



viewties.



Samuel Small.

Photographed by Joseph Sinclair

On the cover

Credits.

Talent. **Samuel Small**
Interview. **Vanesa Miraglia**
Photography. **Joseph Sinclair**

Special Thanks.

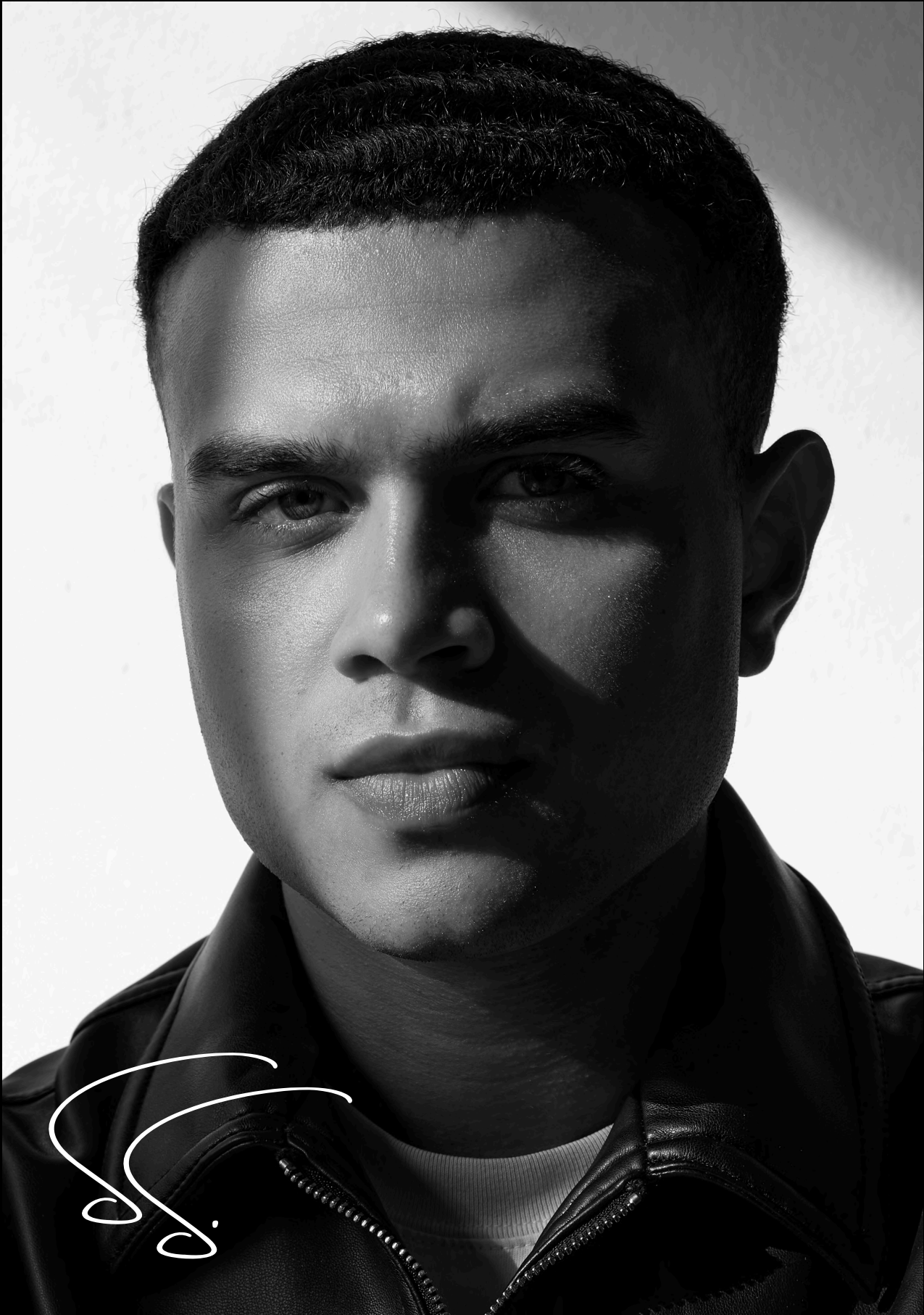
Flip The Script Network and
Conway Van Gelder Grant

Staff.

Vanesa Miraglia

Get in touch with us.

van@viewties.co.uk







Samuel Small.

Rising star Samuel Small shares profound insights about courage, vulnerability, and the transformative power of storytelling. From facing rejection to immersing himself in diverse roles, Samuel's journey reflects the resilience required in an industry where moments of triumph emerge from setbacks. His commitment to authenticity and the joy of creating work that resonates with audiences shines through, making this interview a compelling exploration of the actor's inner world. Beyond the accolades, Samuel's true talent lies in his ability to inhabit complex characters and breathe life into their narratives. And to add to the excitement, we have the pleasure of delving deeper with Samuel as he takes us on a captivating journey through the upcoming short film series, "The Last Moment We Spoke".



V: The title, "The Moments Film Series," is intriguing. Can you tell me a bit about the central idea behind it? What drew you to this concept of a single moment causing such a dramatic shift?

S: When I first read the concept behind "The Moments Film Series" I felt really drawn towards it because I find the idea and concept of how these chance encounters of people together can have huge pivotal and life changing effects on us. Whether that's positive or in my characters case, negative. I had earlier in the year been watching films such as 'Brief Encounter' and 'lost in translation' and felt really drawn to this topic so to have this script come to me, it felt like one of those moments. And then when I got the chance to read more into my characters 'moment' I instantly knew it was something I wanted to give a go. And exploring and researching this was a lot of great fun to allow me to get properly into the headspace.

V: So, within the series, we have "The First Moment We Met," a comedic take on this pivotal moment. Was it a challenge to shift gears and then embody the more serious role of Josh in "The Last Moment We Spoke"?

S: As a young actor it can in some instances be quite hard to find stories such as this and I have found in my personal career that I always seek out a challenge and some variety so I can be as well rounded as possible. This role was definitely the darkest and highest stakes I've ever had to face and was something so so far from who I am as a person so it felt like a massive gear shift and one, I enjoyed exploring. I initially approached it and struggled to understand but after I sat with Josh and really broke down his layers and tried to understand him it felt like it all came naturally after that. I did some research into people who have had similar experiences where in the heat of the moment your whole life changes and really tried to envision how that emotion would encapsulate me physically and then mentally. I was really cautious about not making him too gimmicky and wanted the stakes and emotion to feel genuine and realistic but after some conversation with Juggy and meeting Chizzy who played my mum I felt that I was ready to give it a clear and truthful presentation.

V: How is it portraying a character different from your previous roles?

S: It was daunting. I read the script and knew it was going to be a different journey from anything I've worked on before but I was really keen to do it justice. As an actor you dream of getting roles as intense as this so I was so excited to dive into it. But I think I had this naive con-

ception as to how the process of it would be. When I started prep for it, it really took me a while to get into the character. But the main challenge came when I was rehearsing it and making all the characters objectives and the performance as a whole believable.

V: Juggy mentioned Flip The Script Network's mission to diversify the film industry. What aspects of these stories resonate with you in terms of showcasing a different perspective?

S: Working with Juggy was so great and his consideration and mission to diversify the industry is something that resonates massively with me being a mixed race actor. And Juggy's body of work translates how committed he is to telling stories that haven't been told yet allowing people watching them to feel seen or to see a different walk of life. This era of film and art we are in is such a perfect time to just create and allow stories to be told and being able to be involved in telling these stories is such an amazing feeling and I feel so proud to be trusted with leading these kinds of stories. It makes me happy knowing that people out there can look at these bodies of work and feel represented and I can't wait to see what's next for the industry.

V: We hear a lot about the pressure on young actors to build a social media presence. How did you approach this series knowing it could potentially be a launching pad for your career?

S: Social media has definitely felt like a prevalent aspect of the industry nowadays as I have been coming into my career and I have seen peers around me waking up to find millions of followers. I definitely believe it's a tool that can be massively used to everyone's advantages but shouldn't ever be a performers sole driving force. And I approach every job with this in mind. I came into this industry because I loved to create and make pieces of work that people can watch and take something away from it.

V: There's this idea of a switch flipping, a moment where acting becomes "acting." But for you, Samuel, was there a specific point where it transitioned from something you enjoyed to a true identity, or has it always felt like a part of you?

S: I've been acting and performing all of my life and it's always been a part of me and something I've been surrounded by. I started professionally when I was 12 and I think I was sort of naive about what it took to be an actor but the more I worked, the more I felt I settled into it. When you are 13 years old and stepping out on-

“

**“That first ‘no’
gave me all the courage that I had
needed to keep pushing on.”**

SAMUEL SMALL

”



to a west end stage, you have no choice but to flip the switch and give it your everything. Entertaining people has always been a part of me but I still put in a lot of work to better my craft and be the best performer I can be. I found massively as I got into my tv and film career and started taking on more adult roles with high stakes I was worried at first about if I was going to be able to put out a truthful performance but I found I was able to switch on and give it my all despite working long hard hours. It's such a vulnerable and mentally taxing industry at times and you can't just coast through it hoping you give the best performance you can, you have to work for the truth in the work you produce and having those moments where you feel as though you hit the nail on the head and you've cracked it is so rewarding.

V: Beyond awards and critical acclaim, what truly validates your work as an artist? Where do you find that sense of respect that resonates most deeply with you?

S: Making my family and friends proud has always been the best validation I can get and being able to put out work that they enjoy is an amazing feeling. I love watching my work and then chatting and hearing their thoughts afterwards. It is truly so fulfilling. Last year I had a film at London film festival and being in the audience and hearing their electric response to it was one of the highlights of my career so far. It felt at times almost as if we were at the theatre rather than a cinema and receiving lovely comments afterwards made me feel as though I had done a good job which is what you hope for. Personally, I aspire to create work that I can watch and feel as though I'm not watching myself and am watching just that character on screen as if it's a different human. That is always my goal as I embody a new character and when that pays off it's all the personal validation I could hope for.

V: Congratulations on your recent feature film, Bonus Track! It's a fascinating combination of LGBTQ+ romance, music, and coming-of-age themes. Can you tell us a bit about your experience working on this project and what drew you to this genre? How do you think it adds to the diversity of your body of work?

S: Thank you!! I read this script back in early 2022 and loved the concept as a whole and felt super drawn to the musical elements. It is a super sweet story and I fell in love with the characters on the first read and when I found out I was going to be doing it and I had been cast it was an amazing feeling. The shoot itself was lovely and I really learnt about leading a project. I felt massively involved in this project from start to finish which was something that I hadn't ever had before and definitely appreciated and the response from it has just been incredible. I felt really drawn to the characters because with it being a rom com, the romantic themes behind it felt as though it was just

two best friends falling in love rather than it being too forced and in your face. It was very subtle and real and I know a lot of people watching the film can feel represented. I am always trying to find variety in what I do and after working on a couple of serious characters with dramatic themes, it felt great to take the load off and have a really fun summer playing such a sweet character.

V: What kind of roles are you drawn to as you move forward? Are there specific stories you're eager to tell, or directors you'd love to collaborate with?

S: I always like to be challenged and I'd love to completely immerse myself into a role and become that character. I'd love to play a real person in a biopic type film. I'd love to do some action roles and I'd love to play the bad guy at some point. I enjoy being out of my comfort zone and having to really push myself to do the best work I can so if I can continue doing that with my career then I'll be very happy. There are so many aspects of this industry I haven't explored yet and I am so excited to keep discovering new things. I'd love to work with directors like Edgar wright, Tarantino, Jordan peelee and M. Night Shyamalan. But I love working with new/first time directors feels very exciting to bring their work to life.

V: Samuel, this has been a fantastic conversation. As we wrap up, I'm curious about your perspective on courage. It's a quality so many actors need, but it can be hard to define. For you, how does courage show up in your work? Is it about facing challenges head-on, or something deeper? Perhaps you have a personal experience that shaped your understanding of this idea?

S: As I mentioned before, this industry is very very vulnerable and an extremely small percentile of people in this industry are constantly in work. So, to make the choice and decision to commit to the industry shows huge amounts of courage. But when it comes to actually performing you are putting yourself on the line your emotion your heart and your soul is being poured into your work and that takes courage. You have to be courageous to show up and make mistakes until you get it right. To face rejection constantly but still brush yourself off and carry on. When I was just starting in my career, I faced a massive massive rejection and didn't get a job I wanted more than anything. And when I found out I didn't get it I was absolutely crushed and it felt to me that my career was finished before it had even started. But I learnt a valuable lesson at that time that I needed to be courageous and brush myself off and try again, and from that massive heart-breaking rejection, I found some of the greatest successes of my life. And I keep that mentality whenever I face rejection, that first no gave me all the courage that I had needed to keep pushing on.



Viewties

WWW.VIEWTIES.CO.UK

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@viewtiesmag