



# BULLSEYE

A FILM BY **MATT PALEY**

with **SAM SLOTNICK**  
**NICK HAAS**  
**SAMANTHA SHERRIN**

## *SHORT SYNOPSIS*

BULLSEYE follows Elliott, a thirteen year-old trying to navigate his own world and the world of his seventeen year-old brother, Nick, in the last summer before high school. As Nick drags Elliott into a world ruled by others' expectations, Elliott becomes witness to the personal integrity Nick sacrifices in the interest of social standing. When Nick's delicate illusion falls apart, both boys get a chance to confront their anxieties.

## *DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT*

BULLSEYE was born from two beliefs about childhood:

1. That the largest changes in any child's growth are invisible to everyone else. Thus, growing up presents a cinematic (or, at least, visual) paradox: everything looks the same, although everything is different.
2. That being a teenager means living in an uncomfortable post-egocentric-pre-self-assured state; the teenager becomes hyper-aware of the expectations of others nearly a decade before settling into a sturdy sense of self. The interim period sees the teenager totally narcissistic and comically self-confident. But these unattractive qualities most often mask unimaginable insecurity and a deep reverence for others' opinions.

The film was shot with non-actors, in their own houses and places of play, in Boston and on Cape Cod. With the exception of Elliott, all of the characters' names are the actors' real names. Many details of the actors' lives were integrated into their characters.

There is a very appealing danger in telling a story so unremarkable, about girls and boys and the pressures of adolescence and sex and growing-up. The plot is unremarkable. It's a subject explored in a million different movies, done poorly very often and well a few times, attempted from every conceivable angle, with every conceivable gimmick.

There is greater danger still in attempting to tell so unremarkable a story in a straightforward, literal, exceedingly personal way; there is no intellectual distance to hide behind, no controversial or shocking material to distract, and no blame to be put on another author, as there is no other author. But any small success, then, is the greater for its nakedness.



