

DAN AND MARGOT: DESCRIPTIONS

Logline: DAN AND MARGOT is an intimate look at Margot, who not long ago was stalked and tormented by a person who never really existed. After learning she has schizophrenia, Margot tries to reclaim the years that she lost to the illness by gaining a new perspective on her own coming of age.

Short Synopsis:

(Victoria Film Festival Description)

For years, Margot was stalked and harassed by a man she could only call "Dan" and her friends began to notice the joyful Margot grow dark and less coherent. Only with hospitalization did the real damage of her undiagnosed schizophrenia suddenly come into sharp focus. Now Margot is rebuilding her life, reaching out to others, and trying to regain her sense of self. Our understanding of schizophrenia may have come a long way but Dan and Margot skillfully presents how much more we need to understand what it means to be inside it, to live around it and to come back from it.

(Cinequest Description)

What if the scariest moment of your life was all in your head?

Memories have the power to haunt us forever, whether or not they actually happened. For Margot, the man named Dan who stalked and tormented her for three years of her life is as real as any criminal—even if he's the manifestation of her first serious schizophrenic episode. Margot proves incredible strength in her first-hand accounts of her road to healing. Through art and therapy, she found relief. Through relief, she found a chance at life. Eye-opening, heart-wrenching, and ultimately uplifting, *Dan and Margot* is a beautiful examination of the trials of living with mental illness.

Long Synopsis:

DAN AND MARGOT is the intimate look into the life of a young modern woman struggling to take back the three years of her life that she lost to schizophrenia. With transparency and even humour, we will confront the notion of schizophrenia through a female character-driven portrayal that asks questions about the deep-seated stigmatization of mental illness within our culture and the way in which we all choose to cope with our past, present and future.

Not long ago Margot was haunted by the voices in her head. She was stalked, sexually harassed and tormented by a person who never really existed. For three years this went on, leading Margot into a deep depression until finally she was hospitalized and diagnosed.

Today, Margot is trying to gain back the years she lost during her episodes. She wants four things: to move out of her parent's house, to meet others like herself, to find satisfying work and ultimately to discover love.

As she gets closer to achieving what she wants, she continues to grapple with her illness. Schizophrenia is a life-long condition and the chance of relapsing is ever-present. When we start to see signs of paranoia in Margot involving a new male figure, the line between reality and perception is blurred. We, as filmmakers, can't help but get entangled in the fear of what lies ahead.

Margot gives a voice to the many relatable stories of mental illness as she demonstrates a person's right to fail, living with one's past traumas and hope, the key to human existence