girl Claudia is and why he is corresponding with her. Marcello explains how Claudia and he are just friends and nothing more. Despite this, Sophie is still inquisitive and untrusting.

Marcello sets up a meeting date with Claudia and it turns out that her train arrives at Waterloo Station when Sophie is at work.

Sophie, whilst at work as a barmaid at the King's College Student Union Bar (The Waterfront) in the Strand, suspects that Marcello has been sleeping with Claudia. Sophie discusses the whole situation with a workmate and tells her that she has a right to be suspicious because she caught her last boyfriend cheating. Sophie repeatedly looks at her watch waiting for 7:30 pm and texts Marcello constantly with her Orange phone throughout this time asking what he is doing. Sophie cannot wait until she gets off work so that she can rush off to meet Marcello and make sure he is not cheating with Claudia.

Claudia is sitting on the train headed for Waterloo Station and listening to music on her **Apple iPod**. The train arrives soon at the station where Marcello is waiting for her just at the platform exit area. They greet each other and head off together to catch up. Claudia and Marcello have a mischievous streak and love to go to bars to scam people out of drinks.



They go for a pub crawl and work the bar. After the person they are working buys them drinks, they say that they are not available and that Claudia's boyfriend is Marcello or vice versa. They do this simply for entertainment purposes and to have a good time. The look on people's faces is what they work towards. It is a mutual game they both enjoy.

The clock hits 7:30 pm and Sophie rushes to meet Marcello at a pub. Anxiety ridden and nervous, she arrives at the pub. Upon meeting Claudia, her suspicions are confirmed in her minds eye. Sophie thinks something is up and suspects otherwise even though nothing has happened.

Some time goes by and they go to another bar. Whilst walking in the street, Sophie gets even more suspicious and by the time they reach the next bar, she starts drinking heavily to subdue her pain. Eventually, she gets completely trashed and has to be helped home.

Marcello lets Sophie pass out comfortably in her own bed and decides that it would be unfair to Claudia if they did not go out clubbing since she is only there for the weekend and then has to head off again. There is a fantastic party at the LSE Student Union so Marcello and Claudia head off together to enjoy the night while Sophie lies fast asleep unaware of everything around her. The entire night goes by with lots of drinks and dancing. Despite their inebriated states, Marcello and Claudia do not engage in any sexual act.

Come the next morning, Sophie wakes up and is oblivious of how she got back home. She immediately calls Marcello up from her mobile phone but to no avail since he is passed out from partying the night before and does not pick up his phone. The anxiety starts to kick in and suspicions escalate. Sophie quickly gets ready and heads off to Marcello's place to find out what is going on.

Sophie makes her way into Marcello's building and walks by people passed out on the floor in the hallway with empty bottles of alcohol. Upon arriving to his flat door, she finds that it is slightly jarred open. Hoping that Marcello is there alone, she enters without fear. Sophie hears the shower running so heads towards the bathroom and knocks. To her surprise, it is Claudia in the shower while Marcello is passed out in his bed unaware of everything. He is lying naked with only his sheets to cover him up slightly.



Sophie freaks out and immediately starts accusing Marcello of cheating. Half awake, still a bit drunk and hung-over, Marcello is completely lost as to what is going on with these emotional outbursts. Sophie proceeds to break up with Marcello on the grounds that he has been cheating on her with Claudia. It is hard for her to believe that someone would have such a healthy relationship with a member of the opposite sex and not engage in some sort of sexual act.

In the meantime, Claudia has heard all the noise and comes out of the shower to explain that nothing happened and that she slept on the couch. However, Sophie does not want to hear anything and bursts out of the flat without hearing anything Claudia has to say.

Sophie bursts in tears on the street and is completely shattered emotionally. She heads off for a walk to clear her head listening to her **Apple iPod** and ends up at Hyde Park.

Marcello has never seen her act this way and is very scared that he will lose her. He starts to smoke a joint to calm his nerves and to deal with the hangover. Claudia joins him and says she is sorry for everything and for ruining his life. Marcello tells Claudia not to worry and that he will explain everything to Sophie. However, once Marcello tries calling Sophie, she instantly rejects his calls and turns her phone off.

Marcello is in no condition to do anything now and is completely shattered and devastated emotionally. He is speechless and depressed. Claudia figures that Sophie must have gone back to her flat. In an effort to reconcile the situation, Claudia tells Marcello not to worry and that she will fix everything.

Marcello says he is too shocked and numb to go after Sophie. He lights up another joint. Claudia leaves him to it and heads out to find Sophie. In the meantime, shortly after Claudia leaves, Marcello calls up his dealer and heads out to pick up some more weed.

However, Claudia does not find Sophie at home. Disappointed, she is walking down the stairs of Sophie's building when she sees Sophie opening the door and standing in the doorway.

Claudia starts to explain to Sophie in a very serious way that nothing happened last night. Sophie is still emotionally vulnerable at this stage and



does not believe her. Claudia sits down on the stairs and tells Sophie exactly what happened last night.

Following is a flashback sequence to the goings on at the LSE club night. Claudia was kissing several girls on the dance floor and grinding with girls all night long. On the way home, Marcello was stumbling down the street saying that he really thought that Sophie was the one he wants to spend the rest of his life with.

In disbelief, Sophie continues to spite Claudia. Despite these desperate last attempts to convince Sophie, Claudia fails in her objective here and knows nothing more that she says will convince Sophie. Claudia leaves the building disappointed feeling dejected.

Sophie is now alone and becomes increasingly agitated. Sophie starts chain smoking in her flat and after seeing a picture of Marcello, she throws a book at it. She is furious and, in a way, is enjoying letting her anger get the better of her. Gathering her courage, she decides to cheat on Marcello for revenge. Sophie gets all dressed up ready to go out and pick up some random person for sex.

Sophie goes to Guy's Bar and scopes the room for prospective takers. Finding one who looks suitable, she buys a few shots and takes them instantly at the bar for Dutch courage and heads over to sit down next to him. Next, we find her kissing him frantically whilst being taken into the men's restroom. Sophie fornicates with the stranger in the Guy's Bar bathroom out of spite for Marcello.

Sophie heads home in complete shame and is not very happy about what she has done. It is now that her anger gives way to pain and the acknowledgement that she may have lost Marcello. At home she sits alone on her sofa and starts to cry.

The next time we see Sophie she is coming out of the shower in her bathrobe and there is a knock at her door. Sophie doesn't answer but the knocking persists and we hear a female voice who is Sophie's friend from work. Sophie opens the door and lets her in. Sophie's friend asks why she hasn't been picking up her phone and Sophie just makes up some lame excuse. Sophie's friend then asks where she was the night of the LSE Club night to which Sophie responds that she got too drunk and passed out.



Sophie's friend changes the subject slightly by telling Sophie that she pulled this random beautiful girl at the LSE Club night and even took pictures. Knowing her friend is lesbian and being genuinely happy for her, Sophie reacts positively to the news. Sophie's friend shows her pictures and videos of the two girls making out on her camera phone. As Sophie begins to scroll through the pictures and videos, it turns out that Claudia was telling the truth as she was the girl in the pictures and it does confirm her lesbian tendencies. Sophie is devastated when the truth is confirmed and tries to call Marcello but he does not answer.

Sophie heads back to Marcello's place now to reconcile their differences. She finds Marcello and Claudia sitting on the sofa blazing more weed. Sophie apologizes to both of them and confesses that she has been acting too paranoid and is sorry for how she has wronged both of them. Sophie explains how her friend showed her pictures of Claudia kissing girls at the LSE Club night so it verifies the story.

Understanding that events did get a bit out of hand, Marcello allows himself to get back with Sophie on the basis that she chills out and learns to trust him more. Marcello implores her to be honest with him about everything and she agrees to do so.

The three are now sitting on the sofa and smoking weed together in an effort to resolve their differences. After getting very stoned and drinking wine, flirtations rise and Claudia begins to gently come on to Sophie. At the same time, Sophie also feels immensely guilty about cheating with the random guy at Guy's Bar to spite Marcello but is still reluctant to confess it. Confused and realizing that Claudia is flirting with her, Sophie reckons the best way for her to soften the guilty feeling in her mind is to have a threesome with Marcello and Claudia as this is a male fantasy that Marcello could not resist.

Following is a threesome between Marcello, Claudia and Sophie. Everything is suggestive and simulated here with Sophie initiating the threesome with blowing weed smoke closer to Claudia's mouth and then proceeding to kiss her. Claudia responds to Sophie's kiss in kind. Marcello is initially taken aback by Sophie's actions but decides to go along with the scenario since an opportunity like this does not happen everyday. He clearly fancied Claudia from the start but Claudia never responded in a sexual manner since she was lesbian. Now that the opportunity presented itself for a potential threesome to blossom, Marcello finds it all very inviting. Claudia is sexually experimental by nature so partakes in the act quite



willingly and actively indicating that she is bi-curious and not complete lesbian.

After the threesome is over, whilst Claudia is in the shower, Sophie is alone on the bed with Marcello and decides that she should trust Marcello enough to be honest with him. Sophie begins to confess that she shagged a random guy at Guy's Bar to spite him because she thought he cheated on her but decides to withhold the information since it is not the right time. Instead, Sophie tells Marcello that she loves him and he reciprocates by laying out his feelings while they lie in bed together.

Now the time has come for Claudia to go home again and the three set out for Waterloo Station. Throughout the journey, Sophie wants to tell Marcello the truth but she needs to be alone with him. Marcello and Sophie bid their goodbyes to Claudia and ask her to visit again soon.

Back now at Sophie's place, they are lying in bed together just cuddling. Marcello starts a discussion about how they should be perfectly honest with each other from now on. Sophie feels that this is the ideal time to break the news about her cheating to him since he appears to be in an understanding state of mind. Being both truthful and honest, Sophie tells Marcello how she cheated on him with that random guy at Guy's Bar and hopes he can forgive her since she genuinely believed that Marcello had cheated on her. Sophie says that other guy meant nothing to her and it is Marcello who she loves.

Marcello freaks out and starts to get angry. Completely pissed off with Sophie, he tells her that she cheated with another guy who meant nothing to her and that she cheated on him for nothing. Marcello heads out of her place quickly putting his clothes on. Sophie breaks down in tears again and is left alone in her flat.

Whilst strutting down the street, Marcello's friend calls him up asking if he wanted to do some magic mushrooms. Considering how low he feels, Marcello decides this is a good opportunity to alter his state of mind. Marcello heads off to meet his friend.

Marcello is over at his friends place and they turn on **Lawrence of Arabia** on DVD. Marcello leaves his phone in the other room. Having purchased magic mushrooms, Marcello's friend David begins to chop them up gently with the utmost surgical precision whilst Marcello fiddles with the remote



for the DVD player and TV. They take the mushrooms and the movie begins.

We trace their journey through key moments in **Lawrence of Arabia**. The first clip involves Lawrence blowing a match and it cuts to the red sky in the desert. The second clip entails the mirage sequence hailing the arrival of Sherif Ali. The final clip is of Lawrence coming out of the Nefud desert with Gasim on his camel and his servant Daud gallops towards them in utter jubilation.

Marcello and his friend have been completely engrossed in the film and their minds are blown away by how great it is. They then lie amazed at a nearby toy. It turns out Marcello's friend has bought an **Incredibles Car** from **The Disney Store**. They start playing with it. The car zooms across the red carpeted floor and is controlled by a remote control operated by Marcello. After satisfying their childish urges, they get hungry and decide to go outdoors. Marcello forgets that his phone is in the other room so doesn't see Sophie's missed calls.

Whilst outside, Marcello stumbles in the road and gets hit by a car.

Marcello ends up with several broken bones and semi-consciously wakes up in Guy's Hospital near London Bridge but is still almost comatose. He opens and closes his eyes slightly but does not say anything. Sophie is in tears right now next to him. Marcello's condition still does not change and he does not respond.

Several days linger on, and while Sophie sits passed out in the chair in front of Marcello's bed in the hospital, he slowly regains full consciousness. After the initial nausea and confusion, he recognizes her and smiles gently as a form of positive affirmation that she is there with him.

Sophie wakes up shortly after that and they both start crying together and there is no dialogue here. They are both immensely happy to see one another and these feelings overwhelm how hurt they have both been.

Several weeks pass now and Marcello is better. He is able to leave the hospital with the aid of a cane to assist his walking. Sophie tells him that she has learnt from this experience and says that her biggest problem is that she doesn't trust her own judgment because she's been hurt before. She says that through this terrible turn of events, she has begun to trust her own feelings again and promises to behave better in the future. It's



obvious that Marcello is willing to forgive her but is still a little reluctant to let things return to how they were.

As they enter the lobby level in Guy's Hospital, Sophie says she's invited a friend to meet them. Just then, Claudia appears in the lobby. There is an awkward moment between all of them being together again.

They move onto a restaurant overlooking the River Thames and order a bottle of wine along with some food. Sophie excuses herself to go to the bathroom, which gives Marcello and Claudia the chance to talk alone. Marcello asks what Claudia has been doing. Claudia tells him that Sophie told her about his accident and she was shocked to hear about it. Claudia tells him she even came down to visit him at the hospital, but since he was asleep, she didn't want to disturb him. Claudia explains of how Sophie was there all the time with him at the hospital and that is a genuine sign that she loves him a lot. Claudia adds that all the doctors and nurses can confirm that part for him. Marcello accepts this and says that he knows he and Sophie will work out in the end. Sophie returns from the bathroom and sits down. Marcello extends his hand to hold Sophie's and rubs it gently in a soft, passionate manner displaying his obvious love for her. They both smile at each other.

Claudia then tells Marcello that she has decided to come to London for university. With the exception of his terrible accident, she had a great time in London and would love to live and study there. Toasting Marcello's recovery to glasses of wine, the three sit there absorbing the tranquil moments of a complex and unusual trust for each other.

The film ends with the trio walking along the embankment of the River Thames.

THE END

© 'Mind The Gap' 2005. DDP Films. All rights reserved.