

# Gareth Crook GraphicQuarter

*The routes that aspiring film-makers take towards a career in film differ greatly. It is not always a linear avenue from university to the often small and independent screen, but a journey of growth and creative development.*

Gareth Crook remembers the inspiration coming as early as his GCSE's but recognises that much of his personal development was encouraged at University where he was forced to come out of himself and learned the importance of drive and self-promotion, key to the career of a director/producer.

Unlike a lot of budding directors, Gareth Crook didn't do a degree in film, but in Graphic Design. After graduating he gained employment in a small production house in Manchester which has since grown into a larger business with high-profile clients.

Now a senior member of a large design department, he has followed his creative instincts and inclinations and progressed into producing his own short experimental films.

Since 2003 to date he has produced six short films in the spare time that his job has allowed, although he wasn't formally recognised until he produced *Day2* in 2004. The film as described by Gareth is "a multi-layered split-screen opus" influenced

aesthetically by his accomplished background in graphics.

The viewer would find it extremely hard to miss the influence of this background as they watch what seems to be a piece of moving art. The film itself is a black and white account of the "events of twenty-four hours in the life of a man trying to come to terms with his place in the world", and is beautifully and artistically shot.

The narrative and visual style often raises more enigmas than it reconciles which proves itself as a thought provoker, something which Gareth was conscious of when sketching his ideas, "I wanted to produce a film that could be watched time and time again and for different things to become apparent on each viewing".

*Day2* was noticed and screened by Kinofilm in 2006 at the 10th International Film Festival in Manchester and has also received praise after it was broadcast on the Shortcutters programme, which is

dedicated to granting exposure to some of the best emerging and established UK video artists and filmmakers, on Sky TV.

Gareth Crook appreciates the opportunities given to short film producers and thinks highly of the film community in his own City, Manchester, where they have regular film nights such as Filmonik, Futureshorts and Beat Your Heart Out.

Gareth Crook is certainly an example of a hard worker who seeks his own opportunities and is rewarded for his efforts. He also doesn't seem to be running out of ideas with four new films in production, suggesting that we may hear more from him in the future.

If you would like to view Gareth Crook's experimental and inventive filming, then log on to [www.graphicquarter.com](http://www.graphicquarter.com) which screens his films including the acclaimed *Day2*.

**By Sai-leya Santana**

