

Beautiful

Melbourne Film Festival 2001
Montreal Film Festival 2001
New York Film Festival 2001
Sundance Film Festival 2002



Presskit



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Production Notes

Writer/Director AdamStevens
Producer Mark Foster
Production Company Whippersnapper Ltd

Colour 12 minutes 35mm 1:1.85 Dolby Digital

Log Line

A tale of two men and their tackle.

Short Synopsis

Kev and Barry head out into the Bosom of God's Own for what becomes more than just another morning's fishing.

Synopsis

Beautiful is a black comedy about 'mateship'. The story revolves around two mates, Barry (older) and Kev (younger), who share a passion for a spot of fishing. On an epic morning, mirror calm water bathed in golden light, the dinghy heads out towards their coveted fishing spot. What begins as a serene start to the day rapidly deteriorates as first Barry then Kev reveal truths that will change the course of their friendship forever or will it?

Director's notes

Beautiful was taken from a theatre sketch written and performed by Jason Hoyte and Jonathan Brugh. The challenge lay in adapting its simplicity on the stage to technicalities of the big screen. Maintaining the honesty of the characters (originally a parody) without losing irony or comedy of the original production became the obvious directing challenge for me.

The majority of the story takes place in a 14 foot dinghy and required an archetypal 'chocolate box' backdrop. Great Barrier Island was the perfect location (it is 3 hours by ferry from downtown Auckland) as its panoramic landscape offered safe waters, sensational lighting and epic scenery. The story evolves during 'golden hours' of pre and early dawn.

Among the difficulties encountered were managing to film at the beginning and end of the day, competing with the tide, weather conditions and the necessity of housing the camera and 20-odd crew.

Casting for this short film was critical. After an extensive search involving some of New Zealand's finest actors we discovered the perfect *Kev* and *Barry* in established theatre and film actors Jason Hoyte and Tim Gordon.

Director's notes continued

Director Adam Stevens

Tim and Jason spent four days on Great Barrier Island prior to shooting, to shake the city out of them and afford them the time to absorb the environment. As is evident in their performance, these four days were crucial to their honest portrayal of two kiwi mates.

Stephen Latty, the cinematographer, began working with this project from the earliest stages. Steve brought fantastic energy and vision to the whole production. His experience and spirit ensured more time was made available to fine-tune the direction and performance of the actors. Stephen's background as a Gaffer and Director of Photography (DOP) was invaluable as he, Grip Jay Munro and Gaffer Tony Blackwood, designed and oversaw the construction of the complex scaff-rig, which was built of the stern of a fifty foot boat and ensured the 'dinghy' vision was made a reality. The scaff-rig also provided a certain amount of latitude when it came to day light control, particularly when filming in the harsh midday sun.

The ingenious bungy rig that hung from the scaff-rig allowed the camera to feel weightless and movement of the water. It heightened the 'at sea' feel and gave Stephen absolute control of pan and tilt without the confines of a traditional head enables the viewers the perceived sensation of being there.

Adam Stevens directs TVC's for Silverscreen Productions and is based out of their Auckland office. He is a performance director and has been involved predominantly in directing comedy work for the last year.

Adam's editing background began in Sydney after finishing a degree in Russian at Otago University. Whilst studying film, as a part of his BA, he shot several experimental films that attached his future to the film industry.

Adam directed and cut documentaries and industrials in Jakarta, Indonesia before getting into directing ads.

This move took Adam all over Asia and then back to New Zealand where he has been able to establish his skills in drama-based film making.

Credits

Cast

Kev	Jason Hoyte
Barry	Tim Gordon

Crew

Director/Writer	Adam Stevens
Executive Producers	Leanne Saunders & Paul Swadel
Producer	Mark Foster
Director of Photography	Stephen Latty
Art Director	Donna Hanson
1st AD	Jennifer Butcher
Based on the stage play Atrocities by	Jason Hoyte & Johnathan Brough
Focus Puller	Bryony Mathew
Clapper Loader	Aletia Hudson
Split Operator	Kent Belcher
Art Dept Assist	Pete Shaw
Make-up/Wardrobe	Peter Sweeny
Key Grip	Jay Munro
Grip	Gareth Robinson
Grip Assist	Carl Worth

Crew continued

Grip Assist	Rob Mita
Gaffer	Tony Blackwood
Sound Recordist	Alan Seconie
Boom Operator	Mark Messenger
Stills Photographer	Guy Robinson
Safety Officer	Nick Fryer
Casting – Auckland	Suzanne MacAleer
Casting Assist Auckland	Simon Austin
Casting – Wellington	Mike Odershaw
Editor	Jacks
Post Supervisor	Stuart Bedford