



APPROACH & TONE

I know that this film is part of a new direction for Tous. It's a bold change, but I think it's a strong and positive one.

Taking a more natural and human approach feels right to me. It's modern and youthful and honest. It feels like we're sharing something with the viewer, rather than just showing them. It's an approach which I love, and it's where I feel most comfortable as a director. My work almost always has a human face. It's more intimate and relatable and I think it will breathe new life into the brand, take it to a new, wider audience. After all, tenderness is something we all know. It's not just grand gestures, and it doesn't just happen to other people. Tenderness is there in the smallest and most everyday things. It's offering someone the last slice of pizza. It's saying 'bless you' when they sneeze. It's that last kiss goodnight.

Trying to do something difficult for someone we love is an act of tenderness. Fighting with paper and tape and scissors and a box that doesn't want to be wrapped. It would be much, much easier not to bother, but we do. We're taking something small, something that doesn't seem important, and showing that it is.

Musicals, of course, don't usually take place in this world. Big song and dance numbers aren't something we are meant to relate to. They're choreographed escapist fantasies, glorious and overblown. Which is why I'm excited to bring them into this natural, human world.

Ours it's a musical where not everyone can sing, and no-one dances. Where our limitations are exposed. There's so much humour to be found here. People singing about wrapping presents badly is already funny. If they're not great singers, it's even funnier.

Its ordinary people struggling as things start to go wrong. We don't have to go big and obvious. We're not making crude slapstick jokes with enormous physical punchlines. We're observing. We aren't forcing the humour. We're letting it emerge at its own pace, from inside the premise it's a classy, intelligent way to do it.