

Sands-end by Russell Liney

A full-length screenplay, set between 1984 and 1987.

Visiting the town of Whitby on the North Yorkshire coast over a period of 30 years inspired me to write the screenplay.

The story is influenced by the Gothic atmosphere of the town before the day-trippers arrive and after they leave. And the village of Sands-end, isolated from Whitby by a beach three miles long. The local painters, sculptors, and potters who live and work in the vicinity. The remoteness of Whitby from large towns and cities and its close proximity to the North Yorkshire moors. The influence Whitby still has on writers of supernatural and mystery stories. The relentless cold weather conditions. The hardened colour of the local residents, and the live music scene. The essence of which formed the backbone of the screenplay.

Sands-end is a gay love story which brings together Garth Granger, an artist residing in Whitby, and Aidan Grant a visiting teacher who is on holiday. Tragedy strikes when Aidan is lost during a midnight swim in the sea - an incident similar to another one, experienced by Garth when he was a young man - and in the aftermath of Aidan's disappearance Garth undergoes a mental and physical breakdown; but a year later Garth is restored when a new lover, Hadrian, comes into his life. But Hadrian brings along some dire baggage of his own, which will greatly impact on the life of Garth, and that of Garth's best friend, Glenda Maxwell.

Sands-end is witty, yet dark and menacing and filled with Gothic atmosphere. An intense love story - set at a time when being out was a luxury only to those gays who lived in major cities where the gay communities thrived - with unexpected twists and turns along the way; where nobody is quite who they seem to be. Everyone concerned is haunted by secrets they own. Under the seemingly idyllic surface of the love story is a suspenseful mystery, where dark deeds have happened and more will occur, leading to a shocking, yet irreverent and hopeful denouement.

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