

FROM WHERE I'M STANDING



Presented by



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Production Notes

Writer/director
Producer
Production Company:

Annalise Patterson
Keith Hill
Loose Unit

Colour 10 minutes 35mm 1:1.85 Dolby Digital

Log Line

A family of geese become the unlikely catalyst for a struggle of wills between a young couple.

Synopsis

From Where I'm Standing tells a story about the emotional tensions between a young married couple. These tensions reach boiling point when a situation involving a family of geese turns into a violent and threatening situation. Martin and Juliet's conflicting reactions to what happens brings about an awakening in their understanding of one another.

Director's Notes

"Everyone has their reasons." Jean Renoir

I see *From Where I'm Standing* as a kind of Chekhovian character study in which an unexpected event – the arrival of geese next door, and the neighbour's response to this – forces a young married couple to face the fact that they have very different views of the world, and of how they should behave in it.

The film is based on a true story and I wanted to explore what happens when a lover sees a weakness or a character flaw in their beloved and how they deal with this disappointment. The lover must make a decision to either let love fail, or to justify their lover's behaviour for the sake of holding onto the relationship.

At the film's end it is up to the audience to make what they will of each character's choices. But I rather hope that they will be left wondering about the couple's future together, and what this means to their relationship.

Director's Notes cont...

I saw buried in *From Where I'm Standing* a 'black fairytale'. Like any good fable this journey involves wish-fulfilment, desire and transformation, all haunted by the insistent presence of a phantom which in this case is in the form of the brutish neighbour. The story is very small and simple but reflects on the universal difficulties faced by a young couple to keep love alive.

Juliet's persistent watchfulness throughout the film makes her an observer, and turns us into observer's too. It was my intention for Juliet to be the film's heart, so that while it is Martin who has most of the physical action, it is her with which we make a sympathetic visual identification.

I wanted the world of the film to be a subtly stylised, slightly heightened reality. I employed the production design and the cold quality of the film's light, together with the actor's performance style to create this effect.

The film's music, *Anonyme 'La Folia'*, is by internationally acclaimed Spanish composer and musician, Jordi Savall. The music is intended to lend a magical quality to the arrival of the geese, but is also evocative of the formal and controlled style of medieval dance for which it was originally played.

This distinctive musical style has a haunting and magical quality that I felt perfectly suited *From Where I'm Standing*, which is a story about controlled, and controlling, passions.

Director's biography

Annalise Patterson is a young filmmaker who has directed three previous shorts films. She is currently developing her first feature film.

Annalise's ethnic/family background is Maori (iwi Ngai Tahu, hapu Ngati Hinetewai) and Yugoslav (Croatian/Serb). These cultures, one indigenous to Aotearoa/New Zealand, the others immigrant, inspired her earlier films.

She began her film career in London working as a producer's assistant at Merchant Ivory Productions. She has a Bachelors degree with a double major in English Literature and Film & Drama studies from Victoria University of Wellington. In between her own films she works a casting director for television commercials.

Credits

Cast

Juliet	Emma Belcher
Martin	Richard Chapman
Neighbour	Noel Dunningham
Raincoat father	Phillip Spencer-Harris
Raincoat mother	Penny Ashton
Children	Georgina Hill, Leonard Hill, Greta Tuson

Crew

Director	Annalise Patterson
Producer	Keith Hill
Writer	Annalise Patterson from an original story by Jo Sole
Production Company	Loose Unit
Cinematographer	Nigel Bluck
Art Director	Ashley Turner
Editor	Peter Evans
Sound Designer	Chris Burt
Music	'La Folia' by Jordi Savall
Executive Producers	Liz Difiore and Peter Salmon of Godzone Pictures