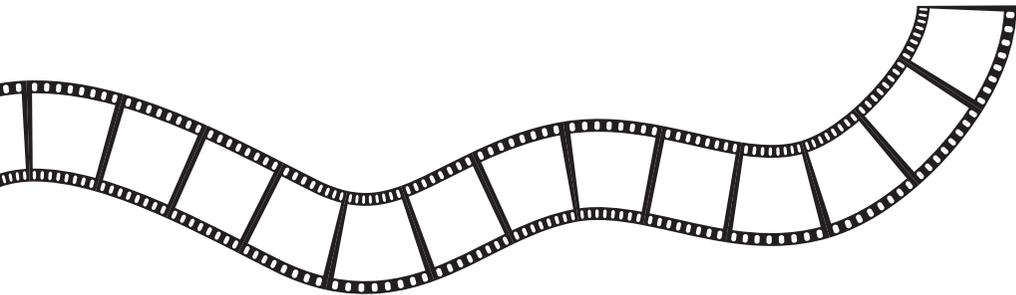




Vital Statistics
Director Shane Meadows born Staffordshire 1972
Released 22 August 2008, Optimum Releasing (UK)
Running Time 70 mins
Genre - Comedy Drama

Somers Town



Synopsis

The film focuses on an unlikely friendship between two boys on the inner London housing estate of Somers Town. Both boys are newcomers to the city; Tomo is a runaway from Nottingham, while Marek is a young Pole who has come to London with his father - an alcoholic labourer working in the massive redevelopment taking place next door in Kings Cross. The two boys share an infatuation with a beautiful French waitress, Maria, and argue endlessly over who likes her the most. When Tomo finds himself homeless, he secretly moves into Marek's bedroom - but it is only a matter of time before Marek's dad finds out what is going on.

Did you know?

- The film's young actor, Thomas Turgoose (who played Tomo), won the award for 'Young British Performer of the Year' at the London Critics Circle Film Awards. He also starred in Meadows' acclaimed film 'This Is England'
- The film was entirely funded by Eurostar as what they termed a 'legacy project' as it is set close to the area around their new Channel Tunnel terminal at King's Cross St. Pancras. However, Meadows maintains that the company did not have any input into the creative aspect of the film
- The film was shot in ten days, with an extra day in Paris. A third of the film is in Polish, meaning Meadows had to cast and direct actors in another language
- The film was nominated for four Independent Film Awards, including 'Best Actor', 'Screenplay', 'Director' and the prestigious 'Best Film' award

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Tasks

Consider where the film is set and how it is shot. What are the difficulties in shooting in such a public area in a big city?

The film is in black and white - what effect does this have on the audience? Why do you think it was filmed in black and white?
