



CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 12

4-7 MAY 2022

WIDESPREAD IN VENICE

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Short meets BARRY PURVES

After being one of the members of the International Jury in 2017, the award-winning stop-motion director **Barry J.C Purves** is back at the **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival**. His animated shorts, shot with the technique of stop-motion have conquered the festivals around the world. Alongside his interest and commitment in cinema, Purves always loved theater. His latest work: *No ordinary Joe*, is all about the combination between animation and theater. The union of these two passions will be the crux of discussion in the masterclass dedicated to him and conducted by the animation expert **Davide Giurlando**, when *No ordinary Joe* will also be screened.

Barry Purves is an internationally renowned animator, set designer and director. Born in Suffolk but currently living in Altrincham, he moved to Manchester in 1973 to study dramaturgy and classical studies at the local university. Here, he merged his love for Greek civilization with that for theater. He has been an animator for directors such as Tim Burton and Peter Jackson. Among his many stop-motion short films that have won international recognition are the Oscar-nominated *Screen Play* (1993), the Bafta candidate *Achilles* (1995), *Hamilton Mattress* (2001) and *Tchaikovsky - An Elegy* (2012). He has also written two books that have become cornerstones of the theory of stop-motion animation: *Stop Motion - Passion Process Performance* (2007) and *Animation Basics - Stop motion* (2010).

Purves, as we said, has always been passionate about theater; He has been collaborating for years with the company Altrincham Garrick Playhouse, where he deals with both the direction of the shows and sometimes the direction of the stage and the set design. His theatrical works are characterized by an extreme care for details and design that combine tradition and innovation. He has directed many Shakespearean reinterpretations, such as *The Turn of the Screw*, and Verdi, such as *Rigoletto*. His works ranged from classics such as *The Importance of Being Earnest* to the very recent *Frankenstein*.

PROGRAMME OF THE SELECTED WORKS:

NO ORDINARY JOE di Barry J.C. PURVES (UK, 2021, 15')

Purves maintains a typical theatrical setting alternating stop-motion and live action. The story is set on a stage that clearly recalls the bedroom of Joe Carstairs, an eclectic woman in the early twentieth century, among the first to declare herself openly homosexual. In this touching short film, Joe and his dear friend Toddie - a rag doll (that) he always carries with him - sweetly recall the past and the events that were, establishing a dialogue as interesting as intimate.