



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

THE IAC BRITISH INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FILM COMPETITION 2018

Judges' Comments

Title: Don't Call Me Baby
Number: 27252
Award: 3 stars

The judges felt that this was a good if predictable story, if he had abandoned Sophie there and then, it would have been unpredictable. The story started with Mark driving home from work when he receives the telephone call from Sophie, whom we believe he only just left as she turned out to be his PA. We were pleased to note that there was a convenient lay-by close at hand. We are then shown that he is married with the ring on his finger. The one thing you notice that as when he is driving home he is wearing glasses which are not on his face as he drives into park his car at home.

Throughout this film the text messages that are going backwards and forwards between Mark and Sophie are not always readable on the screen. The one text he sends when standing at the back of the car is important as it explains why he has returned the flowers to the boot – he has decided to go to Sophie and not bother with his promises to his wife.

The main problem is with the sound – it is echoing round and Hannah's voice is rather shrill. It was felt by the judges that she was a strong actress and convincing whereas Mark was not very convincing at all, he seemed rather weak. He was very quick at sending text messages! You would have expected more reaction to being chucked out of the marital home. His acting suggested that he expected everything to carry on as before while he played away with Sophie. His responses in the argument as to the reason he had to go back to work were unconvincing.

The judges felt that more camera angles could have been used – especially in the dialogue exchanges. We were surprised at how quickly it became dark on that particular night – he hadn't been the house long,

five or ten minutes and it had become very dark outside and also inside
– we assume the curtains were drawn to stop reflection in windows.

This is a watchable, attention holding film of a strong woman and a weak pathetic man who does not like being held responsible for his actions.

Fran Haydon on behalf of the Judging Panel:

Fran Haydon
Alistair Biggar LACI
John Howden LACI