

c l e a v e r

PRESS KIT

A short film by Alexander McKenna

In Association with the New Zealand Film Commission



Cleaver



Synopsis

A lonely, detached young man lives next to a family who are stuck in a violent relationship, the effects of which begin to take its toll on his consciousness.

Director's Notes

I chose to tell this story from the point of view of the Neighbour, not only because I find his perspective interesting when it comes to this issue, but also because the issue of domestic violence is so heavy and everyone has their own connotations towards it, which is why this film, for me, is not about domestic violence, but rather the influence of it. This allows me to explore a whole range of emotions and feelings, and be able to show them with greater depth by taking us away from the direct environment in which this abuse takes place, and put us somewhere close enough to still reach out to it.

By telling the story from a completely different angle, as an outsider, we feel more connected to it. Everyone who comes into the cinema to watch this piece has their own connection, view, opinion, feelings and thoughts on the issue, but they are rarely faced with or confronted by it. We often view films about the subject matter that puts us right into the life and shows us how horrible that situation is. However, this is not this perspective from which I want my audience to view it. If we want to bring out emotion from an audience, and perhaps even a sense that something needs to be done, then it needs to be reflected in the perspective in which we view the narrative. Thus the point of view of the Neighbour allows us to connect to this world more realistically, drawing us in, getting us involved and immersed, and then hitting us hard with the harsh consequences of the world I have crafted.

Production Notes

Writer/Director	Alexander McKenna
Producer	Alex Clark
Production Company	Picture Start Films
DOP	Greg Jennings
Editor	Betsy Bauer
Sound Designer	Tane Upjohn-Beatson
Country of Production	New Zealand
Date of Completion	July 31 st 2017
Shooting format	Arri Alexa 2K
Screening format	HD, 1080P
Aspect ratio	2.35:1
Duration	17 minutes
Language	English
Genre	Drama/ Thriller

(Available on request as 2K DCP, 5.1 Surround Sound)

Cast

The Neighbour	Kieran Charnock – <i>Cub</i> (short) <i>The Rehearsal</i> (feature)
The Husband	Mike Minogue – <i>Hunt for the Wilderpeople</i> (feature)
The Wife	Liz Kirkman – <i>Eternity</i> (feature)
The Child	George Baker
The Sister	Ella Gilbert
The Boyfriend	Anthony Crum



Director's Biography

Alexander McKenna

Since graduating from the New Zealand Film School, Alex has spent several years working as a lighting technician on sets varying from low budget short films, to multi-million dollar productions such as *Krampus*, *Ghost in the Shell* and most recently *Mortal Engines*. This time spent on set working on different productions served as Alex's second film school, studying closely and in depth how a film is pieced together, learning what, and what not, to do.



With a strong passion for storytelling, Alex aim is to continue to create thought-provoking and challenging films. *Cleaver* is Alex's first short film, written in the time between his onset technician work. When Alex isn't working on set, he is buried within his notes, continuously studying and writing.

Producer's Biography

Alex Clark

Alex Clark has 20 years' experience directing and producing ambitious, high-rating and critically acclaimed screen productions. After spells as staff producer at some of the biggest production companies in NZ he's been an independent producer and the principal of Picture Start Films for the past 6 years. *Cleaver* is the second NZFC Fresh Short Alex has produced, after comedy short *Coconut* (2015). Alex has produced two independently-financed feature films that have been distributed internationally, and co-produced a telefeature for domestic (NZ) broadcast.





Full Credits

Screenplay	Alexander McKenna
Director	Alexander McKenna
Producer	Alex Clark

In association with the New Zealand Film Commission

DOP	Greg Jennings
Sound Recordist	Nic Widfeldt
1st AD	Sadie Wilson
Production Designer	Manaana Frederickson
Wardrobe	Daria Malesic
Gaffer	Lee Scott
Grip	Andy Galt
1st AC/Focus Puller	Andreas Mahn
2nd AC	Nicole Winer
Steady-Cam Operator	Tim Butters
Additional Lighting	Chris Chandler
Lighting Technician	Mark Papalii
Lighting/Grip Technician	Macgregor Pipson
Lighting Technician	Andre Oudard
Special FX Makeup	Sean Foot
Makeup Artist	Natalia Spooner
Stills Photographer	Dom Thomas
Production Co-ordinator	Cassidy Dawson-Tobich
Art Dept. Assistant	Holly Smith
Child Acting Coach	Ella Gilbert
Casting	Emma Draper
Casting	Sandi Malesic
Location Scout	Cameron Langdon
Location Scout	Cameron Yates
Editor	Betsy Bauer
VFX Supervisor	Don Ferns
Colourist	Adam Sondej
Composer	Stephen Gallagher
Sound Designer	Tane Upjohn-Beatson
Sound Mixer	Phil Burton

Cleaver

Thanks To

Dale Corlett - New Zealand Film Commission
Jude McLaren - New Zealand Film Commission
Rocket Rentals
Billionaires Catering
Portsmouth
Wireless Warehouse
Cafe Laffare
Undergroundsound
Film Wellington
Crombie Lockward
The ProActors
GCM
Mary Potter Hospice Shop
Jan Kleinheims
Nat Brunt
Katie Chalmers
Kristina Parbhu
Karla Spika

No animals were harmed in the making of this film.

© Picture Start MMXVII