

PATRICIA

A film by

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After living on the streets and with addiction for 10 years Patricia re-builds her life through finding unexpected support from a stranger. The film explores a sense of togetherness and care from being absorbed into a community and re-frames Blackpool's coastline as a landscape for change.



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Statement of intent

Patricia developed from being commissioned as part of the Left Behind series by LeftCoast, an arts organisation based in Blackpool. The commission responded to an article that appeared in the Financial Times in 2017 titled *Left Behind*. The article draws connections between the UK's coastline, the economy and mental health, with particular focus on the coastal town of Blackpool.

We became interested in the way the article related the psychological effects on individuals to the physical edge-land of the UK's coastlines. We went through a period of investigative research into coastal landscapes and the people that live close to them. What came out of our research was the importance of a holistic and communal approach to mental health.

After spending time in Blackpool and speaking to a range of people we were introduced to the recovery community there through an organisation Fulfilling Lives. Fulfilling Lives works to facilitate individuals in need by linking them up to the relevant services, including housing, medical, and mental health services. They provide continuous and sustained support, and what

stuck out for us was how personal it is. Through our conversations with them we met one of the individuals they work with, Patricia.

After living on the streets for almost 10 years it is in Blackpool she meets a local stranger who buys her a hot meal and then continues to support her through rehabilitation, finding accommodation and her recovery from addiction. More than this though it is the human relationship that supports her recovery to take place. Now Patricia works to support others who are going through what she went through by recently becoming a Lived Experience Worker at Fulfilling Lives and providing peer support at her local NA meetings.

Combining documentary footage with staged scenes the film depicts the layered experience of community and care. Through Patricia's story we understand her ability to overcome her circumstances took personal strength but she was also supported by someone who allowed her to feel trusted and to take on agency. Nobody can recover from difficult circumstances alone, and this is hopefully a relatable notion that anybody watching can feel and respond personally to.





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Screening information

Patricia is a single-channel video work with sound and a duration of 09:20mins. The subjective tone of the film allows it to be experienced in a personal and intimate way. This is important to invite our viewers to relate personally with their own experience.

The screening of the film would suit events, exhibitions and displays that relate to the film's themes of community, care and repair. We encourage screenings to be part of a dialogue responding to the effects of austerity on the lives of people living in the UK today to open up the possibility for change.



