

Auld Lang Syne

Can a man's love truly last eternity?



PRESSKIT

I N T E R N A T I O N A L S A L E S

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

Essential Information

Writer/Director	David Gunson
Producer/s	Karl Zohrab
Production Company	Elevenmedia
Technical Information	Digibeta / Dolby Digital
Running Time	13 minutes including titles
Country of Production	New Zealand
Date of completion	Jan 05
Genre	Thriller/Fantasy
Sales	Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission email juliette@nzfilm.co.nz Tel: +64 4 382 7686

Log Line

Can a man's love truly last eternity?

Short Synopsis

New Zealand 1899. James, devastated by the loss of his wife, is lured into a lifestyle of depravity by a group of societal fringe-dwellers. An intriguing gothic thriller.

Long Synopsis

James lies at the graveside of his wife Helen. He recalls an invite from his friend Archie to attend a party. James arrives by carriage to a grand house and welcomed by his old friend Archie who ushers him in to meet the host of the party Callum, and James draws the attention of a beautiful lady Isabelle.

Callum insists that James should stay the night and even offers some fine clothes to wear. James enjoys the party but is reminded of some curious stories about the house and its guests. He is surprised and seduced by Isabelle whilst alone in the wine store. James manages to recover his composure but is distraught by the renewed party debauchery and a strange warning from the maid. Archie persuades James to rest a while.

James mourns for Helen and contemplates his own death. James is alarmed to hear the maid screaming as she is pursued by Callum across the lawn. On returning to the party, James discovers it is really a coven of vampires. He is seduced and forgetting his grief momentarily gives himself to Isabelle. James realises too late that this new vampire life has cursed him to be separated from his beloved Helen forever.

Film Festival Screenings

2005 Clermont Ferrand International Film Festival – Market Screening,
France

2006 Chicago Horror Film Festival, USA

Director's Notes: David Gunson

The tales of Victorian horror and suspense have been a rich source of our mythology. The Edgar Allen Poe stories, Frankenstein, Jack the Ripper and Jekyll and Hyde have resonated with themes of love and destruction. Add to the mix the ghoulish nature of the nosferatu or vampire and you have a world of high stakes, deception, death and sex. These days true love is so often seen as a transient and illusive thing but in the Victorian age it was seen as a powerful bond that defeated even death so that love, no matter how fleeting for mortals could be renewed in the afterlife.

In *Auld Lang Syne*, James is in despair at the death of his wife, but is enchanted by the hosts of a party and the allure of Isabelle, a beautiful seductress. James ignores his better nature and offers himself to the vampires -forfeiting his chance to rest in peace with his wife, and thus condemned to walk for forever in the half-light between the living and the dead. The story takes place when in an age when ethics and duty were paramount, when the rules of society dictated behaviour; these rules once discarded lead to unwished for desires. Over the course of this tale these feelings consume a man who strays down the wrong path.

Director's Bio

David Gunson was studying Graphic Design when the filmmaking bug bit him and he soon discovered the joy of creating new worlds for the camera. David has since directed several 'Film Noir' Super-8 epics, music videos for Darcy Clay (*Jesus I was evil*) and Hayley Westenra and made two 16mm films dealing with the supernatural and the historical, -two of his favourite subjects, which have naturally come together for his first N.Z.F.C. film *Auld Lang Syne*. David's film heroes are Stanley Kubrick, Len Lye, David Lean and the Coen Brothers.

Production Company: Elevenmedia

Producer: Karl Zohrab

Karl is a film producer based in Auckland, New Zealand.

His recent short film **WATER** (director: Chris Graham, writer: Anthony Clyde) screened in competition at the Sundance Film Festival 2004 and won Best Short Film at the Brussels Fantasy Short Film Festival. It has sold to Canal + (France, Belgium & Poland) and Universal (Italy). Karl's earlier short film **A NEW WAY HOME** (writer/director: Michael Duignan) enjoyed selection at the Edinburgh and Melbourne International Film Festivals.

Karl also works as an Executive Producer, overseeing the development and production for a slate of six short films for the NZ Film Commission. These films include **TAMA TU** (writ/dir: Taika Waititi – Sundance 2005, Berlin 2005 – Special Jury Prize Panorama Section) **TRUANT** (dir: Michael Duignan, New York Film Festival 2005) and **THE LITTLE THINGS** (writ/dir: Reina Webster – Special Jury Prize Berlin Kinderfest 2005).

Karl also produces television - his comedy pilot **TALENT**, funded by TVNZ and NZ On Air, screened in August 2005.

He also has a number of feature films in development, some of them with the NZ Film Commission.

Karl's efforts and talents have already been recognized by the NZ Film Industry - he is the only producer to have won the SPADA Young Filmmaker of the Year.

CAST AND CREW

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY	DAVID GUNSON
PRODUCER	KARL ZOHRAB
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS	MATTHEW METCALFE JESSE WARN BILL GIANNAKAKIS
(James)	PETER RUTHERFORD
(Isabelle)	SOPHIA HAWTHORNE
(Callum)	JON BRAZIER
(Archie)	CAMERON RHODES
(Maid)	FIONA EDGAR
CINEMATOGRAPHER	AARON MORTON
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	SHELLEY BECKETT
COSTUME DESIGNER	BELLA PETO BENNETT
EDITOR	CAMERON CRAWFORD
CASTING	NEILL REA
COMPOSER	ANDREW McDOWALL
SOUND DESIGNER	GREG JUNOVICH
MAKE-UP ARTIST	EMMA PETERS
PRODUCTION MANAGER	CONRAD BLIGHT
1 ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	HAMISH McFARLANE
2 ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	MICHAEL SHORT JENNIFER BUTCHER

CONTINUITY	GUY STRACHAN
UNIT MANAGER	SCOTT CHIPLIN
PRODUCTION RUNNER	RACHAEL WALKER
EXTRAS CO-ORDINATOR	HWEI LING OW
CASTING READER	KIP CHAPMAN
FOCUS PULLER	TODD BILTON
CLAPPER LOADER	NATASHA LEE-RENALDI
VIDEO SPLIT	IAN HAMILTON-GATES
GAFFER	JAMES BRUCE
LIGHTING ASSISTANT	AARON TOMLINSON
KEY GRIPS	GARETH ROBINSON ANTON LEACH DAMON WRIGHT
GRIP ASSISTANTS	RUSSELL LLOYD TERE CARTINGTON TOMMY PARKS PHIL AITKEN
SOUND RECORDIST	AARON DAVIS
BOOM OPERATOR	PAUL CURRAN
STANDBY PROPS	SARA DUFFIELD
ART DEPARTMENT ASSISTANTS	TANIA JACKSON MIMOUK HANNON
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR	CATHY POPE
WARDROBE ASSISTANTS	KATE WILSON ROYA HARVEY GINNY LEGGETT
COACHMAN	STEPHEN GOULD
HELEN	FIONA MAULE
ARABIAN NIGHTS GIRLS	SIMONE FISHER SARAH REINHARD
LEAD DANCERS	WILLA GORDON CHAD HAMPSON
PARTY GUESTS	BETH O'DONOVAN PAOLA GHIRELLI EMMA SCOTT LIZ BURGESS DONNA VEREY

	CATHERINE TROUNCE
	KAREN BLAKE
	ANZEL GREYLING
	PHIL PRICE
	KATE CRAWFORD
	SIMONA TEDESCO
	MICHELE SPEIR
	KIRSTEN WILTSHIRE
	THOMAS LOKEN
	JIM EDMONDS
	JANI KOVACS
	JONATHAN PAYNTER
	BRAD WALLWORK
	GRANT WEBB
	BLAIR FURMSTON
	PAUL TRAVERS
STILLS PHOTOGRAPHY	BRIAR MARCH
CATERING	MASH
INSURANCE	AON RISK SERVICES
	GLYN HOWELL
TRANSPORT	HENDERSON RENTALS
PROCESSING BY	ATLAB NZ
LAB LIAISON	DAVID DONALDSON
TELECINE & GRADE	DIGITAL POST
GRADING	DEIRDE McCLELLAND
	DAVE GIBSON
PRODUCER	FIONA WEBB
OFFLINE FACILITY	DIGITAL ENGINEERING
	ZANE HOLMES
ASSISTANT EDITOR	FLORENCE HARTIGAN
	JOCHEN FITZ-HERBET
ONLINE EDITOR	NICK MURRAY
ONLINE FACILITY	BROADCAST NEW ZEALAND
SOUND POST	EDEN TERRACE AUDIO
STUDIO MANAGER	KERRIE STEVENS
DIALOGUE EDITOR	POLLY McKINNON
SCRIPT EDITOR	JESSE WARN
SCRIPT CONSULTANTS	VICKY POPE
	REUBEN POLLOCK
	KEITH HILL

	ANGELA KIDD
MUSICIANS	
CELLO	CLAIRE COWAN
VIOLIN	EMMA COLLIGAN
BODHRAN	JO TAYLOR
COR ANGLAIS	MADLINE SAKOFSKY
TIN WISTLE	ELIZA ANDERSON
'NOTHING NEW'	PERFORMED BY TADPOLE
LYRICS AND MUSIC BY	RENEE BRENNAN
	DEAN LAWTON
	CHRIS YOUNG
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COURTESY OF	ANTENNA RECORDINGS LTD
FOR THE FILM COMMISSION	KATE KENNEDY
THANKS TO	ALBERTON -NEW ZEALAND HISTORIC PLACES TRUST / POUHERE TAONGA
	PHILIPPA PRICE -ALBERTON CURATOR
	DAVID ROSS
	CHARLES KNIGHT
	THE WHITE HOUSE
	AIRPORT PET HOTEL
	PAUL LAKE
	GRANT CAMPBELL
	TOUCHDOWN
	SANDY GILDEA
	AUCKLAND CITY EVENTS AND FILM FACILITATION
	DAVE AND BARBARA GUNSON
	BAYFIELD FLAT
	RICHARD HARLING
	GREY LYNN RSC
	QUAYSIDE CARRIAGES
	TIM MOON
	CAROL EVANS
	FIRST SCENE
	JEFF BEN TON
	TOMMY COLLINS
	HOLLYWOOD PROPS
	SCREENTIME
	PETE GILMORE
	THE DOLLY SHOP
	PETER HAYNES
	VICTORIAN GILT
	GLOBAL FABRICS
	TRELISE COOPER

	ALEX DUNCAN
	JACKIE VAUGHAN
	GAIL COWAN MANAGEMENT
	ROBERT BRUCE
	KATHRYN RAWLINGS
	AUCKLAND ACTORS
	RHONDA KITE
	GARY LITTLE
	BRUCE McARTHUR
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