

## **REF2021 Statement**

### **Cleft Lip (film, 84 minutes, 2018)**

Cleft Lip constitutes practice-as-research located within the frame of narrative independent film and world cinema. The film forms part of Knudsen's ongoing critical and practical exploration of ideas through the practice of filmmaking.

Heritage and histories, so critical to framing our present and shaping our futures, are living phenomena which must, therefore, always live in the present. While the digital revolution has liberated our access to moving image technology, it has not necessarily yet liberated our attachment to the hegemony of the Hollywood dominated approach to telling prototypical stories; an approach that usually reaffirms an attachment and aspiration to abundance, complexity and the spectacular. With reference to previous applied theoretical outputs by Knudsen, including *The Total Filmmaker* (*New Writing: the international journal for the practice and theory of creative writing*, Vol. 13, No. 1), *Cleft Lip* explores, through a typical micro budget film practice that is empowering a new generation of independent filmmakers, how to engage with elements of the cinematic form - composition, performance, editing, sound, narrative structure – to create a new independent cinematic paradigm that can truly liberate the cinematic storyteller from existing hegemonic approaches to tell the epic and prototypical story.

Framed within the literary contexts of Joyce (*Ulysses*), the cinematic contexts of Bresson (*L'Argent*), Kaurismäki (*Crime and Punishment*), Pasolini (*The Gospel According to St Matthew*) and Kieslowski (*Dekalog*), supplemented by the theoretical works of Booker (*The Seven Basic Plots*) and Koestler (*The Act of Creation*), *Cleft Lip* has taken on the classics of classics, *Oedipus*, for which there are no contemporary cinematic adaptations, to create a world's first adaptation rooted in the contemporary everyday.

*Cleft Lip* was produced by One Day Films Ltd and is due for release in late 2018, accompanied by a book of the screenplay and annotated storyboard. [onedayfilms.com](http://onedayfilms.com).