

# A QUIET NIGHT



# Presskit



TEL: 64 4 382 7680 FAX: 64 4 384 9719 PO BOX 11 546 WELLINGTON

LEVEL 2 THE FILM CENTRE 119 JERVOIS QUAY WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND  
[www.nzfilm.co.nz](http://www.nzfilm.co.nz) [marketing@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:marketing@nzfilm.co.nz)

---

# Production Notes

---

Writer: Stefan Lewis  
Director: David Reid  
Producers: David Reid and Amanda Jenkins  
Production Company: Primal

Colour                      15 minutes                      35 mm                      1:1:66                      Dolby Stereo

---

## Short Synopsis

---

Late one night a taxi driver is thrown into a situation where he could lose his life.

Hijacked, he is caught in a struggle between money and murder.

Will he live to see another day?

---

## Synopsis

---

Phil Hearn is pushing 40 and feels every minute of it. He didn't plan to have six kids and work a second job driving taxis to feed them all but that's how his life is shaping up.

One stormy night in the city, Hatu runs out of the shadows and hijacks Phil's taxi in desperation, he's on the run... and he's bleeding.....bad.

Phil obeys Hatu's demands to be taken to Lyttleton, but upon arrival Hatu promptly drops dead in the taxi. Phil thinks he's off the hook until Hatu's cell phone starts ringing.

On the other end is Wazza, a skinhead who's just lost a weeks worth of dope money to some punk called Hatu.

Wazza is angry. A bully with "nothin to lose" he convinces Phil that his life is at risk if he doesn't give his "fuggin" money back.

Phil relents and travels back into the city to meet Wazza.

Phil must act fast to get rid of both the money and Wazza.....to get out of this alive he's going to have to come up something good.

At breakneck speed will Phil Hearn achieve his ultimate triumph and live to see another day?

---

---

# Credits

---

## Cast

**Phil Hearn**

Stephen Hall

**Wazza**

Scott Wills

**Hatu**

Victor Rodger

**Policewoman**

Eryn Strachan

**Café Proprietor**

Pehi (Percy) Tahu

**Older Policeman**

Robin Wells

## Crew

**Executive Producers**

Map Film Productions

**Production Company**

Primal

**Director/Producer**

David Reid

**Producer**

Amanda Jenkins

**Screenplay**

Stefan Lewis

**Director of Photography**

Simon Riera

**Art Director**

David Watson

**Editor**

Cameron Crawford

**Sound design**

Tim Brott

**Composer**

David Saunders

---

# The Director

---

'*A Quiet Night*' is David Reid's fourth short drama as a director and first with New Zealand Film Commission funding. David's previous short dramas include; *Last Shave* (1997) *Traffic Island* (1993) and *River* (1991).

David studied at Canterbury University from 1987-1990 and has been working throughout New Zealand as a Director and Producer of Film and TV since 1991.

David has also directed numerous TV and Cinema commercials for South Island Advertising Agencies.

Currently in development David has three feature film scripts; *Façade* a thriller, *Bullshitters* a black comedy and *Big Worlds* a teenage heist adventure.

---

# The Writer

---

A Christchurch policeman (36) who has just had his first book *The Waikikamukau Conspiracy* published, wrote the screenplay for *A Quiet Night*, his first, in one weekend. Stefan is currently working on two more books, *Fiasco* a crime thriller and *The Hydro Snipe* set in small town New Zealand.

---

# The Producer's

---

This is Amanda's first producer role with a short drama.

Amanda currently works as a freelance line producer / production manager for international television commercial productions. Over the last couple of years this has seen Amanda frequently working out of New Zealand, in Australia and America.

Amanda has a strong filmic background and a high level of support for NZ filmmaking. From 1993-95 she was director of the Canterbury Short Film Festival (1992-1996) an annual New Zealand Short Film competition designed to support and encourage NZ filmmakers and their story telling.

David has featured as a producer on a further six short dramas; *Like an Angel* (1999) *Black Spot* (1998), *Perchance to Dream* (1995) *Decaff* (1995), *A little Death* (1994) *Taking a Bath* (1994).

---

# Director's Notes

---

"*A Quiet Night*" is a mixed genre film – a black comedy, action, thriller, containing its action within a limited time span – hours in fact.

As the protagonist tries to come to terms with his situation, we are further treated to a highly stressed and violent confrontation.

Taxi driver, Phil Hearn is a man without direction and under considerable pressure. His predicament, as determined by the offensive and unpredictable nature of Wazza, the key antagonist, drives him to achieve beyond his own expectations.

Stefan Lewis' screenplay details a reluctant mistaken hero, a man without strong conviction, but a man whose sole belief in his family becomes saviour.

The performances from Stephen Hall as Phil Hearn and Scott Wills as Wazza, in particular, deliver hopelessness and intimidation clearly. All images are shot in a moody orange, green, blue light with strong contrast – which help create a shadowy and somewhat isolated city night life.

In addition the music of David Saunders and Sound Design from Tim Brott helped to heighten emotion and move the plot forward.

With the considerable input of Co Producer Amanda Jenkins, Director of Photographer Simon Riera, Art Director David Watson and Editor Cameron Crawford I believe *A Quiet Night* is a strong and idiosyncratic Canterbury work.

I hope *A Quiet Night* is received as a sharp, exciting, entertaining Kiwi short film.

**David Reid March 2000.**