

I DARE YOU



THE XX

MILESJAY



FROM BREXIT TO TRUMP, HATE HAS TRIED TO TAKE OVER IN 2016. IT FEELS LIKE WE ARE STARTING 2017 IN DARKNESS.

ALTHOUGH WE MORE DIVIDED, YOUNGER GENERATIONS ARE OBJECTING TO THIS SEPARATION AND BECOMING MORE ACCEPTING THAN EVER BEFORE.


I WANT TO CAPTURE THIS FEELING, BY BRINGING THIS WARMTH TO THE DARKEST PARTS OF LONDON. A SHIFT FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT - FROM SHY TO DARING - TO MIRROR THE NEW SOUND FROM THE XX.





THIS VIDEO WILL NOT BE POLITICAL, BUT WILL FOCUS ON THE SPIRIT OF YOUTH WHO REJECT SOCIETAL PRESSURE TO CONFORM TO A NEW CULTURE OF FEAR - AS THEY DARE TO BE THEMSELVES.





ALL OF MY WORK IS ROOTED IN NARRATIVE. I LIKE TO TELL SIMPLE STORIES WITH COMPLEX EMOTIONS THAT THE AUDIENCE CAN BELIEVE IN - SOMETHING HONEST AND TANGIBLE.

FOR I DARE YOU, I WANT TO TELL THREE STORIES OF CHARACTERS WHO ARE FACING A POST BREXIT LONDON. THESE NARRATIVES WILL INTERWEAVE THEMSELVES AND THEIR CONNECTIONS WILL CREATE A UNIFYING FEELING OF HOPE. THE VIDEO WILL BE MORE THAN VIGNETTES, AS WE CREATE NARRATIVE ARCS - FROM A CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER TO WEIGHTLESSNESS.

THE SEED OF THIS CONNECTIVE FEELING WILL ORIGINATE FROM ROMY, OLIVER AND JAMIE.

I WANT TO CAPTURE THE INTIMACY OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP AS THEY PERFORM. WE FEEL A MELTING OF THEIR MINDS. AN UNSPOKEN BOND BETWEEN THEM THAT WE FEEL WITH THE YOUTH IN LONDON.





THE STORY

MY WRITING IS INFORMED BY CHARACTER RESEARCH, WHICH COMES FROM CASTING. I HAVE ARCHETYPES OF CHARACTERS WRITTEN BELOW, BUT THESE NARRATIVES WILL TAKE SHAPE WHEN WE FIND DETAILS FORM REAL LIFE.

TAKE THE FOLLOWING AS AN OUTLINE WHICH WILL BE THE BLUEPRINT TO FIND THE STORIES WE WANT TO TELL.

THE VIDEO OPENS WITH ROMY, OLIVER AND JAMIE COMING TOGETHER IN A SMALL STUDIO IN LONDON. THEY ESCAPE A WET WINTER NIGHT. IT FEELS AS IF IT'S ONE OF THEIR HOMES OR A STUDIO JAMIE SETUP. WE SEE THEM CONNECTING AFTER LIVING ABROAD FOR SOME TIME, A HOMECOMING. IT'S NICE JUST TO SEE THEM AS 3 FRIENDS COMING TOGETHER. WE CAPTURE THE MUNDANE BEAUTY OF THIS MOMENT - QUIET AND INTIMATE.

THEY SIT DOWN TO PLAY FACING EACH OTHER. THE ROOM IS ILLUMINATED BY A SINGLE CIRCULAR LIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THEM. THIS LIGHT EMITS A VERY SMALL AMOUNT AND KEEPS THE THREE OF THEM ALMOST IN NOTHINGNESS AS THEIR BLACK CLOTHES BLEED INTO ALMOST DARKNESS.

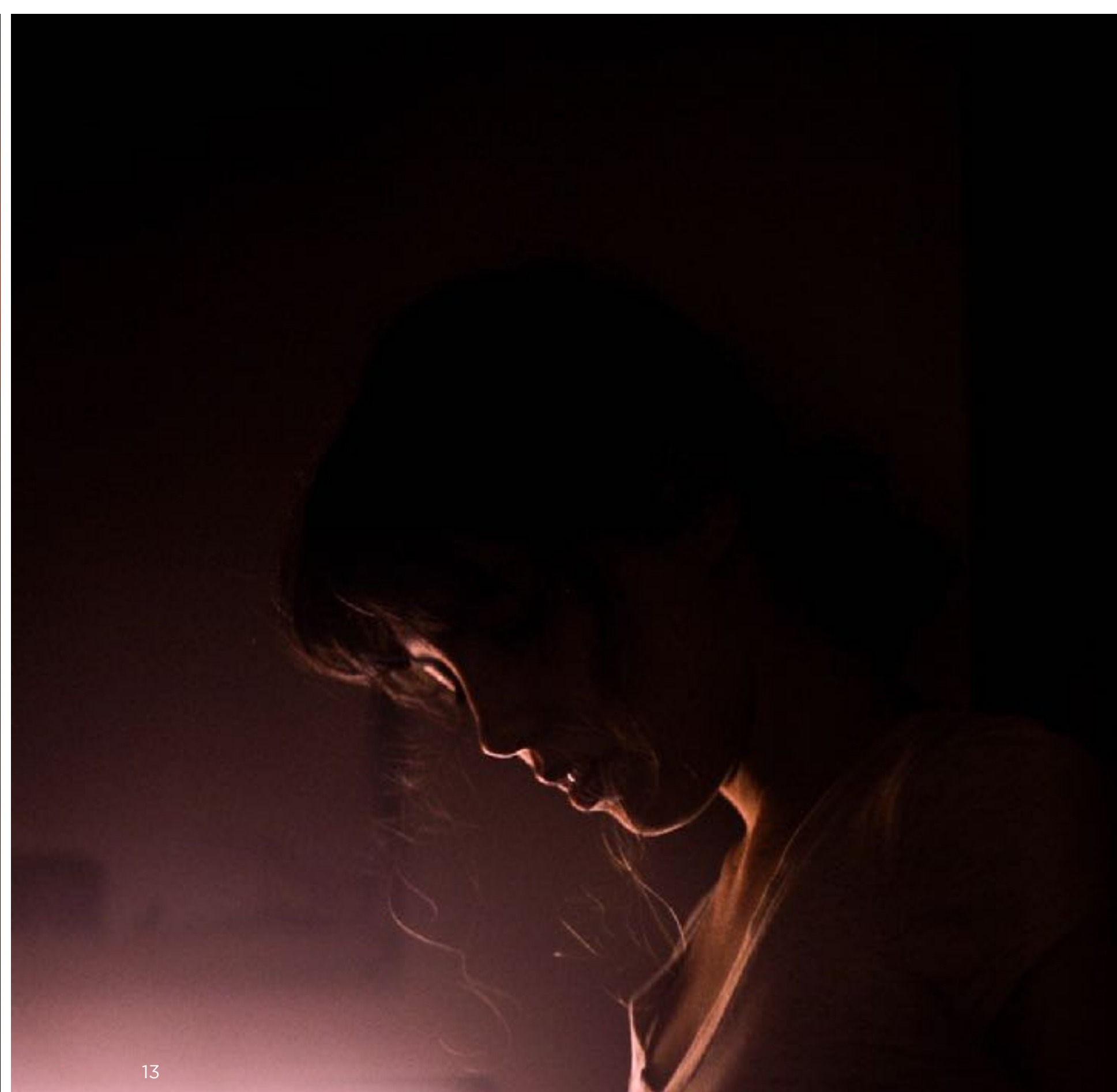
AS THEY BEGIN TO PLAY, THE LIGHT BETWEEN THEM STARTS TO GLOW WARMER. IT STARTS TO ILLUMINATE THE ROOM AROUND THEM.





AS THIS LIGHT GLOWS, WE INTRODUCE THREE CHARACTERS IN THE PROTECTIVE COCOON OF THEIR HOMES. THESE CHARACTERS ARE ALL BORN IN LONDON, BUT HAVE BEEN FACED WITH A NEW FEELING OF BEING UNWELCOME. WE MEET A YOUNG POLISH BOY, A YOUNG MUSLIM GIRL AND YOUNG EAST INDIAN MAN. ALMOST REMINISCENT OF THE DOVES 'BLACK AND WHITE TOWN' THERE IS A PALPABLE ENERGY TO THESE CHARACTERS WANTING TO ESCAPE. THERE IS A SINGLE SOURCE OF WARMTH THAT THEY ALL CLING TO. A SENSE OF WARMTH PROTECTING THEM FROM THE COLD AND DARK REALITY OUTSIDE.







WE THEN FIND EACH CHARACTER OUTSIDE IN A BARELY ILLUMINATED PART OF LONDON. THE SETTING MAKES THEM FEEL UNWELCOME. A FEELING WEIGHS ON THEIR SHOULDERS.

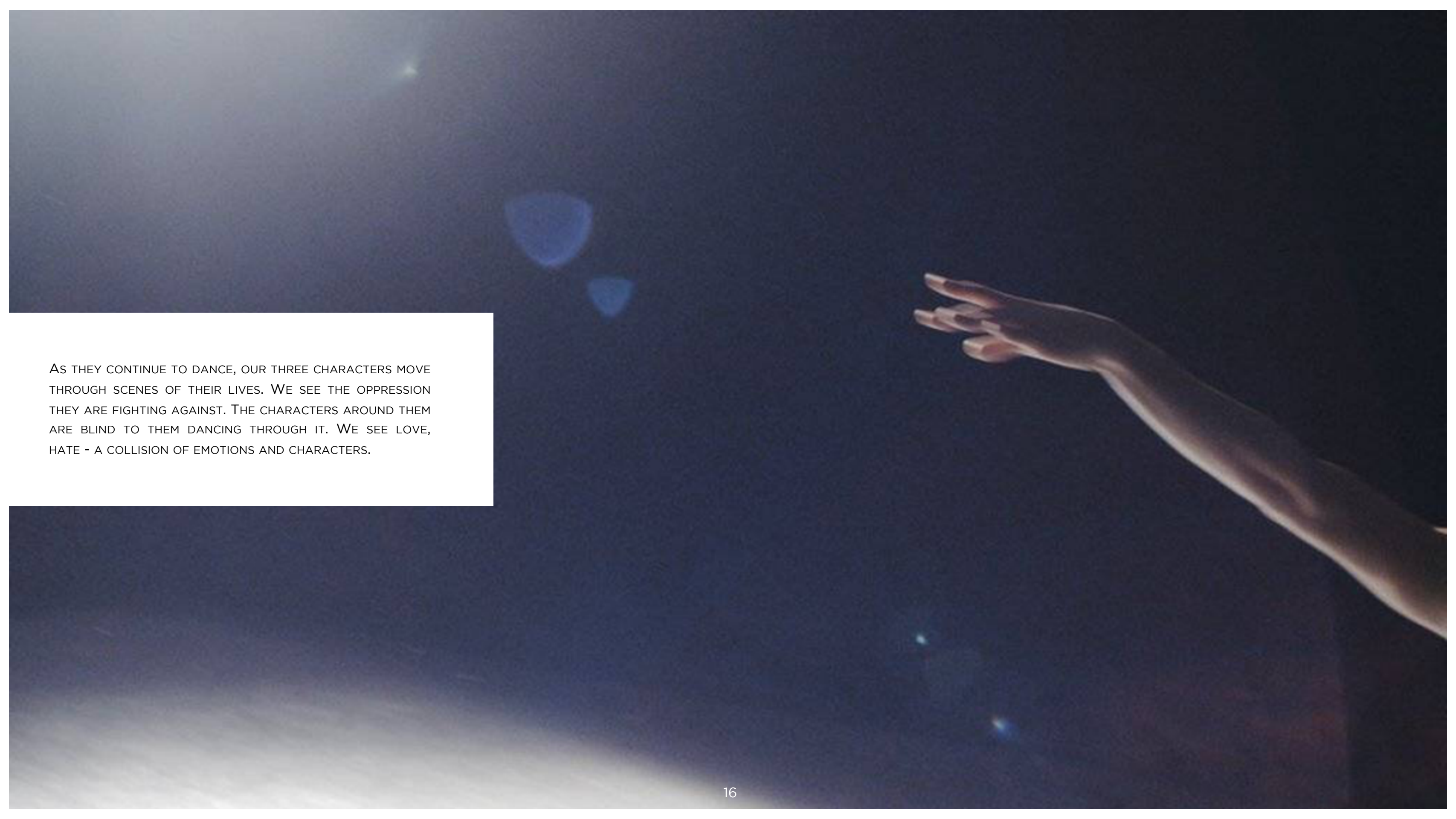


THEN EACH CHARACTER BEGINS TO DANCE AS AN ACT OF REBELLION. THEIR MOVEMENTS ECHO A FEELING OF BEING UNAPOLOGETIC OF WHO YOU ARE. THE DANCE ALSO HAS A SENSE OF PLAY. A FEELING OF LEVITY.

AS THESE CHARACTERS DANCE WE SEE THEIR GRACE AND BEAUTY, BUT ALSO FEEL THEIR EXERTION AND TENACITY. SWEAT DRIPS FROM THEIR FACES IN THE DEAD OF WINTER - A VISCERAL RELEASE.

A LARGE GLOBE EMERGES ABOVE THEM AND CREATES WARM GLOW THAT SHINES DOWN ON THEM. THIS WARMTH BEGINS TO ILLUMINATE EVERYTHING AROUND THEM. NO ONE IS AWARE OF THE LIGHT, BUT THEY CAN FEEL IT.






AS THEY CONTINUE TO DANCE, OUR THREE CHARACTERS MOVE THROUGH SCENES OF THEIR LIVES. WE SEE THE OPPRESSION THEY ARE FIGHTING AGAINST. THE CHARACTERS AROUND THEM ARE BLIND TO THEM DANCING THROUGH IT. WE SEE LOVE, HATE - A COLLISION OF EMOTIONS AND CHARACTERS.







WE THEN FOLLOW A GLOBE OF LIGHT AS IT TRAVELS THROUGH THE CITY. IT BRINGS US PAST DIFFERENT HOMES AND AS THE THE LIGHT SHINES THROUGH THE WINDOWS WE CAN TO PEER INTO DIFFERENT WORLDS LIKE A MODERN VERSION OF '[THE RED BALLOON.](#)'

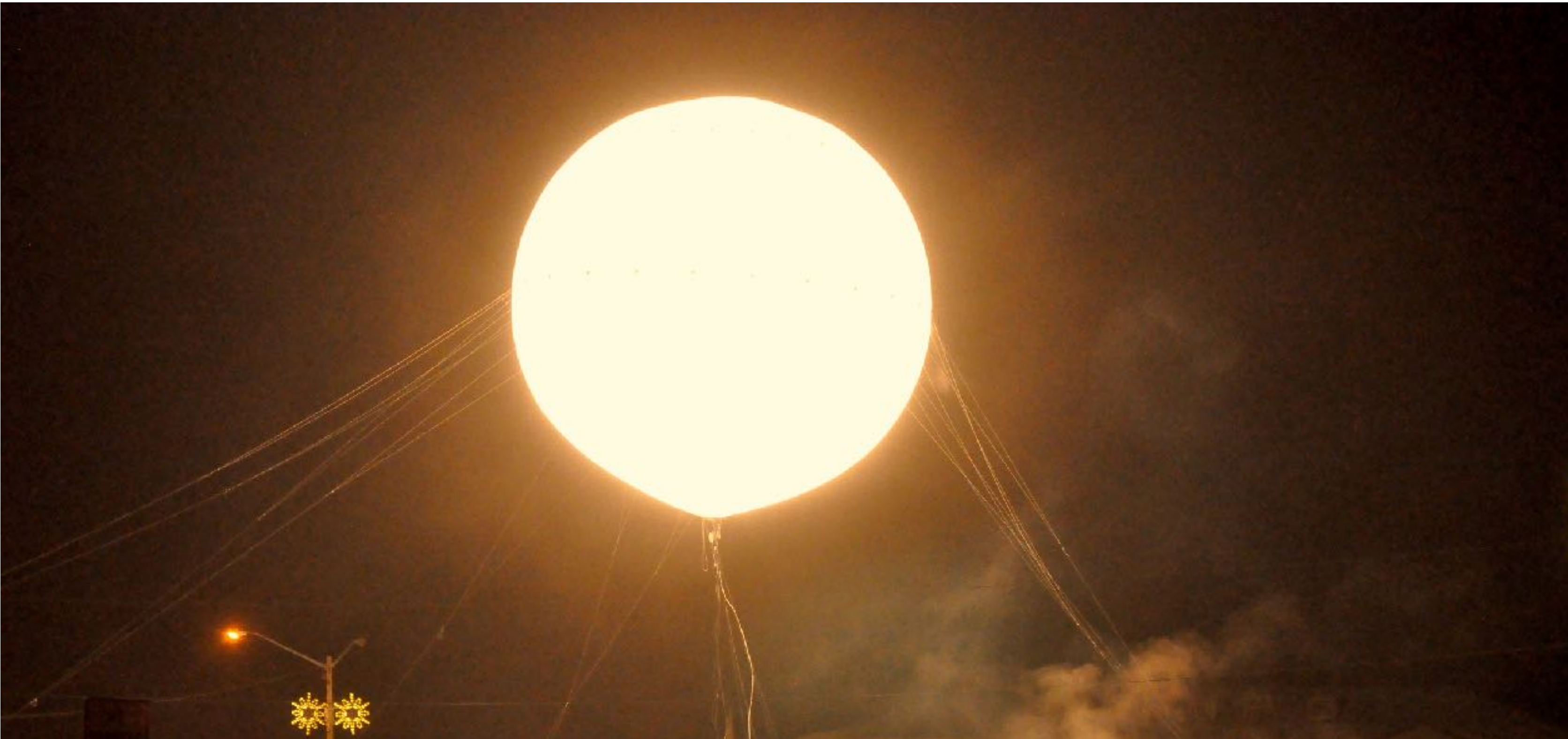
IT PASSES BY THE WHERE ROMY, JAMIE AND OLIVER ARE PLAYING TO BRING US BACK. THE WARM LIGHT SEEPS INTO THEIR DARK ROOM. THE PERFORMANCE BECOMES AN INSEPARABLE ELEMENT TO THE NARRATIVE OF THE VIDEO AS THE DIFFERENT STORIES START AFFECTING EACH OTHER.

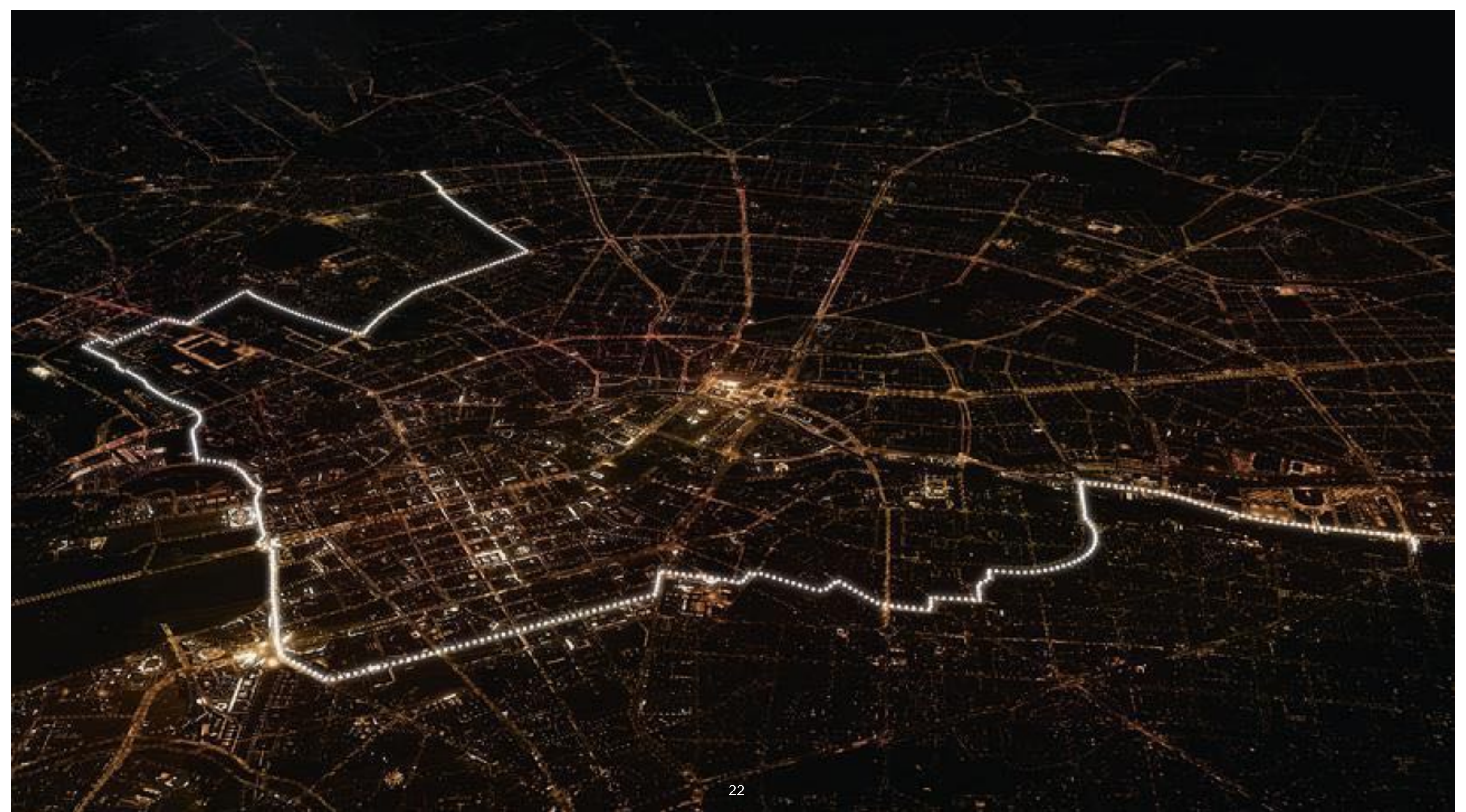


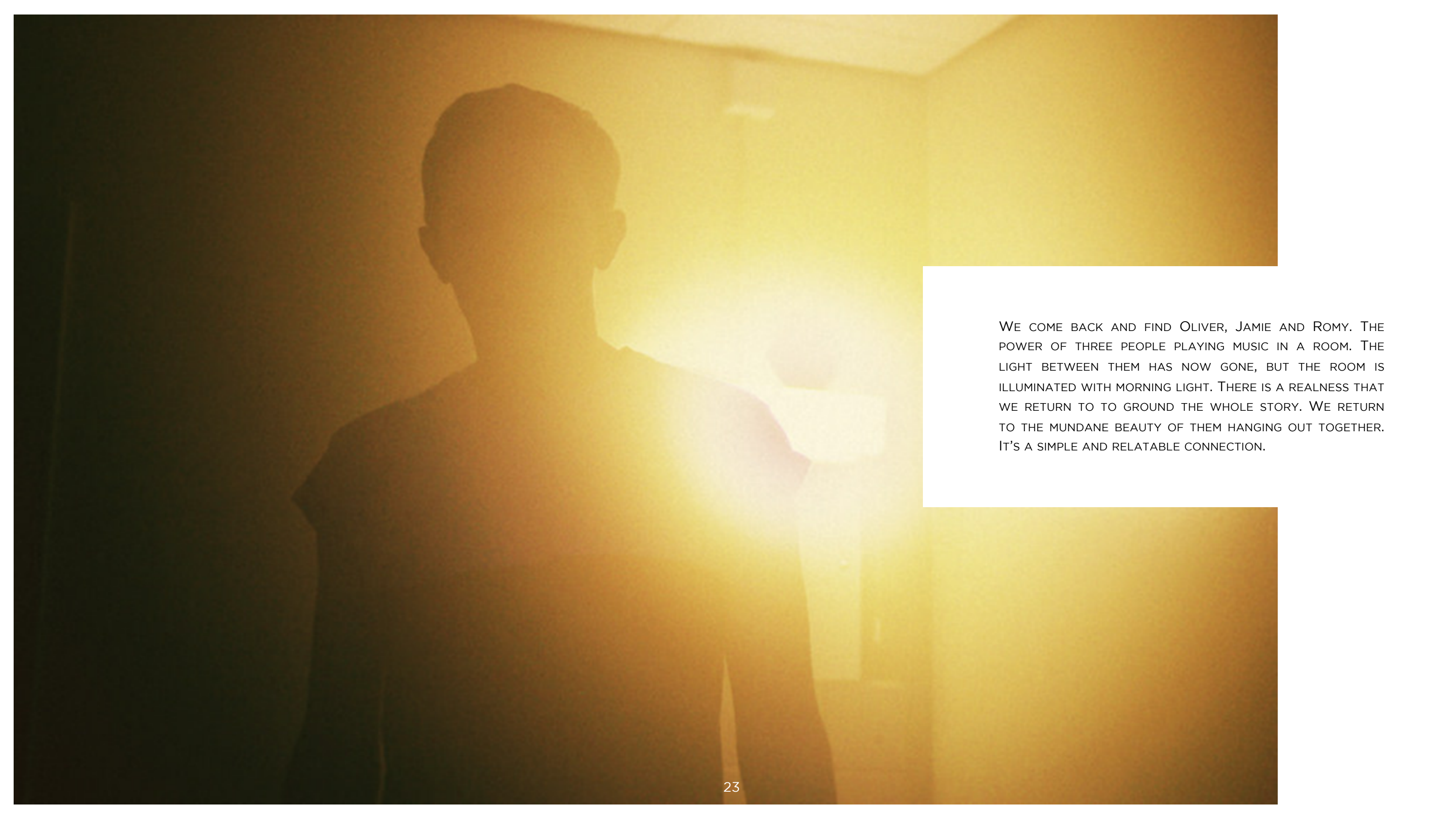
FROM AN AERIAL VIEW WE SEE THAT THESE WARM ORBS HAVE APPEARED ACROSS LONDON - A CONNECTIVITY AMONGST OUR CHARACTERS.

AT THE 2:10 MARK WHEN THE SONG TAKES A BREATH, WE SEE ALL THESE CHARACTERS FINALLY LIBERATED AS THEY ARE PULLED UP INTO THE AIR AND MAGICALLY SUSPENDED BELOW THE LIGHT. THEY FLOAT THROUGH THE CITY FREE FROM THE FORCES TRYING TO HOLD THEM DOWN. A FEELING OF WEIGHTLESSNESS.

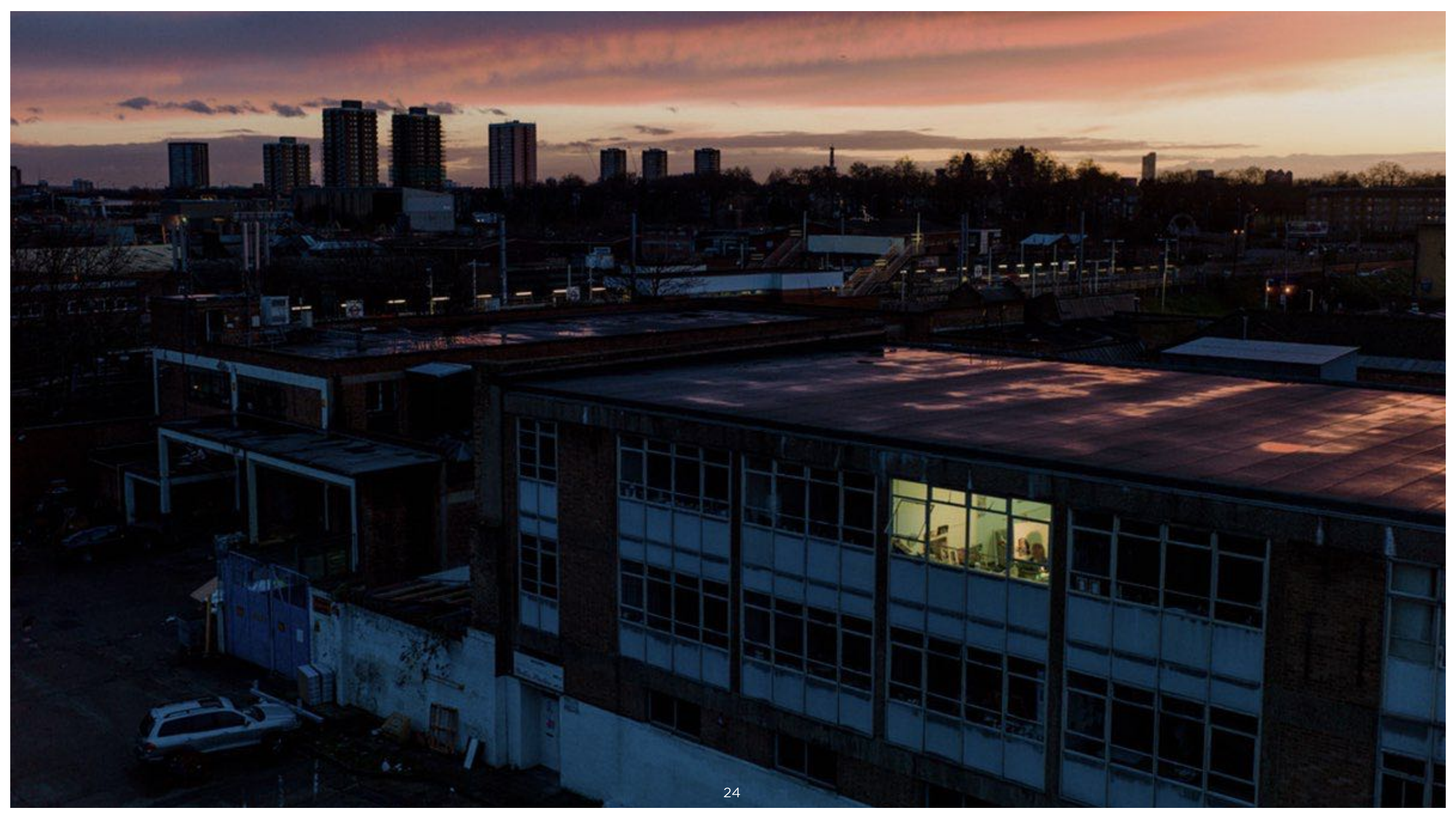
WE SEE DOZENS OF THESE GLOBES FLOAT UP INTO THE SKY. IT'S AWE INSPIRING.





A photograph of a person's silhouette in a room, with a white text box overlaid on the right side. The scene is dimly lit, with a strong light source from the right creating a bright glow and casting long shadows. The person is in the foreground, facing right. In the background, another person is visible, and a doorway or window is illuminated. The overall mood is contemplative and intimate.

WE COME BACK AND FIND OLIVER, JAMIE AND ROMY. THE POWER OF THREE PEOPLE PLAYING MUSIC IN A ROOM. THE LIGHT BETWEEN THEM HAS NOW GONE, BUT THE ROOM IS ILLUMINATED WITH MORNING LIGHT. THERE IS A REALNESS THAT WE RETURN TO TO GROUND THE WHOLE STORY. WE RETURN TO THE MUNDANE BEAUTY OF THEM HANGING OUT TOGETHER. IT'S A SIMPLE AND RELATABLE CONNECTION.



THE GLOBE THAT LIGHTS UP LONDON IS NEVER SEEN BY ANY CHARACTERS, IT IS ONLY FELT. THE LIGHT IS A FEELING OF HOPE THAT LIVES INSIDE OUR CHARACTERS. A MAGICAL REALISM THAT WE NEED TO BELIEVE IN FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

IN POST PRODUCTION ALL OF THE WIRES AND MECHANICS OF THE LIGHT WILL BE REMOVED SO IT WILL JUST APPEAR TO BE FLOATING THROUGH THE CITY WHILE STILL BEING PHOTOGRAPHICALLY REAL.





CHARACTERS

WE ARE BRINGING LIGHT TO CHARACTERS WHO ARE BEING MARGINALIZED. THESE CHARACTERS WILL EVOLVE AND CHANGE ONCE WE GET INTO THE CASTING PROCESS. HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

A YOUNG MUSLIM WOMAN STILL LIVING AT HOME WITH SEVERAL SIBLINGS.

A POLISH WORKING CLASS MAN STUCK ENTERING THE FAMILY BUSINESS.

A YOUNG EAST INDIAN MAN LIVING ON HIS OWN AND DRIVING AN UBER.

OUR CHARACTERS WILL EVOLVE FROM THE CASTING PROCESS. IT'S THROUGH THESE DETAILS, WHERE WE FIND RELATABLE CHARACTERS THAT BREAK CLICHE.

THIS VIDEO IS ABOUT STRIPPING EVERYTHING TO ITS CORE, TO FIND ITS SOUL. THIS IS HOW WE FIND SUBSTANCE OVER STYLE. TO DO THIS I WILL TELL EACH STORY IN AS FEW SHOTS AS POSSIBLE.

WE WANT TO GROUND OUR AUDIENCE IN EACH SCENE WITH LONG TAKES. THIS WILL GIVE THESE SMALL MOMENTS SIGNIFICANCE. BY TELLING THESE STORIES IN THIS FASHION IT WILL BE EASIER FOR OUR AUDIENCE TO DIGEST.

UTILIZING LONG TAKES, BRINGS EVERYTHING TO THE PRESENT. WHEN THE XX PERFORMS WE WANT TO FEEL LIKE WE ARE RIGHT THERE BESIDE THEM.

A hand is shown from the bottom left, reaching upwards and slightly to the right. The hand is illuminated from below, creating a strong red and orange glow on the fingers and palm. The background is a dark, almost black space filled with numerous small, white, star-like specks, suggesting a night sky or a starry field. A vertical, slightly blurred light source is visible in the upper left quadrant. The word "SIMPLICITY" is written in a large, white, serif font across the middle of the hand, with the letters appearing to be slightly behind or integrated with the hand's form.

SIMPLICITY

DANCE

A person wearing a white t-shirt and a yellow cap with a colorful logo is dancing on a rooftop. Their arms are raised, and they are smiling. The background shows a cityscape at sunset with buildings and a sky with soft, colorful clouds.

HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF DANCE THAT I THINK EMBODY THE DRAMA AND HUMILITY OF WHAT WE ARE AFTER:

BLOOD ORANGE - [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=-18J8LGJELO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-18J8LGJELO)

FLORENCE - [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=HR2U2-GCI_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR2U2-GCI_g)

THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE A SENSE OF HONESTY IS THROUGH DIAGETIC SOUND. BY SETTING UP OUR STORIES WITH A NARRATIVE BOOKEND, WE AVOID WALL-TO-WALL MUSIC AND THEREFORE MAKE THE XX FEEL INTIMATE AND TANGIBLE. THIS MAY SEEM LIKE A SMALL DETAIL, BUT IT WILL HAVE A STRONG IMPACT INTO MAKING EVERYTHING IN THIS VIDEO FEEL REAL. WE WILL RECORD LOCATION SOUND IN ALL OF THE STORIES FOR THE ABILITY TO ADD SOME OF THE ATMOSPHERE INTO THE VIDEO IF WE CHOOSE. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS WHAT WE DID ON MY [LEON BRIDGES VIDEO](#).




SOUND



THE LOOK

SO MUCH OF HOW THE VIDEO IS TOLD IS THROUGH IT'S VISUAL ARC. WE WILL START WITH A MUTED VISUAL PALETTE THAT WILL THEN LEAD INTO A WARM LIGHT THAT WILL PERMEATE EACH OF THE WORLDS OF OUR CHARACTERS. OUR ALMOST DESATURATED WORLD SLOWLY STARTS TO BE FILLED WITH WARMTH AND COLOR.

I AM INTERESTED IN FINDING THE BEAUTY IN REALITY. TO DO THIS I SHOOT PREDOMINANTLY WITH NATURAL OR WITH PRACTICAL LIGHT SOURCES AND ON FILM. I ALWAYS MAINTAIN A PHOTOGRAPHICALLY HONEST IMAGE. LARGELY INSPIRED BY STREET PHOTOGRAPHY, I LOOK TO ECHO THAT ETHOS IN THE IMAGES I CREATE. I WANT TO AVOID ANYTHING THAT FEELS POLISHED AND PLASTIC AND AIM TO FIND IMAGES THAT FEEL FOUND AND ORGANIC. TO DO THIS WE WILL SHOOT ON 35MM FILM.



HERE ARE SOME CINEMATOGRAPHERS I WORK WITH FREQUENTLY,
WHO I THINK WOULD BE GREAT FOR THIS PROJECT.

CHAYSE IRVIN - [HTTP://WWW.CHAYSEIRVIN.COM/](http://www.chayseirvin.com/)

STEVE ANNIS - [HTTP://STEVEANNISDOP.COM/](http://steveannisdop.com/)

EVAN PROSOFKY - [HTTP://EVANPROSOFKY.COM/NEW/](http://evanprosofsky.com/new/)

CINEMATOGRAPHERS

I HAVE COME OF AGE LISTENING TO THE XX - FROM MY FIRST BREAKUP, TO MY LATE TWENTIES. THE LAST TWO RECORDS ARE TIME-CAPSULES IN MY LIFE.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO WRITE ON A BEAUTIFULLY WARM AND INFECTIOUS SONG. IT WOULD BE AN HONOUR TO BE PART OF THE XX NARRATIVE. LET'S MAKE A VIDEO THAT GETS PEOPLES' BLOOD PUMPING AND BRING SOME LIGHT HEADING INTO 2017.

THESE ARE MY INITIAL IDEAS. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR THOUGHTS AND DEVELOPING THESE IDEAS TOGETHER.

MILES

X

