

AS DREAMS ARE MADE ON

Official Selection:
2004 Melbourne International Film Festival / New Zealand International Film
Festival



In every little life big decisions must be made.
A stormy night provides the backdrop for a series of calamities,
culminating in a liberating decision for actor Reuben Mills.

P R E S S K I T

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

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N E W Z E A L A N D F I L M

Essential Information

Writer-Director-Editor	Gabriel Reid
Producers	James Wallace and Gabriel Reid
Production Company	James Wallace Productions and Pageant Films In association with The Screen Innovation Fund of Creative New Zealand And The New Zealand Film Commission
Technical Information	35mm/ Digibeta / 1:1.85 / Dolby SR
Running Time	11 minutes
Country of Production	New Zealand
Date of completion	July, 2004
Genre	Drama/Romance
Sales	Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission Email: juliette@nzfilm.co.nz Tel: +64 4 382 7686

Log Line

In every little life big decisions must be made.

Short Synopsis

Reuben is a talented but impoverished actor feeling the pressure to nest. With his acting company about to tour he finds himself at an emotional crossroads. The time has come to choose his path.

Long Synopsis

Performing the somewhat thankless role of Ferdinand in a production of *The Tempest*, Reuben Mills is feeling the pressure to nest. His 30th birthday is nearing and his new girlfriend, Siandra, has caught the eye of her affluent boss. Reuben can no longer live on “the smell of an oily rag”. Although he won’t enjoy farewelling his fellow cast members, he has decided to leave The Merely Players before the commencement of their national tour. He informs the head of the company, Richard Waldergrave, that instead of touring he intends to take up a place at Law School. The older man is less than impressed.

Whilst waiting for Reuben at an across town restaurant, Siandra and her boss flirt. As a series of minor calamities delay Reuben, Richard counsels him to consider whether he could really be fulfilled by a career in law.

With the aid of Richard and the company’s lead actress, Angela, Reuben makes it to the restaurant door. He pauses to reflect and reconsiders his decision. With renewed resolve he heads into the night.

Film Festival Screenings

2004 Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia

2004 Telecom New Zealand International Film Festival, New Zealand

2005 Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA

2005 Drifting Clouds Film Festival, New Zealand

2005 Fiordland Cinema, New Zealand

Director's Notes

We are such stuff
As dreams are made on, and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep.

The Tempest (Act IV, Scene I)
William Shakespeare

How should we spend our little lives? It is a big question to which there is no easy or uniform answer. Some, in acts of courage, folly, or vocation, leap into the unknown. Young artists forgo secure incomes confident that their talents will be recognised, their material needs met. However, should roles prove too few, too far between or too poorly paid, an actor's youthful confidence may eventually be tempered by doubt.

When I wrote this film I was, like Reuben Mills, suffering some consternation vis-à-vis my own career choices. Law School was a real possibility. I fretted that at some future time I might regret rejecting that option. Of course, ultimately I had to accept that the future cannot be known. And I took to heart the dictum, "A life lived in fear is a life half lived."

Reminded that our little lives are fleeting (as Shakespeare notes □ mere moments during which spirits awaken from eternal slumber), Reuben gains clarity. He comes to recognise that which he can and that which he cannot live without. Understanding that life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all, Reuben faces his fears and commits to a choice. By embracing uncertainty he frees himself to move forward.

Director's Bio.

Gabriel Reid was born in Auckland, New Zealand. He has directed and designed widely acclaimed productions of *Amadeus* and *The Crucible*. At nine he began performing in theatre and on television. Beginning in 1990, he spent five years on staff at Opera New Zealand, holding a range of positions on numerous opera productions. Highlights included working as Assistant Director on *La Bohème*, starring Dame Kiri Te Kanawa.

As Chairman of Theatre Workshop he oversaw productions of *The Revenger's Tragedy*, *Salomé* and *As You Like It*. Before leaving New Zealand in 1997 he worked as an Assistant Director on the television series *Hercules*. In London he researched his Master's thesis on film adaptations of Shakespeare. For this he interviewed many of the world's leading Shakespearian directors, actors and producers at film and theatre companies including Renaissance Films, the RSC and the Royal National Theatre.

In 1999 he completed his M.A. with first class honours. In 2000 he commenced work as a director of on-air promos at Television New Zealand. There he created network promos for a wide variety of programmes, from *The Simpson's* to *The West Wing*.

In recent years Gabriel has played featured guest roles in several television series. He is due to complete his Ph.D. at the end of this year. His thesis considers the impact of digital technologies on feature film production. He has conducted interviews at renowned film facilities including Pixar Animation Studios, ILM and Weta Digital.

Presently Gabriel is a member of the assistant directing team for the feature film adaptation of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.

Production Company: Pageant Films

Gabriel Reid founded pageant in 1998, following his return to New Zealand after a year in London. He had been inspired by dealings with some of the founders of Renaissance Theatre Company, which became Renaissance Films (*Henry V*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Madness of King George*). He was interested in generating projects for colleagues and friends; various actors, casting directors, etc. His decision to centre the action of *As Dreams Are Made On* within a theatre company meant that the project was able to draw upon familiar settings as well as a familial spirit, which had evolved, between the participants during years of collaboration.

Of his decision to call the company 'Pageant Films', Reid remarks, "For me the word "pageant" brings to mind those bands of players who once traversed the European countryside. Theirs must have been a difficult yet gypsy-like existence. Rolling into village squares or tavern courtyards they would transform their "pageant wagons" into stages. Upon these platforms they would enact plays and entertainment spanning every genre. Although cinema has replaced travelling players, the spirit of the pageant endures. So too does the willingness with which audiences suspend their disbelief, and the delight they take in being transported by compelling performances. I named the company 'Pageant Films' as a way of acknowledging contemporary links with a long and venerable tradition of narrative storytelling and performance."

Pageant Films has provided freelance television directing services to several organisations including TVNZ and Maori Television. Presently the company is a finalist in the Spark Entrepreneurship Challenge. Pageant is preparing to seek backing for a slate of short and feature projects.

Production Company: James Wallace Productions

James Wallace is known to be one of New Zealand's most significant arts patrons. He is the founder of the country's largest independent art award, the Wallace Art Awards. He has produced numerous short and feature films including several by the directing team of Stewart Main and Peter Wells □ *Race Against Time*, *A Death in the Family*, *The Mighty Civic* and *Desperate Remedies*. He also produced Garth Maxwell's drama *Beyond Gravity*. His internationally acclaimed short films include *Trust Me* and *Accidents*. Mr. Wallace has long supported film projects by emerging filmmakers.

To avoid any potential conflict of interest, James Wallace Productions suspended operations when Mr. Wallace was invited to join the current board of the New Zealand Film Commission. With several projects already on its slate, the company will recommence activity once his term on the NZFC board expires.

Production notes

- The building in which most of the action takes place was for many decades home to New Zealand's largest professional theatre company – The Mercury Theatre – founded by Gabriel Reid's grandfather, Professor John Reid. The building is now home to an Auckland city church.
- *The Tempest* was one of Shakespeare's last plays, first performed in 1611. It is in part concerned with the magical, almost God-like power enjoyed by dramatists as they manipulate worlds of their own creation. It may be read as a kind of swan song. Certainly, this adds great poignancy to the speech, which begins *As Dreams Are Made On*. Here a mature Shakespeare observes that ultimately everything, even "the great globe itself", shall dissolve – leaving "not a rack behind."
- Raymond Hawthorne (Richard Waldergrave/Prospero) has been for many decades one of New Zealand's most acclaimed theatre and opera directors. He is a former Artistic Director of The Mercury Theatre and

of Theatre Corporate. His ex-wife and two daughters are all highly regraded actresses working in theatre, film and television.

- The film's director, Gabriel Reid, appears in the film as one of the actors descending the Stage Door staircase. The others in this scene are actors he has directed in various theatre projects.
- The current version of *As Dreams Are Made On* screened in competition at the 2004 Melbourne International Film Festival.
- An earlier edit screened at the New Zealand International Film Festival.



Reuben Mills (Ian Hughes) is an actor playing the role of Ferdinand in Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*.

Credits

KEY CREW

Written, Directed and Edited by

GABRIEL REID

Produced by

JAMES WALLACE
GABRIEL REID

Line Producer

MATTHEW HORROCKS

Director of Photography

ALAN LOCKE

Casting Director

IRENE DRAKE

Costume Designer

GABRIEL REID

Art Director

JOHN HARDING

CAST

Reuben Mills

IAN HUGHES

Richard Waldergrave

RAYMOND HAWTHORNE

Angela Griffin

TANYA HORO

John Masters

JOHN GLASS

Waiter

JEFF BOLLOW

Stage Manager

ALISON BRUCE

'The Tempest' Cast

IRENE DRAKE
JOHN HARDING
DENYS HOSKINS
JOHN McKEE
DONALD TROTT

Waitress

CORRRINA WILMSHURST

CREW

1st Assistant Director	NIK BEACHMAN
2nd Assistant Director	VANESSA SHELDRIK
Location Sound	DICK READE
Loader/Focus Puller	FRITH LOCKE-BONNEY
Video Split/Clapper	MATTHEW PERRY
Gaffers	JADE BARKER TONY KOVACS
Grip	PAUL GRAY
Continuity	KATH THOMAS
Make Up Artist	CATHERINE MAQUIRE
Assistant Make Up Artist	ASH FARAHANI
Wardrobe Supervisor	LESLIE BURKES-HARDING
Wardrobe Standby	JOAN WILSON
Location Manager	BRANT FRASER
Unit Manager	RAJNISH SETHI
Catering	FIONA McRAE
Gen Op	NIGEL LYNDSAY
Script Editor	TIMOTHY O'BRIEN
Production Manager	MICHELE DRISCOLL
Production Assistant	MARK STOREY
Runner	MALCOLM CLEMENT
Processing Facility	ATLAB NEW ZEALAND
Telecine	IMAGES POST
Editbox Operator	JESSICA FALLAR
EDL Conforming	JAY BERRYMAN
Sound Tracklay	GLENN CLOUGH

Dolby Sound Mix	JOHN BOSWELL
Sound Manager	JOHN NEILL
Laboratory	THE FILM UNIT
General Manager Post Production Supervisor	SUE THOMPSON CATHERINE FITZGERALD
Digital Intermediate Manager	JOHN NEWELL
Digital Intermediate Manager	JOHN NEWELL
Digital Grading	COLIN HARRISON
Touch Grading	LYNNE REED
Main Title Design	ALISON FURMINGER
NZFC Short Film Fund Coordinator	VICKY POPE
NZFC Sales and Marketing	KATE KENNEDY
Camera Equipment	ARRIFLEX
Lenses	CANNON
Film Stock	KODAK 7274