

A FILM BY
ALEXANDRE ROCKWELL

SWEET THING





LANA ROCKWELL
AS **BILLIE**

PLAYS MOTHER TO
HER LITTLE BROTHER
NICO. VELVET VOICE,
FANTASIZES BILLIE HOLIDAY
AS HER FAIRY GODMOTHER

SYNOPSIS

Taking place during the course of one eventful summer, Alexandre Rockwell's SWEET THING is a bittersweet yet uplifting portrait of that magical time in youth when a day can last forever.

In coastal Massachusetts, a dysfunctional family, portrayed in all shades of black-and-white, lead forgotten lives. Discovering freedom and enchantment among the boats and railway tracks of New Bedford, fifteen-year-old Billie and her eleven-year-old brother Nico embark on an adventure into the fantastic and poetic world of childhood, unseen by the adults around them.



NICO ROCKWELL AS **NICO**
THE CAREFREE AND JOYOUS LITTLE BROTHER



TECHNICAL INFO

DRAMA - USA - 2020 | RUNNING TIME: 91 MIN | BLACK & WHITE | IMAGE 1.85:1 | SOUND 2.0



JABARI WATKINS AS **MALIK**
THEIR PARTNER IN CRIME

KARYN PARSONS AS **EVE**

THEIR CONFUSED AND
DISTRACTED MOTHER

WILL PATTON AS



ADAM
THEIR LOVING BUT
WOUNDED FATHER



ML JOSEPHER AS **BEAUX**
THE MOTHER'S
NIGHTMARE BOYFRIEND

DIRECTOR'S SELECTIVE FILMOGRAPHY



Sweet Thing (Berlinale 2020)

Little Feet (Toronto IFF 2013)

13 Moons (Sundance IFF 2002) - starring Steve Buscemi

Somebody to Love (Venice IFF 1994) - starring
Harvey Keitel, Anthony Quinn

In the Soup (Sundance IFF 1992 - Grand Jury Prize Winner)

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I knew once I finished *Little Feet*, I wanted to make more films about kids before they enter the adult world. A child's personal relationship to memory and how events unfold fascinate me. In this new chapter, the kids emerge from the shadows of their childhood to collide with the regiment of the adult world. They are no longer under the radar. And the adults around them are either incapable of taking care of them or forcing them into situations they should not be in. As a result, they run away and escape into a world of poetry, friendship, and freedom that come naturally to them.

This is a very personal film, my children, my wife, and my dear friend Will Patton came together to make it. We filmed with a hybrid between fiction and reality with a combination of trained actors and non-professionals. Due to the experimental nature of the film and the inventiveness, I wanted to shoot in 16mm film stock in order to bring a raw black-and-white, giving it a timeless feeling. Although this story takes place out of time, it is very real and contemporary. The insecurity, poetry, and invention of these kids are mirrored by the film style. There is nothing conformist about the way we approached the filming. At the same time, it is very classic in style.

I know that *Sweet Thing* was a film I had to make and I hope it resonates with its audience and that the viewer experiences the same joy we had in the making of it.



CREDITS

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ALEXANDRE ROCKWELL
PRODUCED BY LOUIS ANANIA, HALEY ANDERSON,
KENAN BAYSAL R.D. DOBSON
CINEMATOGRAPHER LASSE TOLBØLL
EDITED BY ALAN WU
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SAM ROCKWELL, JENNIFER BEALS,
HEDY GROTH PUTEGNAT, ELAINE WALSH,
MICHAEL R. RAGAN, WILL PATTON, IAN STIRLING
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS JON BOLES, MICHAEL BARNSTIJN,
HELEN KIM BORDES, OMAR FIGUEROA,
NICK FORD, THERESE GOULET, JAVIN HOUSE
ANITA INSANALLI, HUNTER STARR
MUSIC BY VAN MORRISON, BILLIE HOLIDAY



CONTACTS

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