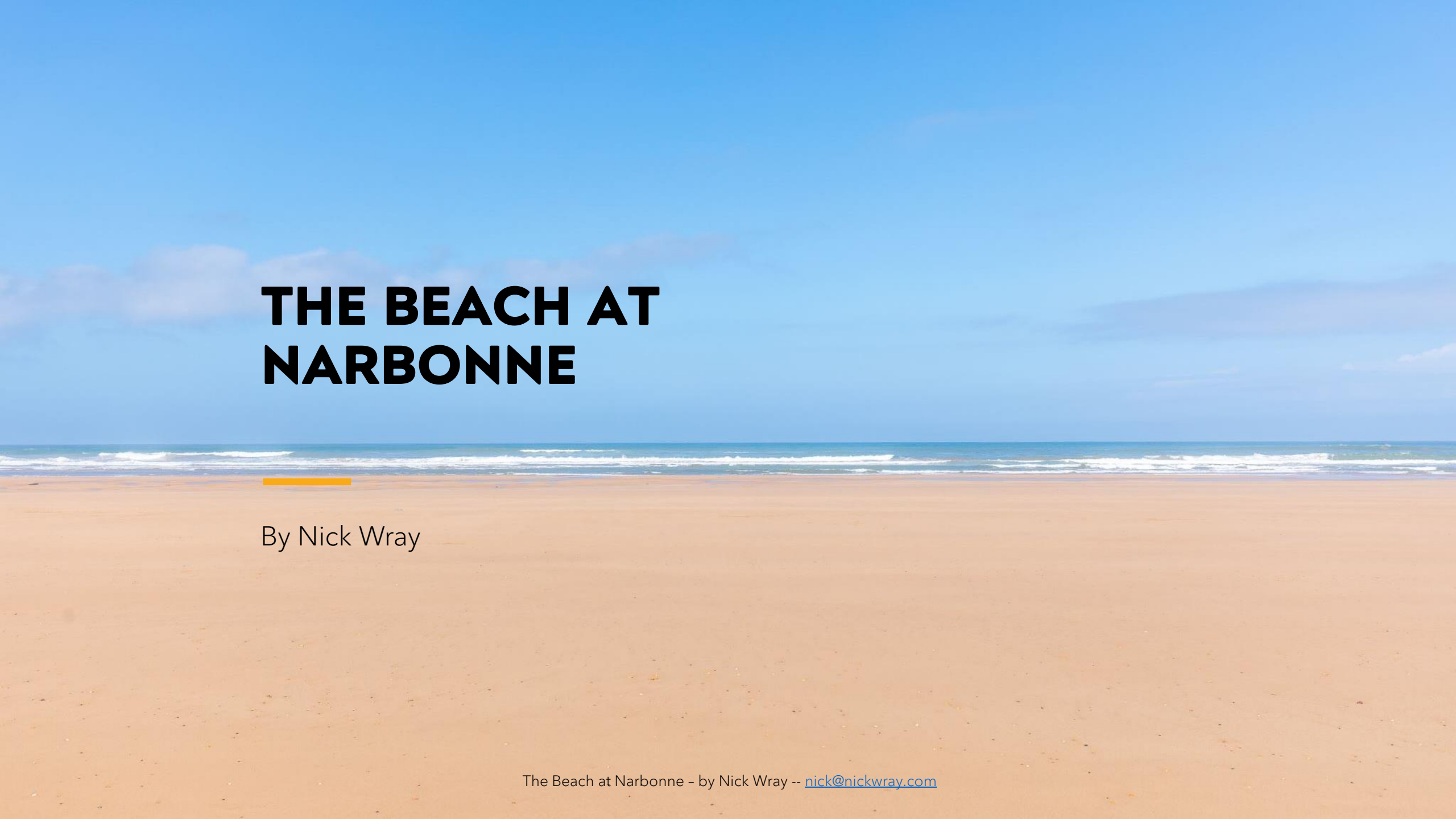


THE BEACH AT NARBONNE



By Nick Wray

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TITLE: The Beach at Narbonne Length: 60 min Netflix-/Black Mirror type pilot drama (with possibility of 90-120-min film adaptation); plus characters for series spin-off series

TAGLINE: You'll wish you *weren't* here, on the beach at Narbonne...

SYNOPSIS: 2049: Ex-pilot and Englishman, Peter D Carter, vacations in France after a devastating war between the UK and Europe that followed the UK's 'Brexit' decision to part from the European Union, more than 20 years earlier. Carter, now, on the last night of his trip to Narbonne beach on the French Mediterranean coast, meets a beautiful, charming yet enigmatic *femme d'un certain age*, 'Madame', and her dog 'Boney' (Bonaparte). Carter and Madame settle down to talk and eat by the beachfront. But the warm ambience slowly gives way to something more sinister, as Carter's past -- and Madame's true identity -- is gradually revealed...

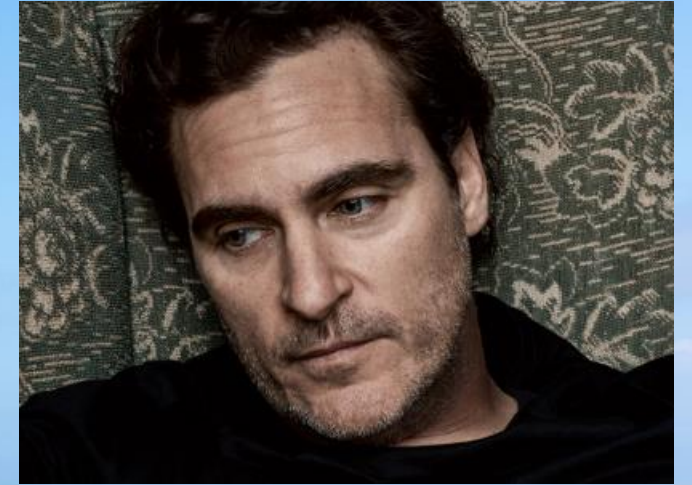
Genre: Sardonic Sci-Fi / fantasy drama

Budget: \$/€/£/Bitcoin...TBA, small cast (three) /ONE location/funding available/tax benefits

THE PROTAGONISTS – PETER D. CARTER

PETER D CARTER

Sentimental, gregarious, nostalgic 50-something, unsuccessful, divorced English professional private school educated male with 'Champagne tastes on a beer budget'... seen better days, a bit 'frayed around the edges...' An eternal optimist, introduced over the theme of D:Ream's 'Things Can Only Get Better'...



THE PROTAGONISTS – 1. ‘MADAME’, (NOW)

‘Madame’ – now...

Enigmatic, French, ‘a woman of a certain age’ (now), 50s, trim, tall, attractive, light build, confident, poised, a Charlotte Rampling-type, a woman of seemingly fluid beauty...



Casting: MADAME (Now):
Charlotte Rampling, Kate Winslet,
Eva Green Kate Winslet, Eva
Green...



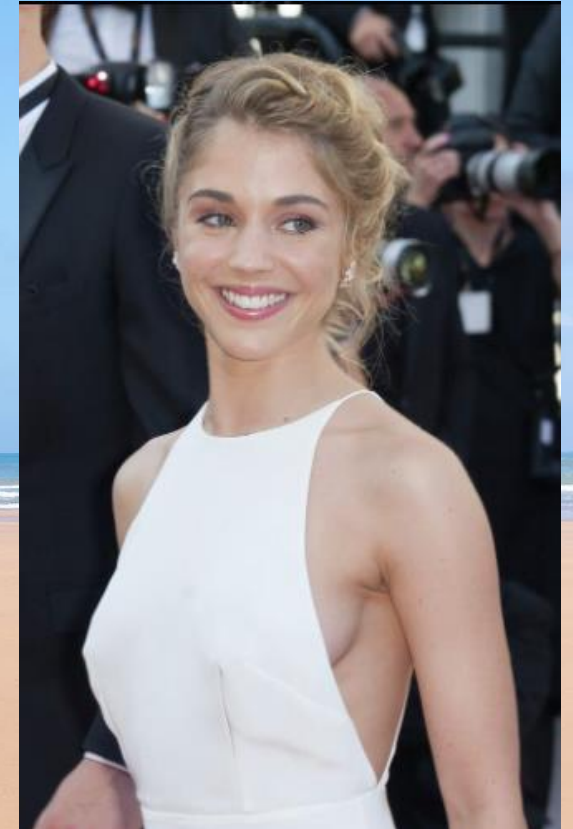
THE PROTAGONISTS – 1. ‘MADAME’, (THEN)

‘Madame’ – then...

At 17, “I belonged to the beach... I’d planned to go to art school...but was seduced by a tech entrepreneur. A violent, bullying man. A man who controlled me. But a man who gave me a son, before I rid myself of him”.

Madame’s son is killed at 18 in the 2029 Great European War (following Brexit, and the UK leaving Europe), but his memories are transferred to a primitive robot, a 'skin' – that costs Madame all that she has.

Penniless, Madame takes up work for the Narbonne municipality – “at least I still live for the beach”. Then – after her death, hit by an early malfunctioning Tesla-type autonomous vehicle – she, too becomes a Wraith (an AI nanobot robot) to earn money to pay for her son's skin rental (and to pay the EU super state taxes that fund such), and to save to buy an upgraded humanoid ‘skin’ to restore her son to ‘life’. Carter – who Madame met on the beach 20 years before – presents a means to that end, of earning money to ‘restore’ her son...



Casting: MADAME (Then)...Alice Isaaz

THE PROTAGONISTS – ‘BONEY’

‘Boney’ (Bonaparte) – Madame’s (as we later learn) robotic dog; initially indistinguishable from a real Airedale Terrier

Fiercely loyal, a bit yappy, and fiercely protective of Madame. Hates and snarls at (any) Englishmen, but particularly at Carter.

Boney was Madame’s human son. As an 18-year-old pilot he was shot down during the Great European War, and badly burnt by a missile fired by a UK drone (possibly piloted by Carter)

Madame, in an attempt to save her son, but left without help from her tech bro, bullying, ex-husband, has spent all her wealth to transfer her son’s consciousness into a primitive robot. A robot in the form of a small dog, Boney, who now accompanies her on the beach on a leash, awaiting the time when Madame (his mother) will be able to earn enough money to buy him a new, more human, robotic ‘skin’...



THE BEACH AT NARBONNE – SYNOPSIS 1/2

We open in the year 2049, with Panama hat wearing Peter D. Carter, an Englishman in his mid-fifties, travels to Narbonne, on the Southeast coast of France, for a holiday. The backdrop is a post-war Europe, with a defeated United Kingdom (now a province called 'Albion'), struggling to rebuild after the Brexit decision and the war with Europe. Mainland France – now part of Greater Europe, meanwhile, is prospering, having rebuilt after the conflict and moved ahead technologically. Peter – a man burdened by nostalgia and the weight of his past, the war, and a life of unfulfilled dreams and personal failures.

On the final evening of his stay, Peter wanders to the beachfront at Narbonne, a place that holds memories from twenty years ago, when he last visited, as a younger man, before the war. As he strolls along the shore, he encounters Madame, an enigmatic and charming woman, and her dog, Bonaparte (Boney). Madame exudes an air of mystery, captivating Peter with her presence and compelling him to join her for a drink at a nearby café.

As they settle at a table, the conversation flows easily at first. Madame's allure and the serene ambiance of the beach create a temporary haven for Peter. However, beneath this veneer of tranquillity, a sense of unease begins to emerge. Madame's probing questions and cryptic remarks hint at a deeper, more sinister agenda. Peter finds himself increasingly disoriented, struggling to keep up with her shifting demeanour and increasingly surreal glimpses of things and occurrences around him.

Madame reveals that she is not an ordinary woman but a Wraith, an advanced AI nanobot entity. Her son, who was killed in the Great European War, had his memories transferred to a primitive robotic 'skin'; a skin in the form of a dog – i.e. Boney. To support herself and her son's 'skin', Madame works for the Narbonne Municipality, using her abilities to interact with humans and gather information. Her ultimate goal is to save enough money to buy an upgraded human-like skin to restore her son to a semblance of life.

Madame's true purpose becomes clear: Boney's sensors have 'sniffed out' that Peter is on the edge of having a stroke. One of Madame's roles is to 'tidy up' the beachfront flotsam and jetsam, including the humankind. Peter, torn between his lingering attraction to Madame, uncertainty if he's unwell, or hallucinating, or having a stroke - and the dawning horror of Madame's apparent intentions.

As the evening progresses, Peter begins to realize that Madame knows far more about him than he could have imagined. She recounts intimate details of his past, his failed marriages, and his struggles with addiction and self-worth. She also knows of Peter's role in the war, as a drone pilot, controlling attacks on France and Europe from the safety of a bunker in the UK. Peter's initial fascination with Madame turns to fear and confusion as he grapples to understand how Madame can know so much?

THE BEACH AT NARBONNE – SYNOPSIS (2/2)

...The narrative intensifies as Peter remembers spectral manifestations of his past traumas – marriage, war, divorce, and his longing for a woman on the beach – the beach at Narbonne, which he last visited 20 years before the main action of the piece. A beach where he first saw a young woman who he fell in love with, who he secretly photographed, and whose image on a basic cell phone he has carried with him ever since. A woman who (then and now) *was and is* Madame.

Carter's surreal horror intensifies as Madame reveals that she was killed a few weeks prior to Carter's visit – ironically, by a malfunctioning self-driving car. Madame teases Carter, saying otherwise they would have genuinely met 'in the flesh', tonight. But Madame reveals that she, too, is now a robot, but one far more sophisticated than Boney (whose 'skin' was created years ago, after the Great War). Madame is the latest nano-robot, able to shape shift, move and communicate at will. One moment able to look like the most beautiful woman on earth, next sand blowing through the air, or to transform into Madame at any age in her previous corporeal existence.

As horror and uncertainty in Carter's mind grows – is he going mad, unwell, he thinks to himself – Madame takes issue with the thoughts and justifications racing through Peter's mind. The idea that he could fall in 'love' with just a stolen glimpse of her on the beach – a phone pic (a digital photograph taken, *stolen*, she admonishes Carter, whilst he was then laying on the Narbonne beach sands with his then wife, too, spying on Madame!). Carter protests, that it was 'love at first sight'. Madame counters that it was lust.

Madame, though still coquettish, reveals not only their past encounter on the beach, but that she has read his mind about events since. Including how Carter was a pilot in the Great European War, and how he remotely controlled a drone that fired a missile that killed her son (whose memories were uploaded into 'Boney' with the technology of 2029, 20 years before.)

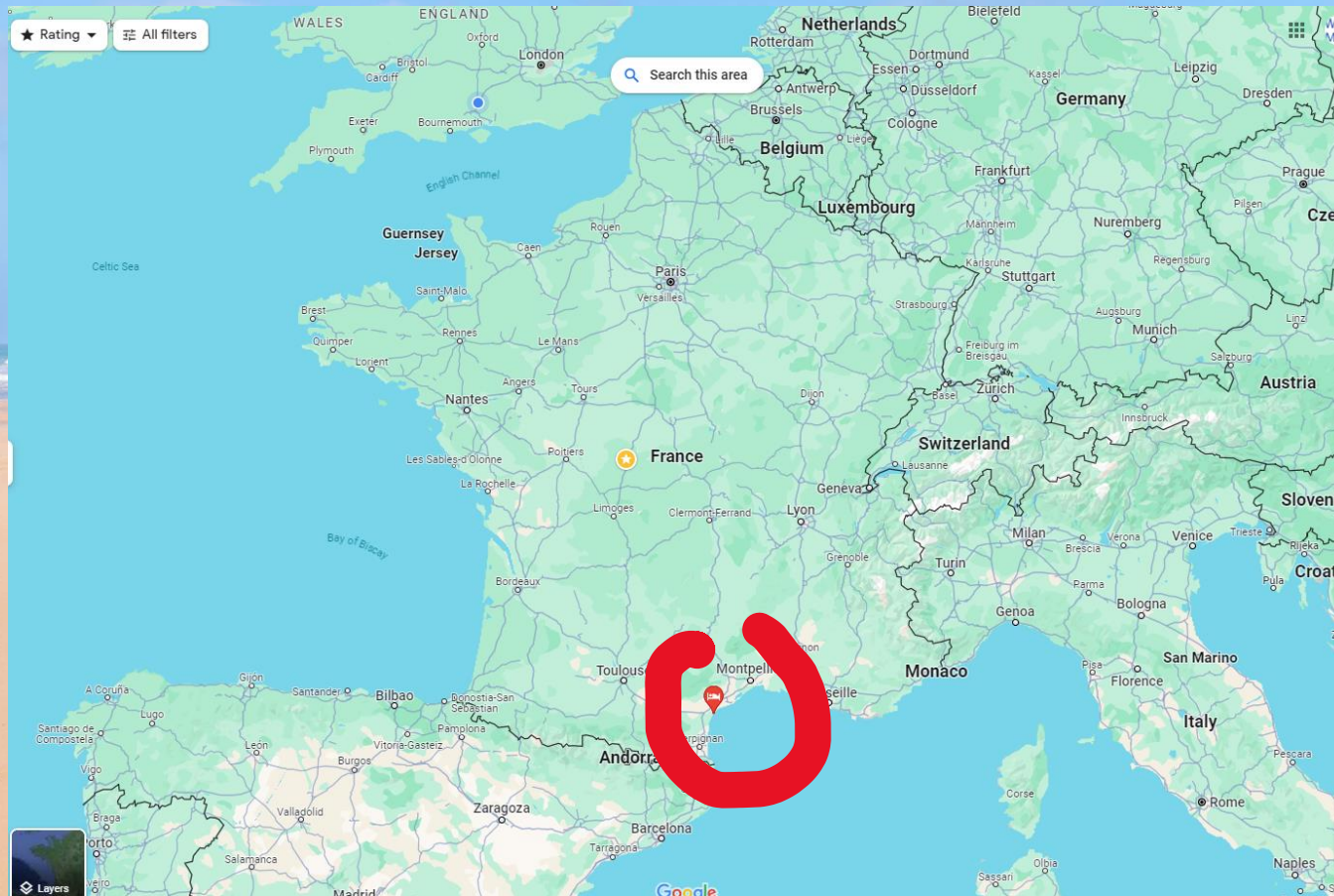
Madame playfully searches for ways and means to help Carter, an operation, perhaps. But she can read his mind, and knows that he is penniless and – according to Madame – about to die of a cerebral aneurysm. Carter - unsure if this is a dream, or if he is having a stroke – collapses. He senses his own body being lifted into the air, by seagull-shaped nanobots, and dropped from on high into the sea; Carter, as he tumbles towards the water screaming, still unsure if he is hallucinating, having a stroke or dying...

In a reprise of the opening scene – where we saw a Panama hat washing up on the beach (with a different coloured band to Carter's), we cut back to the splash out at sea, and then notice a Panama hat slowly being brought back by the sea's currents towards children playing on the beach.

Madame and Boney look at each other, Madame telling Boney that there is much to do that night and further work ahead, 'keeping the beach tidy', and earning money for Boney's new skin...

THE BEACH – MISE EN SCENE

South East France, Narbonne plage...



Narbonne plage

Beach in France :

Narbonne plage is a resort on the southern coast of France in the Aude department. It is separated from the city of Narbonne by the limestone massif Montagne de la Clape and lies at its foot. The town is heavily dependent upon the tourist trade. [Wikipedia](#)



The Beach at Narbonne – by Nick Wray -- nick@nickwray.com

THE BEACH – MISE EN SCENE

NARBONNE PLAGE...



THE BEACH – MISE EN SCENE

NARBONNE PLAGE...

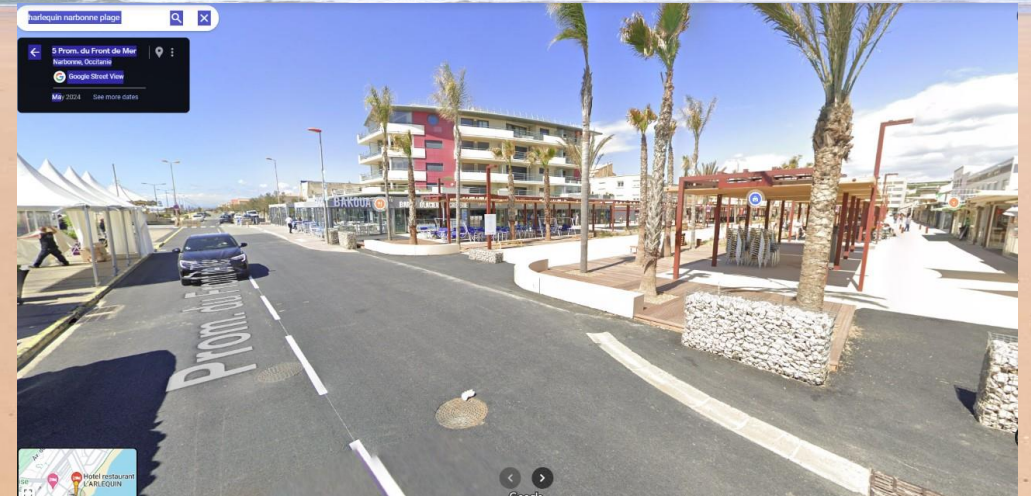
South West France...



The Beach at Narbonne – by Nick Wray -- nick@nickwray.com

THE BEACH – MISE EN SCENE

NARBONNE PLAGE...



WHAT IS IT LIKE?

'Her', meets Black Mirror, 'Ex Machina', with nods to Francois Ozon's 'Swimming Pool' and a dash of Adrian Lyne's 'Jacob's Ladder'...



PRODUCTION (EUROPE...OR US)

Her - Budget \$23 million Box office \$48.3 million (**profit > double cost!**)

Ex Machina – Budget \$15 million Box office \$37.3 million (**profit > double cost!**)

Swimming Pool - Budget €6.1 million (\$7 million) Box office \$22.4 million (**profit > 3x cost!**)

Black Mirror – 27 Episodes, critically/audience acclaimed, nominated for 99 awards, winning 29 of them. And nominated for 17 British Academy Film Awards, winning two, and 15 Emmy Awards, winning nine.

SPIN-OFF SERIES – ENCORE UNE FOIS?

Madame and Boney's adventures (and back stories) could form the basis of a 7-part 1 Season Netflix-type spin-off series. (Series outline available on request)



TARGET AUDIENCE

18-70, men and women, (dogs and AI's) & world-wide audiences...



LINKS TO MUSICAL THEMES & SOUNDTRACKS

D:Ream: “Things can only get better” (on Spotify [here](#)) or YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwWfE4DAyao>

A Flock of Seagulls “Wishing – I had a photograph...” (on Spotify [here](#)) or YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opkzgLMH5MA>

DeadMau5: “A City in Florida” (On Spotify [here](#)) or Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCommIOY5Ok>

DeadMau5: “Some Chords” (On Spotify [here](#)) or Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEQMkzjcLEA>

Henry Cowell ‘Banshee for Piano Strings (On Spotify [here](#)) or Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNQFOpYCOBY>

Sash!: “Encore une Fois” (On Spotify [here](#)) or Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qz2bOXLEvuE>

THE BEACH AT NARBONNE - PLAUDITS



The Beach at Narbonne - Best Feature Screenplay - Geneva International Science in Fiction Screenplay Awards - Summer 2024, & Semifinalist, ScreenCraft Cinematic Short Story Competition

FIN ?

FX

BONEY BARKS ENTHUSIASTICALLY

MADAME:

Oui? Mais, Oui! On y va, Boney... *On y va!*

FX

(FADE IN END MUSIC) WISHING – A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS

It's not the way you look
It's not the way that you smile

Although there's something to them
It's not the way you have your hair
It's not that certain style
It could be that with you

If I had a photograph of you
It's something to remind me
I wouldn't spend my life just wishing...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opkzgLMH5MA>

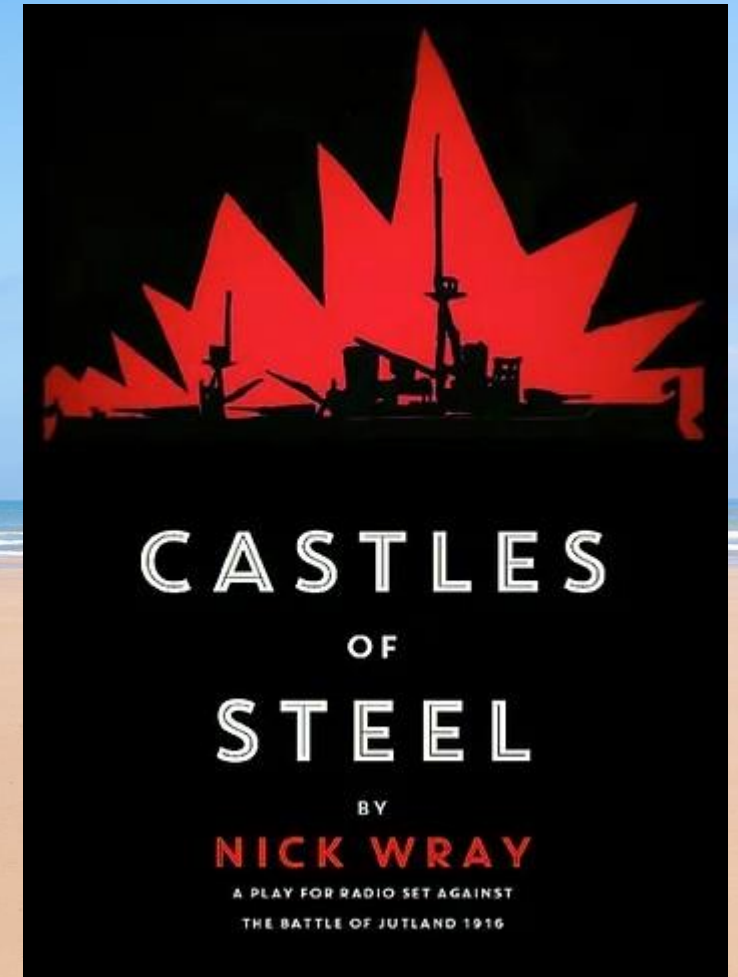
OTHER WRITING PLAUDITS – DREADNOUGHT!



STOP PRESS - DREADNOUGHT, THE
SCREENPLAY OF CASTLES OF STEEL - A 2022
OFFICIAL SELECTION IN INK & CINEMA'S
MILITARY STORY SHOWCASE COMPETITION

Screenplay '**Dreadnought**' (One man can win WWI in an afternoon – but which man is it?), and podcast/radio version as '**Castles of Steel**'

<https://www.castlesofsteel.com/>



OTHER WRITING PLAUDITS

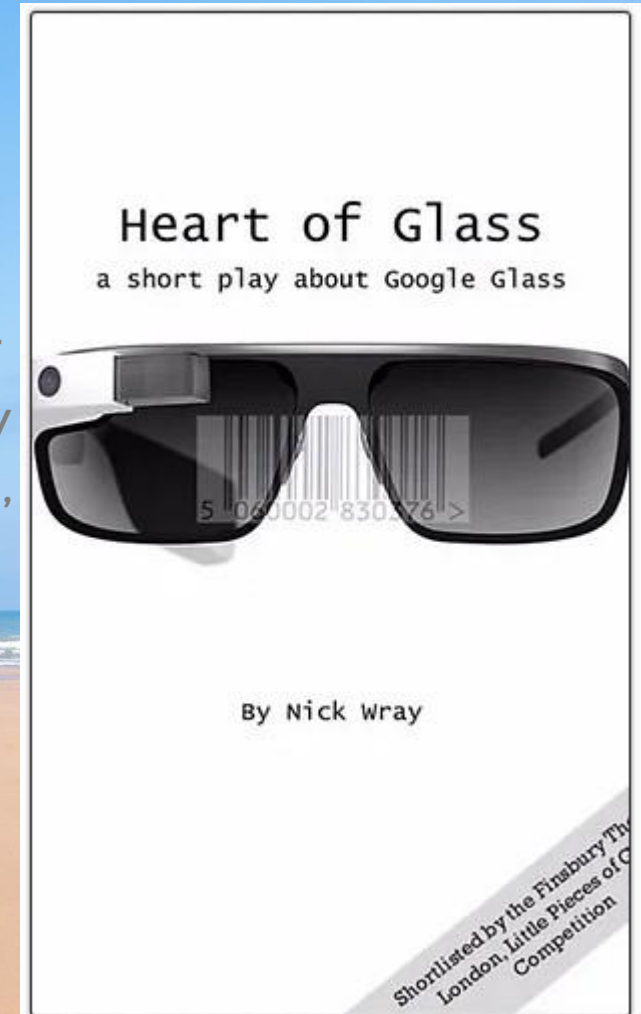
Machines for Singing - "Mr Turing? Dead? DEAD!

What on earth are you talking about, Inspector?

He can't be – I was only just talking to him!"



Heart of Glass – a play about Google Glass - short-listed by the Finsbury Theatre, London, in the 'Little Pieces of Gold' Competition



"Machines for Singing": Semifinalist, ScreenCraft Cinematic Short Story Competition 2018 and Semi-finalist ScreenCast 2021 Podcast Competition

CONTACT DETAILS

When not at the beach at Narbonne, Nick Wray can be contacted in the United Kingdom via:

nick@nickwray.com

or voice at:

+44(0)7762 632110

See also: <https://www.lunchwithjasonking.com/>

WISH YOU WERE HERE?



When not at the beach at Narbonne, Nick Wray can be contacted in the United Kingdom via:

nick@nickwray.com

or voice at:

+44(0)7762 632110