



## In His Shoes



OUT OCTOBER 22 / CERT. TBC / 5 MINS.

**DIRECTOR** RACHEL JACKSON  
**CAST** JAMIE DEXTER, DUNCAN PIKE,  
 FINN MCGOOCHAN, CAMERON MORTER

**PLOT** An emotional journey of Thomas Betts's life. When his father (Pike) doesn't return home from war his life is altered in a way he never imagined. Following in dad's footsteps - a new soldier is born.



**Top:** Bedtime stories with Pike.  
**Above:** Thomas, (Jamie Dexter) a sentimental soldier reborn from his fathers ashes.

The lonely journey for him is instantly softened when he finds comfort in having his father with him in everything he does. Jackson's creative reputation kicks in hard and she boots the tedious voice over out the door with Thomas Betts growing up wearing his father's old army boots every day of his challenging childhood. The emotive image of little Thomas wearing those oversized old boots tugs on the heartstrings as hard as when Logan Lerman tells poor Brad that he's been in the army only 8 weeks.

Thomas Betts finds his feet slower than Bambi (but equally as rewardingly) he grows on us in an irresistible, maternal way. After a rough start he develops into the man his father would want him to be. This fine specimen of a man (Dexter) is shown as the stereotypical smartly trimmed, delightfully robust and wonderfully humble soldier. The heart-warming soundtrack follows his physical journey of pure determination to make his father proud.

With a sense of achievement and a nauseating amount of extreme close up shots we fall in love with his inspirational story of loss, determination and we find ourselves in his shoes for a brilliantly unique five minutes of pure gold emotion. **DAVID GOWER**

**VERDICT** An inspirational subject in a hard-hitting portayal of a painfully apparent childhood. A reminder of what really matters, this is a must see film. Quite simply, one of the best films of the year.

HIS SHORT film special will take you on a challenging journey. If you've seen Forrest Gump, Life of Pi or even the Fault

in Our Stars you'll love Jackson's newest creation. As we know she takes emotion to a new level and that level continues in the perfect directorial casting of the duo-Dexter and Pike-that execute this beautiful original drama of life after a death when the heart breaking discovery that Thomas Betts (Cameron Morter) has lost his father to war in Afghanistan. The storyline breaks the mould and twists in a way that you won't see coming. Don't you worry, this short film narrative isn't another

sad story of a child growing up and the whole film is us waiting for someone to pop their clogs. No disrespect intended Hazel Graze but unfortunately with no cheesy love interest in this one we really would struggle.

Yes daddy does die, though this time refreshingly, it allows us to experience the loss of a loved one with a strange sense of patriotism and respect with the usual tear-jerking eyes of a confused little 5 year old rather than wondering what the poor boyfriend will do with out her.

Fresh-faced Finn McGoochan is the ground-breaking discovery and will be a name to remember. 13-year-old McGoochan executes the cliché grieving child in a hard-hitting honest portrayal, when faced with the cruel games of growing up - tragic to watch he struggles and feels more alone than ever. Lost without his father's guidance, To whom will he turn to?