

*What if your reflection
had a mind of its own?*



DIVE

A short film by Matthew Saville
Produced by Julia Parnell



LOGLINE

What if your reflection had a mind of its own?

SHORT SYNOPSIS

George has hit rock bottom. He's fallen so low that even his reflection has turned its back on him. When it disappears altogether, George sets off on a quest through the looking glass to haul himself back from the abyss and face his grief.

LONG SYNOPSIS

A year after the death of the love of his life, George has hit rock bottom. He's disheveled, living in squalor and lacking hygiene. He can't even hang himself properly.

He's in such a sorry state that this morning, in the bathroom, George discovers that his reflection has turned its back on him. Following a frustrating attempt to trick it into turning around, George angrily throws a cup at the mirror, which then smashes, revealing a portal to a mysterious dark water void.

Suited up in old diving gear, George enters the portal and traverses the abyss in search of himself. When he emerges back in the bathroom with his reflection in tow, a clumsy fight ensues between the two flabby men, coming to an abrupt end when George gives his reflection a swift swipe to the face with a dirty toilet brush.

Face to face with what he has become, George's reflection gives him just the push he needs to confront his wife's death and begin to deal with his grief.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Writer/Director: Matthew Saville

Producer: Julia Parnell

Production Company: Notable Pictures Limited

Country of Production: New Zealand

Date of Completion: March 2014

Shooting Format: Red Epic

Screening Format: DCP / HDCAM / BLURAY

Ratio: 2.35:1

Duration: 24fps 13 mins 10 secs 25 fps 12 mins 38 secs

Genre: Drama



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The inspiration for Dive comes from the surrealist painting 'La Reproduction Interdite' (1937) by Rene Magritte. The painting shows the commissioner 'Edward James' staring in the mirror. Instead of seeing his face, he finds himself staring at the back of his own head - his reflection has turned its back on him.

I have always found the image intriguing, and several years ago I came face to face with the original at a surrealist exhibition in London. As I sat there staring at it, I wondered why your reflection would turn its back on you? This short film is my answer to that question. A suicide attempt incites the protagonist's reflection to turn its back on him, the film then follows his quest to get his reflection back and deal with the reasons for wanting to end his own life.

While the film has some dark themes, it was important to me that it also had a sense of humour, and was essentially uplifting. Most doppelganger stories tend to be negative – in myths and novels the doppelganger appears and takes over the hero's life – but being the surviving half of a pair of identical twins (my brother died in childbirth), I have always wondered what it would be like to be face to face with my other half. For me, it would be an emotional though perfectly natural and positive experience. Dive has been a way to explore that idea, a film about facing yourself and moving on. The protagonist's reflection represents the part of his subconscious that wants him to get over his grief and move on with his life – yet it is still him, and subject to his idiosyncrasies and temper.

When writing the film, I decided that any elements of horror, comedy and drama had to come naturally from the kernel of the idea. The film does not have imposing sound design to tell the audience how to feel or think, and I made a conscious decision to shoot it as 'in camera' as possible, avoiding unnecessary VFX, and keep the set design as mundane as possible to make the world of the story believable.

The result in my mind is a dark surrealist comedy or fantasy that lives in the real world. I hope you enjoy watching it as much as I have enjoyed making it.

MATTHEW SAVILLE – Writer /Director

Matthew works as a writer, director and actor in Auckland New Zealand, where he lives with his young family. Born in Durban, South Africa to a Kiwi mother and South African father, his family moved to NZ in 1982. However, his connection to South Africa's history and culture is still a very strong part of his identity.

Growing up in the New Zealand countryside, Matthew's struggle with dyslexia ironically led him to a profound love of writing and creating stories. At University he discovered theatre and film and went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Performing Arts and a Masters in Screenwriting.

For the last seven years he has worked as a freelance writer, and actor in television, film and theatre. He has starred in, written and script edited several successful New Zealand television dramas, comedies and feature films including *The Blue Rose*, *Super City* and *The Most Fun You Can Have Dying*.

Dive is his second short film. His first, *Hitch Hike*, premiered at the Tampere International Short Film Festival in 2012 and has been touring the film festival circuit since then.

Matthew is currently working on several feature scripts both for himself and other directors.



JULIA PARNELL – Producer

Julia Parnell is the company director of Notable Pictures, a boutique production house in Auckland, New Zealand currently specialising in documentary and short film.

She has produced and directed multiple acclaimed television documentaries and series on a wide range of topics such as social justice, migrant and refugee experiences and popular music biographies. Julia has also produced, in association with the New Zealand Film Commission, a number of dramatic shorts including *Hitch Hike*, *Friday Tigers* (winner of the NZIFF Best New Zealand Short Film), *Rising Dust* and now *Dive*.

Notable Pictures is currently creating the exciting and groundbreaking new initiative Loading Docs pioneered by Julia and on which she is the Executive Producer. The project is designed to fund, create and distribute short New Zealand documentaries and is being made in association with the New Zealand Film Commission and NZ On Air.

BYRON COLL – Actor

Byron Coll has been working consistently in film and theatre since graduating from Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School in 2007. His work includes roles in Jane Campion's *Top of the Lake*, Warp Films' multi award-winning feature *Shopping* by Louis Sutherland and Mark Albiston, Sticky Pictures' television drama *Tangiwai*, and Gaylene Preston's *Home by Christmas*. In 2012, Byron appeared in Warner Brothers' *Jack the Giant Slayer*, directed by Bryan Singer.

Byron may be most recognisable as Tim, the over-enthusiastic All Blacks supporter in the award-winning Mastercard commercials. He was most recently awarded Actor of the Year at the 2013 Chapman Tripp Wellington Theatre awards for his work in *Midsummer* by David Grieg.

DUNCAN COLE – DOP

Duncan Cole is an award-winning cinematographer based in Auckland, New Zealand.

Originally a commercial and documentary photographer, Duncan first picked up a motion picture camera in 1998 to shoot a music clip for Wellington band Shihad. He's hardly put it down since, and at last count he had shot more than 150 videos for a huge cross-section of artists, including the Finn brothers, Bic Runga, Goodshirt, Brooke Fraser and Blindspott.

More recently he has been spending his time shooting TV commercials, including spots for Sony, Tourism New Zealand and Fiji Tourism. His resume also includes a number of New Zealand based drama projects including the feature films *The Devil Dared Me To* and *The Last Magic Show* (winner – Best Cinematography – NZ Screen Awards).



CREDITS

Writer and Director Matthew J Saville

Producer. Julia Parnell

In association with New Zealand Film Commission
. Notable Pictures and Tauihu Shorts

Director Of Photography Duncan Cole

Production Designer Ashley Turner

Editor Peter Roberts

VFX Supervisor Jon Baxter

Associate Producer Alexander Gandar

Executive Producers. Poata Eruera

. Tui Ruwhiu

. Brad Haami

George Byron Coll

Friend At Door #1 Maaka Pohatu

Friend At Door #2 Victoria Abbott

Friend at Door Voice #1 Aidee Walker

Friend at Door Voice #2 Matthew Saville

George's Double Rob Young

First AD Robyn Grace

. Alexander Gandar

. Karyn Childs

Line Producer Zanna Gillespie

Production Manager Kate Cresswell

Production Coordinator. Jean Kim

First Assistant Camera. Carita de Jong

Second Assistant Camera Lisa Moore

Underwater Camera Operator Marty Williams

Underwater Camera Operator 2 Matthew Saville

B Camera Operator Joe Hitchcock

Stunt Coordinator Rob Young

Sound Recordist Cameron Lenart

Boom Operator Conagh Fitzgerald-Mansell

. Atsuro Nishimura

Costume Designer Nicholas Parnell
Make-up Artist Mary Dawson
Make-up Assist Alex Saville

Gaffer Luke Oliver
Lighting Assist. Connagh Heath
Second Lighting Assist. Sash Samaratunga
Key Grip. Richard "Snowy" Ward
. Simon Jones
Grip Assist Alan Waddingham

Special Effects. Aaron McLachlan
Pre -Visualisation Preston McNeil
Design Assist/Standby Props Kelynge England
Props Buyer/Dresser Rita Soromenho
Props Assist Che Blomfield
Model Builders John Osbourne
. Phil Stokes
Construction Manager Graham Collins
Set Build Assist Bevan McDonald
Rigging Scott Anderson
Scenic Artist Noel Burke-Gaffney
Pool Lining Justin at Timbertanks

Continuity. Shane Deed
Unit Manager. Tom Townley
Unit Assist. Samir Patil
First Aid/Safety Officer Amy MacLennan

Safety Diver Brian Manning
Dive Supervisor. Jason Beaumont

Visual Effects. Perceptual Engineering

Flame Operator Jon Baxter
Flame Operator Hannah Walker
VFX Stuart Bedford
VFX Runner. Jasmine Duthie

Offline Edit Facility RPM Pictures
DI and Grade Facility TOYBOX
Digital Intermediate Producer Olin Turrall
Colourist Andrew Brown
Post Sound Facility. Tone Audio Post
Sound Design Amy Barber
Foley Performer. Gareth Van Niekerk
ADR Record Phil Burton

THANK YOU

...CRAVE...

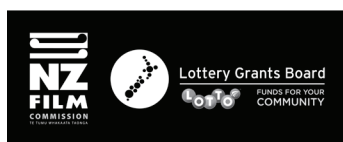


ROCKETRENTALS



Dive HQ West
Eighthirty Coffee
Johnson & Laird Management
Gail Cowan Management
Dylan and Fiona Holmes
Lisa Chatfield
Roko Babich & Fleet St Productions
Michael at NZ Camera Hire
Chris Hampson
Tim Capper
Cushla Dillon
Costa Botes
Chloe Smith & Rebecca Rowe
Preston McNeil
Marc Tyron
Miranda Rivers
Ande Schurr
Paul Dulieu

Juliette Veber
Dave Johnston & the SAE Institute Auckland
Charlotte Turner at Filmcrews
Bianca Zander
Heather Bryant
Jeane Mowatt
Geoff Allcock
Alex Saville
Heather Saville
Lesley Saville
Chris Saville
Craig Muirhead
Tim White
The Goldfish
Topshelf Productions
Miranda Harcourt
Jonathan King
Gordy Hoffman



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