

The Directors Interview: Marcus

Michael: So, there's been, sort of, 48 hours of shooting, and you listening and watching. I just wondered what you felt about how Marcus did.

Marcus: Given that it's really hard to see through my eyes, and really hard to describe some of it, he's actually done a really good job. The first day gave a slightly different perspective, but when the second day material started coming together, I actually saw how good his performance was. With the crowd being there, you kind of, realised, 'Yes, it will definitely fit.'

Michael: Which aspects of your own experience do you feel Marcus really tuned in to?

Marcus: I think it was when we did the final step, and we just, kind of, synced up, without even thinking about it.

Michael: It was very moving to listen to and to watch. At the end, when you both repeated the phrase, 'What's going on?' I found myself not knowing which Marcus was which, which I think was an extraordinary moment.

Marcus: Definitely, and it was just completely by accident really, because I had no idea what he was going to say at any point in that.

Michael: You sparked off each other very well. Do you think that was because you've spent the best part of a year getting to know him, and him getting to know you?

Marcus: Yes. It's just really easy to connect with him.

Michael: And also that inspires trust, I guess, which is the basis of this whole project really.

Marcus: Yes.

Michael: Did you feel that your experiences being externalised-, did you feel that it was no longer part of you?

Marcus: I think that's going to really hit home when I actually see the final product. You kind of see bits of it, but you don't see the full picture yet.

Michael: Did it help you to reconcile yourself with what you've experienced?

Marcus: I've always talked about my mental health issues to pretty much anyone who's ever been interested, and I write about it in my blog, but I've never been emotionally affected by it before. When we were doing the last scene yesterday, I actually felt myself almost crying several times, and I've never done that before. So, it really hit home in that way.

Michael: Was it overwhelming to you, to feel those emotions?

Marcus: Definitely. For the longest time, I was emotionally numb. I wouldn't even cry or be bothered by anything around me. So, it was actually quite surprising that my emotions had come back that much.

Michael: So, there wasn't a numbness. There was affect. There was feeling. You could feel it. Did you feel it in your body as well as your mind?

Marcus: Yes. It became quite a struggle to carry on with the dialogue at one point.

Michael: Was that a positive experience?

Marcus: It was a unique experience. I'm not sure if it was positive or negative. I'll probably have to reflect on that.

Michael: It was interesting that it coincided with Marcus Coates achieving a state of nothingness where the thought process had stopped, and something took over, which I guess was emotion that made you feel something.

Marcus: Yes, definitely.

Michael: That feels like a positive outcome.

Marcus: It's nice to know I can still feel those kinds of emotions really.

Michael: Did you think, when you were approached by Marcus, that this would be what would unfold? Did you imagine what it would be like?

Marcus: I had no real idea until he started talking to me. I just saw an ad, I think it was on Time To Change before it closed down, about someone wanting to do some work with people who had psychosis. I thought-, no idea what kind of art form it would take.

Michael: Did you ever have any, sort of, doubts that it could be possible?

Marcus: Yes, definitely. I wasn't too sure I'd be articulate enough to describe some of it, or he'd understand when I tried to explain it, but it worked.

Michael: Yes. Well, thanks very much Marcus.

Marcus: Thank you.