Volkswagen Joe

(2013 / Half hour drama)

https://vimeo.com/71932365

Produced by Kevin McCann. Based on a play by Brendan McCann.

Screenplay adaptation by Matthew Roche. Directed by Brian Deane. Producer: Anna O’Malley. Cinematography: Paddy Jordan.

Starring Stuart Graham (Hunger, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy) is the lead-role, this is a rural political drama set in a small border town during the time of the hunger strikes in Northern Ireland.  'Volkswagen Joe' as he is known, is a dedicated, hardworking car mechanic for the local vintage club whose members come from both sides of a divided community. Unfortunately for Joe, both sides view his 'even-handedness' with suspicion. Joe is restoring a vintage Volkswagen Kharmann Ghia for his old friend and neighbour, the local RUC Inspector, Sam Johnson. One day, the local trouble-maker introduces Joe to a journalist called Mac who wants to interview him for a vintage car magazine. It soon becomes apparent that Mac is not who he says he is, but a republican activist with orders to plant a bomb in the Inspector's car. Given their similar backgrounds, Mac does not understand Joe's objection to the deadly deed nor anticipate Joe's decision about how to resolve it.

Funded by the European PEACE III programme with support from Cavan Arts Office, VW JOE was screened in over 30 international festivals including Palm Springs International Film Festival. Winner of 8 awards including Short Film Award at 2014 Celtic Media Awards, Boston Irish Film Festival, Rome Irish Film Festival and Chicago Irish Film festival.

