

DIRECTOR&PRODUCER HSIN-YI WANG | JOANNE MATTHEWS **SOUND DESIGN** NICHOLAS ESCOBAR

When are you going to
cut the grass?



When are you going to cut the grass?

A FILM BY
HSIN-YI WANG AND JOANNE MATTHEWS

3 MINS. | UK | 16:9



LOGLINE

With precise, comedic, performance and a perpetual mechanical soundtrack, *When are you going to cut the grass?* satirises actions of control in the garden, situated in a world where things aren't quite what they seem.





SYNOPSIS

A person in a red boiler suit sets to work in a fabricated world which exists simultaneously outside and inside. Powered by a mechanical soundtrack the gardener performs actions of gardening with precision and moments of distortion. As the film develops the gardener takes moments to liberate their work and eventually lie down and reflect.



TEAM STATEMENT

We are interested in everyday occurrences of ecological destruction in the domestic setting. Furthermore how the acts are powered by the culture of the “perfect household”. When are you going to cut the grass? takes inspiration from the act of mowing the lawn, as an absurd act of slow violence. For most people in the UK this seemingly banal, everyday action is just part of life. We are interested in mowing and more broadly, gardening, as performative acts of control.

To understand these actions we began mimicking them and workshopping a performance to camera. Overtime we developed a minimal absurdist language in which to play with actions of cutting, watering and mowing in a constructed environment which deliberately blurs the boundaries of reality to make the audience do a double take.

With this film we question why are we doing these actions and why can't we let the garden grow wild? What will that say about us? Will we damage our projection of the perfect neighbour who has everything under control?





FILMMAKERS BIOS

Director&Performancer
Joanne Matthews

Joanne Matthews is an artist based in Edinburgh. Her work explores ecosystems, intimacy, and intuition. Working across disciplines her process involves listening, fieldwork and research motivated by how small details connect to big systems, building community and acts of liberation.

Permaculture design and time living in organic farming communities influence her approach. She has a BA in Modern Drama Studies and is currently undertaking an MFA in Art, Space & Nature, at Edinburgh College of Art.

Joanne's work has been supported by Live Art Development Agency, Chapter Wales, Arts Council England, ONCA and Artsadmin.

www.jojomatthews.art

Director&Editor
Hsin-Yi Wang

Hsin-Yi Wang is an architectural designer and artist from Taiwan, working through architecture, 2D&3D graphics, illustration and art film. She is currently doing her MFA degree in Art, Space & Nature at Edinburgh College of Art.

Influenced by the methodology in architecture design, her practice is based on humanism and social science but developed into expressive narrative. Her current artworks are inspired by landscape and natural environment. From a mercurial river to climate change, she aims at exploring the invisible interactions between nature and humanity.





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CREDITS

Filmed, edited & directed by Joanne Matthews & Hsin-Yi Wang

Sound design by Nicholas Escobar

Production support from Yulia Kovanova



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