

From the makers of
THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF SMACK & CRACK

**What happens when a thief
steals her own children?**

MOST WANTED FILMS presents

scrambled

A FEATURE FILM



synopsis

An “almost-clean” heroin addict kidnaps her own children. Despite the chaos and danger the young lads learn what it means to be brothers and the mum sort of becomes a mum. Kids’ POV.



TRAILER (3 mins)

✓ www.vimeo.com/512231871
Password: trailer1

WRITER

Eve Steele

DIRECTOR

Ed Edwards & Eve Steele

PRODUCER

Ed Edwards

GENRE

Drama

FORMAT

Feature, narrative

STAGE OF PRODUCTION

Post-production (editing, rough cut, music composition)

When she convinces herself that her two lads – aged 10 and 14 – are being mistreated by their foster parents, a heroin addict – who for now is “doing very well” – kidnaps her own children.

Trouble starts shortly after the kidnapping when the trio break into what their unpredictable mum pretends is a holiday home, but is really her dead friend’s parents’ house, deserted for the summer. At first there’s a sense of freedom and lost love regained, but latent rivalries between the young lads coupled with their mum’s parental fuckeries lead to a fraternal bust up – and the younger lad getting recaptured by the police.

Alone together now the mum and oldest lad bond like blood while robbing and cheating their way round the Welsh countryside, as the heart-broken mum slides inexorably back to her old ways and the boy becomes a man. Her man.

Despite the chaos of the decline and fall, our lad grows wiser and more loving – and especially loving to his younger brother when the two are eventually re-united back in Manchester after disaster strikes and their stay in the holiday home is abruptly ended. And despite it all in the end the real mum sort of becomes a real mum – especially when she realises that to be a real mum she has to let her children go. The whole story is seen from the POV of the two young brothers.

The film makers (a writer/director/actor team) are themselves recovering addicts and made the film on location in Manchester and Wales with their own real children.

main character breakdowns



TOM (14)

Independent and capable, underneath Tom is angry and envious of his little bro's closeness to their foster mum. Tom remembers and misses their real mum. His journey is from angry, disconnected boy – via caretaking his real mum – to being a real brother to his brother.



GINA (LATE 30s)

Wily, wild, life-long heroin addict with a strict moral code she can never keep to. Gina is nearly clean but has never held it together for long. In the end she discovers that to become the best mum she can be she has to let someone else parent her children.



JOE (10)

Joe is settled with his foster-mum but his older bro Tom is his guiding star. He doesn't remember his real mum but the resulting calm helps Joe survive almost anything. Joe will be always be there if Tom is, but what if Tom isn't there anymore?

talent biogs

ED EDWARDS

Ed has had published five novels and a children's book; written on several TV drama series; directed short films; written short films for Channel 4 and BBC 2; written 7 plays for Radio 4. Ed's play *The Political History of Smack and Crack*, finalist in the *Theatre 503* playwriting comp, won a *Summerhall* Lustrum award at the Edinburgh Fringe 2018, ran at *The Soho* 2019, and toured nationally, 2020 and is due to tour again in 2021. Ed's play *The Unknown X*, was selected for the 2020 Elevator Festival at *Newcastle Live*.

EVE STEELE

Eve is an award-winning writer and performer from Manchester who started out as an actor working in TV, film and theatre and began writing professionally in 2010. Since then she has been commissioned to write 7 plays for BBC Radio (3 nominated for awards) and has written stage plays and short films. She is currently on the BBC Northern Voices course and is co-artistic director of *Most Wanted*. Eve is a lead writer on the BBC Radio 4 series, *Blood, Sex and Money* starring Glenda Jackson.

our company aim

Through theatre and film and radio, Most Wanted – Ed Edwards and Eve Steele – aim make you laugh, make you cry and make you rage against a world that doesn't have to be like this.



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PHONE

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We are a writer/director/performer team but also recovering addicts with a string of convictions and time served in jail behind us. Clean and back from the brink now with our own family we are passionate about telling stories that depict the reality of the world outside the mainstream, of people who've fallen through the cracks as they really are instead of how they are usually portrayed in stories and in the mass media. We usually work with people who've been there and done that too.

With *Scrambled* we aim to introduce a genuine outsider to the world, as well as entertain and move our audience – while secretly shining a ray-or-two of hope.

Though both Ed Edwards and Eve Steele have worked in professional theatre, TV and with BBC radio for a number of years now, *Scrambled* is our first feature. We hope *Scrambled* will pave the way to Most Wanted making films on a larger scale. Ed currently has two stage plays he is in the process of preparing as film projects and Eve has several ideas in development that she hopes will end up as feature films too. We are also in the process of applying to make a funded short through the BFI, having made a string of unfunded but award-winning short films over the last few years in preparation.