

# **BRAVE DONKEY**

A NEW FILM BY GAYSORN THAVAT

## **P R E S S   K I T**



**Brian didn't think he had anything left to lose....**

### **INTERNATIONAL SALES**

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**NEW ZEALAND FILM**

# PRODUCTION NOTES

Director: Gaysorn Thavat  
Producer: Nikki Walker  
Writer: Gregory King  
Production Company: Robber's Dog Films  
Executive Producer: Matthew Horrocks

Format: 35mm/Colour  
Duration: 11'31"  
Aspect ratio: 1:2.4 Cinemascope  
Sound:

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This film was produced by Robber's Dog Films in association with  
Reservoir Films & the New Zealand Film Commission

## **TAGLINE**

Brian didn't think he had anything left to lose...

## **LOGLINE**

When Brian pays a visit to his old home he unexpectedly finds himself in the middle of a violent dispute in which he saves a woman's life. Tragically, his courageous decision proves to be his ultimate undoing.

## **SYNOPSIS**

BRIAN, an embittered divorcee, breaks into his old home to wreak revenge on the man who stole his wife. Having destroyed his rivals precious art works, BRIAN is overcome with loss and longing for the wife and family he lost.

In a desperate attempt to recapture his former life BRIAN spends the day in his old home traveling down memory lane . During the most private and vulnerable moment BRIAN is inconvenienced by an altercation next door. Despite his own compromising situation BRIAN makes the right decision and saves a young woman's life, tragically sealing his own pathetic fate.

## **FESTIVALS**

- 2009 New Zealand International Film Festival, New Zealand.
- 2009 Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia.
- 2009 Brisbane International Film Festival, Australia.
- 2009 Locarno International Film Festival, Switzerland.
- 2009 BFI 53rd London Film Festival, U.K.
- 2009 Uppsala International Short Film Festival, Sweden.
- 2009 Hofer Filmtage, Germany.
- 2009 Filmets Barcelona, Spain.
- 2009 Encounters Short Film Festival, U.K.
- 2009 12th Short Film Night, Switzerland.
- 2010 SXSW, U.S.A.
- 2010 Rhode Island IFF, U.S.A.
- 2010 Show Me Shorts, New Zealand.
- 2010 Rockport Film Festival, U.S.A.
- 2010 Vancouver International Film Festival, Canada.
- 2010 Asiana, Korea.
- 2010 Ozu Film Festival, Italy.

## **DIRECTOR BIO**

Gaysorn is a film director who enjoys exploring different styles in any area she is commissioned – from comedy to drama.

After studying at film school she quickly moved into the camera department where she worked for ten years as a key camera assistant on various dramas, television commercials and international features.

Over the years Gaysorn has been working with all the major New Zealand advertising agencies and was recently commissioned to write and direct an ambitious international campaign for MTV London. She is very interested in exploring the frontiers of interactive and alternative media, experimenting with it as a new form for storytelling.

Gaysorn works well with actors and non-actors as her reel will testify. She has a sharp but empathetic eye, striving for realistic, truthful performances from her cast. Gaysorn is currently developing her first feature film.

## **PRODUCER BIO**

Nikki Walker has been working in the industry for 20 years. Putting aside her University studies, she took a holiday job as a production assistant for local legendary director Kerry Brown and producer Bruce Sheridan and never looked back.

Nikki went on to work dramas in New Zealand; 'The Ray Bradbury Theatre' series and 'Hercules', before being lured into producing.

Nikki has worked with award-winning directors, producing high-end television commercials for a long time now.

BRAVE DONKEY is the first short film Nikki has produced.

## WRITER BIO

From 1986 – 1996 Gregory worked in Theater and Live Performance as an Actor, Writer and Director before studying and living in London and Amsterdam.

He returned to New Zealand in 1998 and began to make short films, all of which have been critically acclaimed and awarded.

In 2002 Gregory was awarded the SPADA New Zealand Film maker of the year.

In 2003 he wrote and directed the ultra low budget digital feature, CHRISTMAS, which was selected for the Toronto, Locarno, Edinburgh, Melbourne and Venice International Film Festivals among others

His project, a low budget digital feature, A SONG OF GOOD, recently had its World Premier in January at the 2008 Rotterdam International Film Festival and is now travelling through the International Festival circuit.

2008  
Writer/Director - INTERIOR - Feature in devt - Selected for BINGER FILM LAB, Amsterdam – Script Programme 2008/09

Writer/ Director - A SONG OF GOOD Producer - Mark Foster/ Robbers Dog Films, Executive Producers – Headstrong/ New Zealand Film Commission.  
Winner Best film budget under 1 million and Best technical contribution to a film budget under 1 million Qantas New Zealand Film and Television Awards  
Selected to date for the Rotterdam, Philadelphia, Buenos Aires, Karlovy Vary, New Zealand, Durban, Gijon, Montreal, Warsaw, Flanders International Film Festivals

2007  
Writer – BRAVE DONKEY (Short) – Director Gaysorn Thavat, Producer Nikki Walker, Executive Producers – Reservoir Films, New Zealand Film Commission

2006  
Director - Music Video – Artist: Goldenhorse Song: FISH screened television Music Channels in NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, UK, IRELAND, GERMANY, FRANCE

Writer/ Director - A SONG OF GOOD – N.Z Project selected for CINEMART, Rotterdam International Film Festival

2005  
Lecturer, Film Studies – Unitec Film School, Auckland, New Zealand

2004  
Awarded New Zealand Film Commission Maori/ Pacific Scholarship and gained selection in the Screenwriting and Directing programmes at the Maurits Binger Film Lab in Amsterdam

2003  
CHRISTMAS - Feature  
Writer/Director

Includes selection for New Zealand, Melbourne, Commonwealth, Cardiff, Locarno, Edinburgh, Brisbane, Toronto and Senef-Seoul International Film Festivals.  
Winner Best Script, Best technical contribution, Best performance and Best Film in The Digital Film Section of The New Zealand Film Awards.

2002  
Awarded SPADA New Zealand Film maker of the year

2001  
JUNK - Short  
Writer/Director  
Selected for NZ, Brisbane, Bilbao, Locarno, Commonwealth International Film Festivals.  
Runner up Nescafe Australasian Short Film Awards.  
Winner Best Short Film and Best Technical Contribution to a short film New Zealand Film Awards

2000  
"...teach you a lesson." - Short  
Writer/ Director  
Selected for NZ and Melbourne International Film Festivals

1999  
POP - Short  
Writer/ Director  
Selected NZ and Melbourne International Film Festivals.  
Winner 'Most outstanding achievement in a Video Production' – Melbourne International Film Festival.

## **D.O.P BIO**

Virginia Loane (Ginny) is a director of photography who is fast gaining a reputation for mastering a diverse range of visual styles - working on exquisite high-end commercials, films, music clips and social documentaries.

Ginny's interest lie in projects that offer creative challenges and the opportunity to explore new creative avenues and subject matter. Recognized for her lateral, creative approach Ginny enjoys working closely with directors, supporting them in their professional and personal projects.

Ginny's credits include Greg King's first feature CHRISTMAS (2003) and short film, FOG (2006) which was selected for Critics Week 2007

In 2008, Ginny won 'Outstanding Technical Contribution in Film' for budgets under \$1Million for 'A Song Of Good', at the NZ Qantas Film and Television Awards and 'Outstanding Technical Contribution to a Short Film' for 'This Is Her.

## **EDITOR BIO**

Cushla Dillon was born in Rotorua, New Zealand, and graduated from the University of Technology, Sydney in 1991 with a BA in Communications, majoring in Film Production and Theory. After stints directing and production managing, she moved into editing, and forged a successful career as a film editor, winning two awards for Best Editor on a Feature Film in the New Zealand Film and TV Awards (Topless Women Talk About Their Lives in 1997 and Snakeskin in 2001).

Two years ago Cushla returned to NZ after working in the UK and USA, and began editing Trouble Is My Business with Juliette. Cushla now divides her time between editing and screenwriting, and last year attended the Binger Filmlab in Amsterdam to develop A Guide to Magical Thinking, a screenplay she began writing with the late Brad McGann.

## **ROBBER'S DOG FILMS - THE STORY**

Robber's Dog Films Limited is a young, high-end boutique commercial and film production company based in Auckland, New Zealand.

The company was formed in January 2006 by a group of experienced commercial campaigners, who were either known to each other or had been working together on a variety of different projects predominantly in the Australasian region.

Seeing the opportunity in the marketplace for a boutique production company with a point of difference, the members at Robber's Dog joined forces to create fresh, highly irreverent work to capture the imaginations of film-goers and television-watchers worldwide.

### **AWARDS**

Across the company the haul of industry awards (including an Oscar nomination) evidentially places Robber's Dog amongst the top dogs in the industry in Australasian region. Robber's Dog have just won Production Company of the Year at the 2008 Axis Awards AND won best NZ Feature Film Under \$1Million and Best Short Film at the recent Qantas New Zealand Film and Television Awards.

[www.robbersdog.co.nz](http://www.robbersdog.co.nz)

# BRAVE DONKEY CREDITS

DIRECTOR  
Gaysorn Thavat

WRITER  
Gregory King

PRODUCER  
Nikki Walker

## CAST

BRIAN  
Cameron Rhodes

PETROL WOMAN  
Abigail Greenwood

PETROL MAN  
John Rawls

WIFE  
Margaret Bremner

NEW HUSBAND  
Iain Rea

TEEN BOY  
Thomas Webster

YOUNG GIRL  
Emily Reid

Director of Photography  
Editor

Ginny Loane  
Cushla Dillon

Sound Design

Dick Reade Audio

Casting

Amanda Rees

1st AD  
Script Supervisor

Chris Graves  
Di Moffatt

Production Manager

Victoria Hardy

Focus Puller  
Clapper Loader

Simon Roelants  
Duncan Paterson

Additional Camera Assist  
Additional Camera Assist  
Additional Clapper Loader

George Hennah  
Jonny Yarrell  
Jacob Thomas

Camera Trainee

David Whittet

Gaffer  
Best Boy

Graeme Spence  
Nicholas Riini  
Joe Olkkonen  
Chris Cairns  
Dave Sargison  
Stephen Joyce  
Jonathan Swan

Lighting Assists

## BRAVE DONKEY CREDITS CONT...

Key Grip Grip Assist	Paul (Pablo) Stephenson Andy Troughton
Art Director Props Buyer Art Department Assistants	Kate Hennebry Hannah Gordon Ani Hennebry Jake Whiting Verena Jonkers
Model Maker	John Oz
Wardrobe and Make-Up Wardrobe and Make-up Assist	Kylee Strathdee Natalie Perks
Stunt Co-ordinator Safety	Robert Bruce Lifeguard and Safety
Sound Recordist Boom Operators	Dave Hurley Zohra Trinder Alexander Campbell
Location Scouts	Clayton Tikau Kyle Kissin Gavin Dennis
Unit Supplier Unit Manager	Trevor Brooks Mark Hendry
Caterer	Mint Kitchen
Security	Strategic Security Ltd
Rushes Runner	Tom Bisset
Production Stills	Matt Klitscher Amelia Jacobsen
Production Accountant	Lisa Tresham
Legal	Matt Emery
Camera and Lenses	Panavision New Zealand
Film Stock	Fuji Film
Processing	Park Road Post
Telecine	Park Road Post
Edit Suite	Oktobor
Titles	Stefan Coory
DI Process	Park Road Post
Sound Mix Colourist	Park Road Post
Post Production Co-Ordinator	Laki Laban Peter Amies Park Road Post
Executive Producer	Matt Horrocks Reservoir Films
For the NZFC	Juliette Veber



# BRAVE DONKEY CREDITS CONT...

SPECIAL THANKS TO  
Amanda Rees (Pleiedes Casting)  
Lifeguard and Safety  
Fuji Film  
Park Road Post  
Oktobor  
Robber's Dog Films Ltd  
Jeff and Elaine Singleton  
Filmlab  
Garry Nash Glass  
Trevor Brooks (Loaded Bases Ltd)  
Radio Waves  
Lightsauce  
Panavision  
Xytech  
Hooked On Power  
Redband Films  
Xtreme Forwarding NZ Ltd  
Location Services  
Mint Kitchen  
Strategic

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO  
Matt Horrocks, Juliette Veber, Lisa Tresham, Victoria Hardy, Paul Lake, John Bicknell, Stefan Coory, Sonali da Silva, Claudia Avato, Steve Rowland, Dean Cope, Peter Amies, Laki Laban, Vicki Jackways, Charlotte Gray, Mark Burrows, Claris Harvey, Mark Foster, Adam Stevens, Chris Dudman, Sam Peacocke, Helen Naulls, John Osbourne, our families, the Production Team and our fantastic Crew.

International sales by NZ Film

This film was shot on location in Auckland, New Zealand.

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