his life, things are looking up. It is uncomfortable and heart-wrenching to watch Flick destroy what might be his last chance to get away from his abusive dad, his dead-end town, and from his skunky self.

Shot on a RED camera by Aidan Gault – also a student at the National Film School – the film looks stark and redolent. In fact the editing, sound design, costume and make-up contribute to the film’s high production values.

Fitzgerald dedicated his film to his dad who passed last year and who would have been as thrilled as the rest of the audience at the film school screenings at the Lighthouse Cinema. The emotional depth conveyed in this project is both a thrill and a rare occurrence in student or short filmmaking.

James Fitzgerald has plans to make some really interesting work. His Skunky Dog presents us with the ugly frustrations of a kid who never made it past the end of the bar.

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