



***Melted* is a Satirical Fantasy Drama: Think *Elf* meets *Brigadoon*, but a lot less heart-warming. A bold genre-busting, boundary-pushing debut feature by Scotland's most promising agent-provocateur female video artist, Rachel Maclean.**



Writer-Director Rachel Maclean is a Glasgow-based multi-media artist who produces elaborate films and digital prints using extravagant costume and over-the-top make-up, to explore issues of identity, class, nationalism and gender, whilst referencing narrative structures from pop culture and fairy-tales.

Until recently she has been the only actor in her films and prints. Pre-recording actors' voices she shoots herself against green screen, then with extensive vfx, and electronic soundtracks, she creates outlandish characters and fantasy worlds which she uses to delve into politics, society and identity.

Her work is both seductive and disturbing, it sucks the viewer into oversaturated candy coloured worlds and repels them with unsettling themes and narratives.

The leader of an island eco-community - who live like ancient Scots - accepts contraband pesticides from a Xmas Elf when plagued by disease and crop failure. This backfires, and soon the all-too-short good times start to unravel.

Title:	Melted	Genre:	Satirical Fantasy
Producer:	Ohna Falby	Wri/Director:	Rachel Maclean
Production Co:	Life to Live Films	Location:	Scotland/UK
Budget:	£ 1,800,000	Date:	14/08/2020

Melted Timeline

Summer - Winter 2020	Winter - Spring 2021	Summer - Winter 2021 - 2022	Spring 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Write and develop script w/Screen Scotland •Attagurl Workshop •Add financial partners in development •R&D(technology & language) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lock script, budget and schedule •Financing (Screen Scotland, BFI, Broadcaster, tax credit) •Key Casting •CLOSE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SHOOT (5 weeks) •Edit •Post (edit, VFX, animation, sound, music) (23 weeks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Launch Film



Melted is an unconventional Christmas movie set in Scotland. Imagine *Elf* meets *Brigadoon*, but a lot less heart-warming.

The film opens with a vision of a Scottish island that is straight out of a Walter Scott novel: tartan, misty landscapes and a rustic, romantic people, living a simple rural life and speaking entirely in Scots Gaelic. The main character is Heather, an idealistic, red-haired matriarch and single mother. Heather is a shaman of sorts; she communes with Mother Nature via a psychedelic deer stag, and delivers her word to the people. She predicts that a great flood is coming, but believes that if they treat Mother Nature well, she will protect and reward them.

Heather cherishes her 10-year old daughter Morag, but is most often preoccupied with trouble-shooting for her small utopian community. Suddenly her life is disrupted when an elf appears to her, and in the tradition of Celtic folklore, he tempts her with the things that she desires but knows she should not have.

Things start to jar with the vision of rural arcadia. We see: a plastic baby's bottle, islanders talking in modern English and contemporary tower blocks poking out the sea. And when Elf shows his face, he's not a traditional Celtic fairy, but a Christmas elf from the North Pole, complete with stripy tights, pointy hat, electronic devices and an American accent. It slowly becomes clear, this isn't an ancient rural community at all. These are modern people that have chosen to live this way for ecological reasons.

Life is hard on the island and the community's belief in Mother Nature is strained by a series of natural disasters. Elf offers Heather contraband solutions, like prescription medication and pesticides. All he wants in return is to spend a little time with Morag. Heather reluctantly accepts, hiding her betrayal from her fellow islanders. She passes off their miraculous recovery from disease and the successful harvest as the results of her shamanic communion with Mother Nature. She has never been so well-respected, the community come to admire and depend upon her.

However, as with all Faustian pacts, the good times don't last, and soon everything starts to unravel. One thing after another goes wrong, culminating in the starving community chasing Heather like an angry mob.

Meanwhile, Elf has his own agenda. Winter Solstice is his Christmas day, and unbeknownst to Heather, he's been grooming Morag for a role as the New Santa Claus, to coincide with the relocation of the now melting North Pole to the island. Suddenly, Morag has been captured and the island has been colonised by elves.

We end in a new era, with a gloomy Heather dressed up in a reindeer costume. She's been commandeered as an extra in a Christmas show starring Morag. When finally the prophesied big wave comes, the island, elves and people alike, are swept under, leaving nothing but a calm blue sea. The glossy Christmas story turned dystopian cautionary tale.
