



27 August - 6 September 2014

#8

press release

SOMEBODY

DIRECTED BY MIRANDA JULY

“Test my soil. *Deeper.*”

Have you ever found it impossible to say something, face to face, to someone you know, someone you love? The words just won't come out? A new messaging service, SOMEBODY, by Miranda July could help. It's the star of her film for *Miu Miu Women's Tales*, the eighth commission in the acclaimed short-film series by women directors who critically celebrate femininity in the 21st century.

Jessica wants to tell Caleb she can't be his girlfriend anymore. She opens up SOMEBODY, types in the heartbreaking message, and selects Paul from a list. Paul is in the park. Paul's phone *dings*. He eyes Caleb having a picnic. Paul delivers the bad news—as Jessica. Eyes bawling. Arms flapping.. Caleb is, devastated.

The SOMEBODY app then totally saves Yolanda and Blanca's friendship, makes Jeffy's marriage proposal to lonely Victoria, and initiates a curious *ménage-à-trois* between two prison workers and a parched potted plant named Anthony.

This latest addition to *Womens' Tales* showcases Miranda July's unique ability to capture the strange tenderness of contemporary relationships. Her previous features—*The Future* and Cannes Festival award winning *Me and You and Everyone We Know*—share SOMEBODY's bittersweet humour, a recognizably Miranda July tone that also runs through her short stories and Internet oriented artworks, like the participatory website, *Learning to Love You More*, created with Harrell Fletcher.

SOMEBODY takes our endless hunger for communication, technology, avatars and outsourcing, and blends it into what seems to be a surreal near future, but it's not. It's right now. With support from Miu Miu, July worked with a team of developers to create this radical and complex app; when the movie ends we're invited to visit somebodyapp.com to send or deliver our first message. “I see Somebody as a world-wide public art project, inciting performance, connection between strangers and conversation about the value of inefficiency and risk.” says Miranda July.

The styling of July's film continues the collapse of past, present and future. Characters mix items from the Miu Miu Autumn/Winter 2014 collection with vintage and street-wear. In ten short minutes, the film glides from joggers to waitresses to prison guards, to Anthony the needy plant. “With this collection Miuccia Prada seemed to be drawing from the everyday, utilitarian world around her; I fantasized that I was reverse-engineering the clothes back to their origins.” adds July.

The other Women's Tales are: *The Powder Room*, directed by Zoe Cassavetes; *Muta*, directed by Lucrecia Martel; *The Woman Dress*, directed by Giada Colagrande; *It's Getting Late*, directed by Massy Tadjedin; *The Door*, directed by Ava DuVernay; *Le Donne della Vucciria*, directed by Hiam Abbass and *Spark and Light* directed by So Yong Kim.

SOMEBODY will premiere at the Venice Film Festival on 28th August, following previous *Miu Miu Women's Tales* premieres there as part of the *Giornate degli Autori-Venice Days* program in 2012 and 2013. The entire archive can be viewed on a dedicated area of the Miu Miu website, alongside exclusive interviews with the directors and behind-the-scenes footage.

For further information
Miu Miu Press Office
Tel +39 02 3498121
E-mail: pressoffice@miumiu.com



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MIRANDA JULY

biography

Miranda July is a filmmaker, artist and writer.

She wrote, directed and starred in the *The Future* (2011) and *Me and You and Everyone We Know* (2005), which won a special jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival and four prizes at the Cannes Film Festival, including the Camera d'Or. July's fiction has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Harper's* and *The New Yorker*; her collection of stories, *No One Belongs Here More Than You* (2007), won the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award and has been published in twenty-three countries. The nonfictional *It Chooses You* was published in 2011. In 2000 July created the participatory website *Learning to Love You More* with artist Harrell Fletcher, and a companion book was published in 2007; the work is now in collection of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. She designed *Eleven Heavy Things*, an interactive sculpture garden, for the 2009 Venice Biennale, and in 2013 more than a hundred-thousand people subscribed to her e-mail-based artwork *We Think Alone* (commissioned by Magasin 3, Stockholm). In 2014 she debuts the audience-participatory performance, *New Society*, at the Walker Art Center. *The First Bad Man*, a novel, will be published in January 2015.

Raised in Berkeley, California, July lives in Los Angeles.



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synopsis

Phone calls are awkward, email is old, texting is tacky. Wouldn't it be nice to deliver messages verbally, face-to-face, even when you can't (or don't want) to be there? This hilarious and strangely poignant movie introduces Somebody, a radical new messaging system created by artist Miranda July. A mesmerizing cast of characters (including July herself) break up, make up, and make love with this new technology.



Miu Miu Women's Tales #8

Première:

On August 28, 2014 at the Giornate degli Autori — Venice Days within the Venice Film Festival

Title:

Somebody

Written and directed by:

Miranda July

Countries:

Italy, USA

Produced by:

Hi! Production

Executive producer:

Max Brun

In association with

Ways & Means

Executive producer:

Lana Kim

Producer:

Jett Steiger

Cast (in order of appearance):

Jessica — Sophie Mann

Paul — Cory Roberts

Caleb — Ian Lerch

Yolanda — Lika Bosman

Blanca — Athena Hunter

Prim Woman — Nicole Lynn

Boyish Woman — Ariel Cohen

Victoria — Miranda July

Bus Boy — Christopher Spellman

Waitress 1 — Mercy Edwards

Waitress 2 — Jessica Pohly

Waitress 3 — Carrie Gibson

Bold Waitress — Marabina Jaimes

Carl — Steven Lamprinos

Natalie — Hope Shapiro

Anthony The Plant — Lee Noble

Song:

"Hollywood Dream Trip"

Written by John Mills-Cockell, SOCAN

Courtesy of Modern Sounds Publishing

Performed by Syrinx

Hair & Make up:

Nikki Providence

Sandra Ganzer

Length:

10' 00"