



This Is England 2025

Stanley - Introduction by Daniel Hughes-Hawkins

[Accès à la vidéo](#)

- Hello, my name is Daniel Hughes-Hawkins and I'm the lead producer on the short film Stanley.
- I currently work as an assistant producer in London at a company called Acomar Films, working on a children's TV show called Bing.
- If I had to describe the film Stanley in three words, that would be **genuine, emotional** and **provoking**.
- If I was to take you through how I decided to get into becoming a filmmaker myself, it would start sort of, I make the decision to pursue a career in film when I was 12, 13 years old, when, you know, quite stereotypically I decided I loved storytelling.
- I have very strong memories about, you know, watching films with my family and stuff.
- You know, I grew up with parents living in different households and so I had a lot of memories about travelling back and forth between different houses and watching different movies with them and the associations that different movies bring for each of my parents.
- And then my real interest in film kicked off what actually really inspired me to pursue it and go guns blazing towards becoming a filmmaker would be once I started studying my A-levels. Which in the UK is between the ages of 16 and 18.
- And that's when I studied psychology for a little bit and I actually became really interested in the psychology of filmmaking. And I wanted to understand, you know, why different people react differently to the same movie.
And, you know, it all comes down into how we were raised and, you know, what influences we all had growing up and what influences we have in our lives now.
And it's understanding, you know, those small psychological differences that lead into massive changes into how we react to different movies as individuals that really sort of pushed my motivation to become a filmmaker.
- And then leading on to that, I've touched on it a little bit before. But myself and the director got the motivation to make Stanley or tell the story that we wanted to tell in Stanley because, you know, both of us had grown up in households where our parents had split up from a very young age and we loved the idea of showing this sort of interaction between two new step-siblings having that first interaction for the first time, which is, you know, quite a unique story.
- It's not a sort of emotional sort of moment that is covered a lot or in depth a lot in a lot of movies. And we wanted to show that sort of very raw emotional moment that people would experience we're meeting each other with this idea of like: "Oh, you're my new step-sibling now, we're family". And that sort of few moments, few weeks of getting to know each other. And, yeah, as the parents obviously are trying to sort of guide their new step-siblings into knowing each other. And it's very awkward, those first few moments.
- And that's why we wanted to make the movie.
- I hope you enjoyed it and, yeah.