

# ABOUT "CHERRY"

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Cherry was originally inspired by the book *Sperm Wars*, by Robin Baker, who captions his book "the Evolutionary Logic of Love and Lust." I lent *Sperm Wars* to John Cotter, the writer, and soon after Cherry evolved as the product of various discussions on the topic of self-destructive relationships.

When John and I set out to make Cherry we were not interested in making a traditional narrative of archetypal self-defeating characters in structured dramatic situations. Instead, we decided to follow character lines based on people and situations both close to us and observed at a distance. The party setting was specifically chosen to naturally bookend the film, as well as to present the audience with immediately identifiable and familiar situations.

The result is a short movie that puts the viewer in the position of a passerby at a party. Instead of the camera being the omnipotent observer, it is itself a guest who only is allowed to see so much and hear so much of the story line unfolding. The goal is that the audience can watch the party progress and objectively identify their own roles in these often seen interpersonal patterns, without their opinions being marred by emotional investment.

Also, as an American born Australian, I wanted to create a reality piece that expressed much of what it's like to simply be at a party in Boston, listening to Boston music under a Boston skyline, and to capture that slightly European feel that Boston has that is so totally unlike any other American city.

## SYNOPSIS.

April and Steve have a relationship at the breaking point, and a crowded party full of maneuvering artists is the worst place they could find themselves. There they encounter Crystal, a megalomaniacal lush fresh out of her marriage; Jocko, equestrian video-artist prowling around for his next conquest; and Taylor, a lonely stoner looking for somebody--anybody--to hold. Ostensibly a venue for Steve to solicit articles for his nascent arts magazine, "Cherry", the party and party-goers soon lose whatever moral tether they may have once had and begin to treat each other's hearts and emotions as inconveniences. Crystal wants Steve, Taylor wants April, Jocko wants Noel.

Cherry features music from the Dresden Dolls, as well as a dozen other exciting bands from Boston and New York. On a balcony overlooking all Boston and Cambridge, characters in their twenties and thirties drink, smoke, and behave badly, but recognizably. Cherry is the last party you've been to, the one you looked forward to all week and woke up regretting.