Working Title: ‘My Little Puppeteer’

Duration: 15 minutes (15 pages)

Genre: Short film (self-contained narrative), fantasy, drama and comedy

Tagline: It’s not the strings, that are holding him down

Brief Synopsis: An anti-bullying film, with its morals confused. Nick a young boy with wooden legs is being bullied at school. His parents send him to a therapist to help with his self-esteem issues. His therapist sets an exercise where he shouts out what he likes about himself in the mirror. Nick gains his self-confidence and challenges the bully at his birthday party, in front of his mum and Naomi, but at what price?

Main Characters: Nick, Rob Forrest and Naomi

Brief Character Descriptions: Nick 12 years old, he has wooden legs and struggles with self-esteem issues.

Rob Forrest 12 years old, he is the school bully. Hates anything out of the ordinary.

Naomi 13 years old. Tall and awkward. Dreams one day of being a dancer. Nick’s only friend (she’s not actually sure if Nick likes her).

Target Audience: The film will appeal to both males and females between 12 to 40 years old. Due to the adult themes and minor violent undertones, the film is not suitable for anyone under the age of 12.

BBFC certificate: 12

Influences: The work of British social realist filmmakers Mike Leigh and Ken Loach. The story is quite similar to that of *Edward Scissor Hands* (Tim Burton, 1990), a ‘Physical Freak’, trying to live a normal existence in suburbia.

Budget allocation: Low budget

Project Dates: 15/10/2004 – 07/05/2005