

Gasoline

Shortfilm

18 Minutes

English/Ukrainian

Written by Melodie Karczewski

Directed by Edward Horsky

*"Gasoline is a wish to find one's fuel in
a world of mixed signals."*

Cast:

Patrick Christopher Ehler

Oleksands Petrenko

Original Score:

Jens Heuler

Logline:

Ever gotten mixed signals? Ever given? Gasoline is an emotionally ambiguous exploration about two men, Jona and Simon, who confront their cryptic signals, and hidden truths during a chance encounter at a gas station. Set against a backdrop of quiet momentum, the film explores themes of connection, distance, and the unspoken complexities of what belonging means.

Synopsis:

Jona comes to the gas station daily before 6 PM to refuel his car. He lives with obsessive-compulsive tendencies. During his daily routine, he unexpectedly reconnects with Simon at the gas station after years apart. Simon has returned because his girlfriend, who lives in Ukraine, is pregnant, and he needs money from his family. In a vulnerable moment, Simon confesses to Jona that his girlfriend had an abortion during his trip. The story delicately weaves themes of belonging, mixed signals, ambiguity, and the search for connection in a world where security and family increasingly feel like rare treasures, underscored by gentle moments and eclectic beats.

Keywords: Mixed Signals, Gasoline, Ambiguity.

We would like to acknowledge the beautiful work of Melodie Karczewski, whose writing shapes the emotional rhythm of the film. Melodie lives with epilepsy and works with a trained medical alert dog who helps her detect seizures before they occur. Her sensitivity and courage are embedded in the story, and we hope her voice is seen with the respect and visibility she deserves as an artist with a disability.

Written by London-based actress and writer Melodie Karczewski and directed by Edward Horsky, *Gasoline* is a 16-minute English-language short film with subtle sequences told through text messages. The story explores queer tension, emotional ambiguity, and the complicated signals we send when desire and vulnerability intersect.

The film follows Jona and Simon, two men who meet again by chance at a gas station after years of distance. Jona, anchored in daily routine and obsessive-compulsive tendencies, is confronted by Simon's return from Ukraine, carrying unspoken truths. Their brief reunion becomes a meditation on what is left unsaid and what might still be possible. *Gasoline* quietly asks what happens in the spaces between recognition and hesitation, between closeness and silence.

Edward Horsky, the director of the film, is of Romanian descent and brings a subtle and deeply observant vision to this story. Oleksandr Petrenko, who plays Simon, is a Ukrainian professional gymnast in Germany's Local League and a new father. Patrick Christopher Ehler, who plays Jona, is represented by the Belgian agency Lucky Star International Talent, is a member of the Queer Media Society, and spent his most formative years growing up in Brazil, from adolescence through his mid-twenties. His experience navigating queer identity across cultures continues to inform his artistic work.

Gasoline was made independently and with great care. It is a film about nuance, about the fragile boundaries between intimacy and restraint, and about how romance can live in silence as much as in declaration. In a world where connection is often fleeting and complex, this film holds space for the moments in between.