

DANGERS

CONNECTION IS THEIR ONLY ESCAPE



DIRECTOR LOUISE LEITCH PRODUCER MELISSA DODDS WRITER CASEY WHILAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ROBIN SCHOLDS DOP MARTY WILLIAMS PRODUCTION DESIGN MICHAEL SIMPSON
FIRST AD ROBIN WILSON Gaffer/Grip BYRON SPARROW MAKEUP DESIGN HIL COOK COSTUME DESIGN BEX JOYCE EDITOR LARA ROLLS COMPOSER TOM MCELROD SOUND DESIGN JOHN MCKAY
STARRING MATT WHILAN SOPHIE HENDERSON KEAGAN FRANSCH TAMANDA MASYIMO RIJDELOND TROONGA KUMIRAI MAWINDI
AN M&D PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION AND JUMP TV & FILM PRODUCTIONS. SLEEPERS ARE DREAMERS PRODUCTIONS AND
PICTURE THE DIFFERENCE LTD © AN M&D PRODUCTION



PRESS KIT PRODUCTION NOTES

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Director | Louise Leitch |
| Writer | Casey Whelan |
| Producer | Melissa Dodds |
| Executive Producer | Robin Scholes |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Shooting Format | Arri Alexa |
| Screening Format | DCP |
| Aspect Ratio | 16:9 |
| Sound | 5.1 Surround |
| Duration | 15 minutes |
| Country of Production | New Zealand |
| Language | English |

Produced by An MSD Production in association with the New Zealand Film Commission, Jump Film and TV, Sleepers are dreamers productions Ltd and Picture the Difference Ltd.

An MSD Production
PO Box 15467
Miramar
Wellington 6023
New Zealand
T: + 64 272 224 082
E: anmsdproduction@gmail.com

NZ Film
PO Box 11546
Wellington 6142
New Zealand
T: +64 382 7686
F: +64 384 9719
E: info@nzfilm.co.nz

Press contact
Louise Leitch
T: +64 21 454 656
E: louise@louiseleitch.com

SYNOPSIS

When a blind date takes a turn for the worst, two expats seek refuge in their imaginations and each other to escape the horrors of reality.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was in the 2011 Christchurch earthquake that killed 185 people. During that disaster I heard of ordinary men and women putting themselves at considerable risk to help others, to pull people from rubble or comfort a dying stranger. I was incredibly moved by what happened in Christchurch that day and it was clear to me that humankind has a tremendous capacity for kindness and heroism. Despite the different context, my experience of this disaster has given me a strong connection to *Dancers* and the humanity that lies at the heart of our story. For me, *Dancers* is about exploring the deep connection that can develop between two people under duress and how ordinary people can step up and respond in heroic ways.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Louise Leitch grew up in Australia and graduated from Canberra University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media. She established an in-house production unit for the Australian Government directing social issues documentaries. She went on to direct award-winning productions for clients such as Qantas, Westpac Bank, The Salvation Army, Coca-Cola Amatil and the Cancer Council before embarking on a successful career directing Australian television drama.

After moving to New Zealand Louise directed her first short film, *Whakatiki*, which premiered at Tribeca Film Festival in 2012 and has screened at more than 20 festivals since. *Whakatiki* won Best Short Film at 2012 First Peoples' Festival Montreal and Best Actress in a Short Film at Wairoa Film Festival and the New Zealand Film Awards. Her award-winning second film, *Blankets*, premiered at 2013 Palm Springs Shortfest and has screened at a number of festivals. *Dancers* is Louise's third short film and she has feature narratives currently in development.

WRITER'S BIOGRAPHY

Casey Whelan is a New Zealand born, globally raised screenwriter. Recruited straight from the University of Auckland to the *Shortland Street* script department, Casey spent three years cutting her teeth on fast turn-over television before branching out on her own. As a freelancer she has received multiple awards for her short and feature length work, and had the rare privilege of being one of three writers selected for the 2012 New Zealand Writers Guild mentorship with the late Alan Sharp for her original screenplay *You and Me*. With the support of the New Zealand Film Commission, *You and Me* is currently in development with producers Kelly Kilgour and Timothy White.

Casey's reputation as a go-to writer for hire has seen her work on a variety of feature scripts locally and internationally in genres ranging from American mumble core comedy to New Zealand's first hip-hop dance film. In addition to her work for the big screen, Casey is returning to her television roots and developing a five pilot slate in collaboration with Steve Barr and Wellington's Avalon Studios.



PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY

Melissa Dodds has produced numerous short films, including Louise Leitch's *Whakatiki*, which had its world premiere at Tribeca Film Festival in New York in 2012 and has gone on to attend more than 20 film festivals. *Whakatiki* received Best Short Film at the 2012 Presence Autochtone Montreal First Peoples' Festival and Best Actress Awards for Mabelle Dennison at the Wairoa Film Festival and 2012 New Zealand Film Awards. Other short film successes include Patrick Gillies' *Kitty* which was selected for over 15 international film festivals including a world premiere at the Montreal World Film Festival.

Melissa produced the feature film, *Existence*, which screened at a number of international festivals and won Best Feature Screenplay at the New Zealand Writers Guild's 2012 Screen Awards. Melissa also line produced Paul Campion's feature *The Devil's Rock*. Melissa has production managed various projects at Weta Workshop, Natural History New Zealand for Animal Planet/Discovery and Sticky Pictures. She was International Touring Exhibition Manager for Te Papa Tongarewa and has also produced a number of commercials.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

MATT WHELAN as David

Matt Whelan is best known to New Zealand audiences for his role as Brad Caulfield in South Pacific Pictures' hit comedy-drama series *Go Girls*.

After graduating from Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School, Matt has spent five years working professionally in all forms of the acting craft.

His film credits include, *Show of Hands*, *My Wedding and Other Secrets*, for which he was nominated for an AFTA for Best Lead Actor, *The Most Fun You Can Have Dying*, filmed in Europe and New Zealand, which again earned him a nomination for Best Actor at the New Zealand Film Awards and his most recent film, *3 Mile Limit* released in March 2014.

Matt has worked continuously in television having completed the award-winning fourth series of *Go Girls* which aired in 2012. In 2010, Matt's work on *Go Girls* earned him the Qantas Film and Television Award for Best Supporting Actor. He also recently appeared in Jane Campion's award-winning, *Top of the Lake*.

Matt has also worked in professional theatre, his most recent credits being *Holding the Man* and Noel Coward's *Private Lives* which were both staged by Silo Theatre in Auckland.

SOPHIE HENDERSON as Aimee

Sophie is a graduate of UNITEC School of Performing and Screen Arts. She has worked mainly as an actor in the theatre, film and television industries in New Zealand but also as a theatre-maker and writer.

Her recent acting work includes the lead in feature film *Fantail*, for which she was nominated for Best Actress and Best Screenplay at the New Zealand Film Awards, the television shows *Auckland Daze* and *Underbelly - Land of the Long Green Cloud* and performing in Silo Theatre's *Private Lives* and *Tartuffe*. Other highlights include devising and performing with Theatre Beating in *Milk* and *Rumplestilts*, performing in The Rebel Alliance's *Yours Truly*, The Moving Theatre Company's *Dog Sees God* and writing and performing in *I ♥ Camping*.

She has worked extensively for Silo Theatre over the last five years and other credits for the company include *The Scene*, *The Little Dog Laughed*, *Based on Auckland* and *Tis Pity She's a Whore*. Later this year Sophie stars in Silo's *Belleville* with Matt Whelan, directed by Oliver Driver.

Sophie is most well known for playing, Cheryl's lawyer, Bailey Wilson in the final season of *Outrageous Fortune*. Sophie can also be seen in *The Most Fun You Can Have Dying*, *Bliss*, *Legend of the Seeker*, *The Cult*, *This Is Not My Life*, *Piece Of My Heart*, *The Jaquie Brown Diaries* and the short film *Hauraki*. She was awarded the 2009 Metro award for Best Actress for her work in *The Scene* and last year Sophie was on the 2013 Canvas Hot List: Top 50 people, places and things.

KEAGANFRANSCH as Ngozi

Keagan Carr Fransch was born and raised in Zimbabwe and moved to New Zealand in 2004. She majored in Theatre Studies at the University of Waikato, and was a member of Hamilton-based theatre company Carving in Ice from 2007 to 2010, before moving to Wellington to train at Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School. She graduated from Drama School in 2013. *Dancers* was Keagan's first professional film and she aspires to do more work in film and television, as well as on stage.



TAWANDA MANYIMO as Gang Leader

Tawanda Manyimo is a Zimbabwean born actor now living in Auckland New Zealand. He graduated from Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School with a Performing Arts Degree Majoring in Acting. A love of theatre and film sees him working on various performance projects. He is currently involved with different community theatre organisations, while always trying to pursue his passion for music and the performing arts.

REDELOND TSOUNGA as Gang

Redelond Tsounga is a New Zealander originally from Brazzaville, the Republic of Congo. Redelond worked on the television series, *Super City II* with Madeleine Sami. He has worked on commercials, short films and music videos and is also writing short films. Red's vision is to get more acting roles in films and he is hungry for experience.

KUMBIRAI MAKWINDI as Gang

Kumbirai Makwindi was born in Zimbabwe and moved to New Zealand in 2007 after attending university in St Petersburg. Kumbi is a DJ and co-runs Auckland's most experienced reggae and dance hall sound system, *The Jafa Mafia*. Kumbi would love to act more, but with a voice that is "huge for a little man", his heart lies more in vocal performance.

C R E D I T S

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| DAVID | Matt Whelan |
| AIMEE | Sophie Henderson |
| NGOZI | Keagan Fransch |
| GANG | Tawanda Manyimo |
| | Redelond Tsounga |
| | Kumbirai Makwindi |
| EXTRA GANG | Mickey Briggs |
| | Matua Phillips |
| | Robert Lloyd |
| | Patrick Malliot |
| DIRECTOR | Louise Leitch |
| WRITER | Casey Whelan |
| PRODUCER | Melissa Dodds |
| EXECUTIVE PRODUCER | Robin Scholes |
| DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY | Marty Williams |
| PRODUCTION DESIGNER/ART | |
| DIRECTOR | Michael Simpson |
| EDITOR | Lala Rolls |
| COMPOSER | Tom McLeod |
| SOUND DESIGNER | John McKay |
| First Assistant Director | Robin Wilson |
| Script Supervisor | Karen Alexander |
| Production Co-ordinator/2nd AD | Katie Frost |
| Third AD/Production Assistant | Casey Whelan |
| Third AD/Runner | Jordan Harding |
| Additional Third AD | Brittany Connell |
| Stunt Co-Ordinator | Augie Davis |

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Armourer | Waka - Sayeret Operations Ltd |
| Design Consultant | Ra Vincent |
| Construction Manager/Fabricator | Hamish Wain |
| Carpenter | Ross Hoby |
| Lead Scenic Artist | Tane Griffin |
| Scenic Artist/Onset Scenics | Lucy Bowden |
| Construction Co-Ordinator/ Prop Maker | Tim Holman |
| Standby Assistants | Crystalyne Willis, Lucy Bowden |
| Art Department Intern | Alistair van Hattum |
| Costume Design/Wardrobe | Bex Joyce |
| Wardrobe Assistant | Sally Gray |
| Makeup & Hair Designer/Artist | Hil Cook |
| Makeup & Hair Artist | Lea Hoare |
| Steadicam Operator | Ulric Raymond |
| First Assistant Camera | Mike Knudson Andreas Mahn |
| Second Assistant Camera | Nat Brunt |
| Stills Photographer | Tammy Williams |
| Data Wrangler/Edit Assistant | Nick Swinglehurst |
| Lagos Opening Shot | Marchant Bellingan, The Outfit |
| Sound Recordist | Joel Anscombe-Smith |
| Boom Operator | Eleanor Cooke |
| Gaffer/Grip | Byron Sparrow |
| Lighting/Grip Assist | Chris Chandler |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lighting/Grip Assist | Simon Oliver |
| Lighting/Grip Assist | Oren Graham |
| Camera | METRO |
| Grip/Lighting | Gunmetal |
| Studio | GMA Studios, Naenae |
| Radios | Noel Stevens/ Wireless Warehouse |
| Catering | Blue Carrot |
| Vehicles | Capital City Cars |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Visual Effect Supervisor | Frank Rueter OHUfx |
| Roto/Paint | Kara Vandeleur |
| Titles and Credits | Brendan Dee |
| Dialogue Editor | Chris Sinclair |
| Foley Facilities | Underground Sound |
| Additional Sound Facilities | 2POP Media |
| ADR Facilities | Inside Track |

Post Production Services provided by Park Road Post Production, Wellington

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Head of Production | Dean Watkins |
| Producer | Nina Kurzmann |
| Post Production Producer Sound | Amanda Heatley |
| Online Editor | Francisco Cubas |
| Colourist | Matthew Wear |
| Taperoom Supervisor | Victoria Chu |
| Tape Operator | Stephen Duburguet |
| Taperoom Operator - Digital Mastering | Michael Harris |
| Data Wrangler | Joyce Kamille Cristal |
| Re-recording Mixer | Chris Sinclair Tim Chaproniere |

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Mix Recordist | Adrian Medhurst |
| Mix Recordist | Toby Lloyd |
| Mix Technical Support | Alexis Feoderoff |

Many thanks to:

Nick Keller, Museum Hotel, Celsius Coffee, Xtreme Forwarding, Ingots Metals, Martin Henty-LightingPlus Thorndon, Sarah Burns, Miranda Harcourt, Costa Botes, Robyn Patterson, Alex Clarke, Sean Nash, Chris Hiles, Mike Horton, Ken Saville, Kathryn Rawlings, Background Talent, Gail Cowan, Barak - Afrika Restaurant, IVY Bar, David Wicht - Film Afrika

Bar Extras:

Thomas Junior Banta, Augie Davis, Tony Hopkins, Jean Charlys, Paul Trlin, Adballa Gabriel, Patrick John, Tony Akeimo Solomona, Munyaradzi Cherema, Tenderkai Rodney Mugadza, Charles Jnr Kaluwasha, Davies Kalawasha, Harlem, Salasopa Solosite, Luke Bonjers, Rebecca Taite, Felix Mpunga, Molly Matautia, Dylan Nikolaison, Grace Aitken

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Score Supervisor | Sarah Lineham |
| Music Recording | Neil Maddever |
| Violin | Andrew Thomson |
| Cello | Rowan Prior |
| Vocal chant | Sam Manzanza |

“Down Town”

Written by Tom McLeod

Performed by Sam Manzanza

Courtesy of Major Tom Productions

“Darlin' Of Mine”

Written by Tom McLeod

Performed by Louis Baker

Courtesy of Major Tom Productions

An MSD Production in association with the New Zealand Film Commission,
Jump Film & TV Production, Sleepers are dreamers productions Ltd and
Picture the Difference Ltd
© An MSD Production Ltd 2014