



[The Film & Video Institute](http://www.theiac.org.uk)

THE IAC BRITISH INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FILM COMPETITION 2017

Judges' Comments

Title: Thicker Than Water

Number: 22058

Award: Three Stars

Thicker Than Water is a film that commendably tackles the serious emotional issue of dementia.

Your story had a good structure. After the characters were introduced we were taken through a series of events showing the mother's gradual loss of confidence and memory, and the reactions of her family in response.

It was beautifully made. We appreciated your sad poignant scenes as she faces the devastating truth that her brain is deconstructing.

Her husband's return as flashbacks inspired her to do something important: to stop feeling incompetent, rediscover her strength and stand up for her grandson at work.

Your photography was generally very good. Occasionally we saw lighting and colour balance issues; especially in the kitchen shots but otherwise you showed great skill. You used creative effects well.

We liked your chosen music and how you used it.

The mother's acting was convincing and very good. The daughter and grandson acted well, but we felt that the manager of the letting agency was allowed to over-act.

We saw that your film had many good qualities but we decided that it was much too slow. It didn't hold our interest for the entire 38 minutes. The dialogue often had pauses between each sentence and there were scenes that we felt were superfluous to the overall story.

It's a shame because Thicker Than Water has four star qualities. A shorter edit of the same film may be worth making. We all felt that it would have a greater impact by being more concise.

Celia George on behalf of:

Judging Panel: Ron Davies FRPS FACI(M) FIPE EFIAP
Simon Sumner