

Fish out of Water

PRESSKIT

Deep End Productions



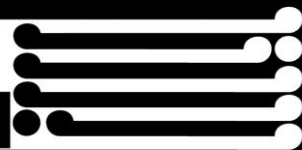
I N T E R N A T I O N A L S A L E S

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

COMMISSION

TE TUMU WHAKAATA TAONGA



Essential Information

Director	Lala Rolls
Writer	Stephanie Rountree
Producer	Natalie Crane
Production Company	Deep End Productions
Technical Information	35mm, Dolby Stereo
Running Time	8 minutes 50 seconds including credits
Country of Production	New Zealand
Date of completion	March 2005
Genre	Comedy
Sales	Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission Email: juliette@nzfilm.co.nz Tel: +64 4 382 7686

Log Line

Not all sharks are in the sea.

Short Synopsis

A young man rows to work to escape the rush hour mayhem, but where can he go when it follows him onto the water?

Long Synopsis

Each day a young man rows to work across the harbour to escape the noise and mayhem of rush hour traffic. His routine is matched by a Fishing Girl who is always on the wharf when he arrives, and who always exchanges smiles with him. Each of them, shy and held in their daily routine, never exchange more than a small greeting. Their harmonious relationship is reflected in their respective musical themes.

A Siren sits daily in traffic jams and notices the 'rowing man' and his stress-free transport. With her wily charm she wins a seat on his boat for her next journey to work. At first, the Rowing Man is delighted with the change in routine, although the Fishing Girl feels a change to a minor key.

The next day, the Siren brings a big and noisy friend to join the row to work. Slowly, the boat is beginning to reflect the noise and pollution he was trying to escape in the first place. The Fishing Girl observes.

The next day, to the Rowing Man's dismay, there are even more commuters waiting for him to ferry them across the water. In a crescendo of ill-fitting instruments, they present him with an outboard motor. The nice man, who can't say no, realises that his fragile world has gone forever.

He takes drastic action, leaving the free-loaders high and dry, and in his small and shy way, advances his friendship with the Fishing Girl in the process.

Awards

2006 Short Film Award - Wet West Film Festival, New Zealand

Festival Screenings

2005 New Zealand International Film Festivals, MIC Homegrown
2005 Uppsala International Film Festival, Sweden
2006 Wet West Film Festival, New Zealand
2006 Newport Beach Film Festival, USA
2006 Reflections on Water - Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society, USA
2006 Mill Valley Film Festival, USA
2006 Hamptons International Film Festival, USA
2006 Magma Short Film Festival, New Zealand
2006 Regensburg Short Film Week - Regensburger Kurzfilmwoche, Germany
2007 In The Bin Film Festival, Australia
2007 Vilnius Film Festival KINO PAVASARIS, Lithuania
2007 WIFT International Short Film Showcase Celebrating International Women's Day
2008 NZ Film Festival Wroclaw, Poland
2009 Tel Aviv New Zealand Retrospective, Israel

Director's Notes

My intention was to stay close to the writer's original vision and still inject a chunk of me and my more radical style into the storytelling. Because we had no dialogue, and music, image and soundscape would do the talking, we decided to make the vision equally stylised. DOP David Paul and I worked very closely with our storyboard to conceive of each shot almost as a painting. This proved an excellent anchoring point for our shoot. David also experimented with filters to find the particular colour of the world of our film, which David later coined as "grello" - green with yellow (to mention nothing of the way the reds ping out of that filtering).

The shoot was one of the most laid back and fun filming experiences I have ever had, despite our changeable weather, boat-filming difficulties and a giant schedule rejuggle after a minor boating accident.

The actors were wonderful, and we spent a good deal of time finding how they might express the characters purely through their physicality being deprived of "voice". And finally the music, which is such a huge part of how we told the story - a universal story, in a universal language. Meeting and working with the composer Victoria Kelly was a joy, as was her score. The considerable addition of real and quirky sounds from sound editor Dayton Lekner make the film an aural feast.

Director: Lala Rolls

Lala Rolls was born in Fiji and migrated to New Zealand in 1981 at the age of 17. She studied Psychology at Otago University in Dunedin, and Film Theory at Victoria University of Wellington. She worked in early childhood education for some years before the QEII Arts Council (now Creative New Zealand) funded her first short film, *Olives*, in 1994.

With a group of close friends Lala created and co-edited her second short film *Tall Stories* (1996) - a collection of six short stories which have been shown widely in short film shows and on websites.

She has directed articles for TV magazine shows, pieces for mixed media theatre projects and corporate videos, and nine music videos for Pacific Island bands on location in New Caledonia, Fiji, and Rapa Nui Easter Island. She has edited television documentaries, magazine style shows, comedies and dramas. A recent highlight was editing episodes of Gibson Group's *Insiders Guide to Happiness*. In the last few years she has been developing various short films and a feature film.

The 2004 Wellington Film Festival saw the premiere of the acclaimed feature length documentary *Children of the Migration*, which she directed and co-edited. Lala is committed to telling stories on film, particularly those with a Pacific identity, and hopes to make a feature film, which reflects Pacific culture and attracts an international audience.

Writer's Notes

Living in the Wellington harbour-side village of Eastbourne for 17 years meant that everywhere I went I skirted this huge body of water. This was always a profound pleasure - the textures on the surface, the colours shading through blues, green and greys. Because of its size and exposure to the coast it is not a tame harbour so it is mostly free of people and the busy activities that clutter most shorelines. I could imagine someone younger and fitter than me enjoying that peace if they had the notion to row to work... and I could imagine how the locust-like nature of people in general would soon despoil both that peace and the beautiful environment.

Writer: Stephanie Rountree

Stephanie grew up on a farm on the East Coast of the North Island of New Zealand. She has worked as a fundraising manager for a charity in New Zealand and as an English language teacher in Saudi Arabia and Japan.

She studied media scriptwriting at Massey University in 1996, during which she wrote *Fish out of Water*. She now divides her time between teaching English to new migrants and developing feature and short film scripts.

Producer: Natalie Crane

Natalie gained an Arts Degree in Theatre and Film from Victoria University of Wellington in 1992, then travelled to London where she did the 'Future in Film' course at Prominent Film Studios.

Natalie has worked in film and television since 1999, primarily in production and script-related roles. She has worked in a wide range of formats and within budgets from Hollywood-sized to non-existent. Highlights include working as director's assistant on the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and co-producing digital feature *Futile Attraction*.

Natalie's production company, Deep End Productions Ltd, was set up to produce *Fish out of Water*. The name was chosen to reflect the number of water-themed short and feature films that she has worked on - *Water*, *The Tub*, *Without a Paddle*.

Natalie is currently a vice-president of the Wellington Film Society, and administrator for the Wellington chapter of Women in Film and Television.

Production notes

Fish out of Water was originally planned as a low-budget 8mm short film. However, with the help of the New Zealand Film Commission, the production team were able to realise the physical beauty of the story's environment on 35mm instead.

Wellington has an average of 173 windy days a year, so we were very lucky to get still water on the harbour for three out of our four shooting days. Also, the month we shot it had double the average rainfall, and a storm the week after shooting. We had alternating days of grey cloud and bright sun, which caused havoc with getting shots to match in the edit. Through the skill and generosity of Park Road Post, we were able to fix this using a digital intermediate grade.

The only motorway into Wellington does have a rush hour drag, but as we filmed during the holidays, we were in the unusual position of having to stage a traffic jam.

Several of the crew had recently worked on a TV drama involving scenes shot on a small rowing boat, so had some great ideas as to how to get the best shots of the boat and actors in it. However, an accident on the first day of shooting, when the dinghy capsized with two actors aboard, cast doubt of the rest of the shoot. But the actors proved resilient, carrying on with filming - albeit with a re-stitched costume, glued together shoes, and extra makeup to cover the bruises.

Cast and Crew

KEY CREW

Director	Lala Rolls
Producer	Natalie Crane
Executive Producer	Vanessa Alexander
Associate Producers	Melissa Dodds and Amy Rountree with Michelle Felderhof
Screenplay	Stephanie Rountree
Composer	Victoria Kelly
Director of Photography	David Paul
Art Director	Sukhita Langford
Costume Designer	Elisa Kersley
Editor	Lala Rolls with Gary Hunt
Sound Editor	Dayton Lekner

CAST

The Rowing Man	Nick Dunbar
The Fishing Girl	Angela Green
The Siren	Justine Cooper
The Man with the Elephant Tie	Gregor Cameron
The Yuppie	James Ashcroft
The Teenager	Stella Munn-Bieringa
The Elderly Neighbours	Dorothy-Anne Bonner Don Langridge

CREW

First Assistant Director	Simon Murray
Second Assistant Director	Chris Husson
Casting Assistant	Damon Andrews
Production Accountant	Murray McKenzie
Production Assistant	Bonnie Slater
Production Runner	Deane O'Connor
Storyboard Artist	Sila Sua
Continuity	Flora Wallace
Sound Recordist	Chris Hiles
Focus Puller	Sean Kelly
Clapper/Loader	Garth Michael
Video Split Operator	Stefan Chapman
Stills Photography	Simon Haxton
Additional Stills	Amy Rountree and Ken Stratton
Gaffer	Ants Farrell
Lighting Assistant	Damian Seagar
Key Grip	Jens Norman

Grip Assistants	Chris Emeree and Noor Razzak
Crane Operator	Paul Sawtel
Production Design Consultant	David Kolff
Standby Props	Heydyn Hughes
Hero Boat Wrangler	Kirk Torrance
Make Up Artist	Tracey Henton
Make Up Assistant	Jaime Leigh McIntosh
Location Manager	Ken Stratton
Location Assistant	Karina Frith
Unit Manager	David Sa'ena
Unit Assistants	Jonathon Sa'ena and Whiona Sa'ena
Traffic Safety	Peter Moffatt and Peter Hrstich, ASAP
Marine Safety	Splash Gordon
Catering	Blue Carrot
Edit Facility	Gibson Group
Graphic Effects	Tim Murphy and Dylan Mercer
Publicity	Amy Rountree
Publicity Design	Lydia Pack
Music Recording	Andre Upston, Helen Young Studio
Banjo	Nigel Gavin
Violin	Justine Cormack
Trumpet	Kingsley Melhuish
Trombone & Sousaphone	Alistair McMillan
Bass Clarinet	Bridget Miles
Bass	Aaron Codell
Drums	Tony Hopkins
Programming	Victoria Kelly
Commuters	Stephanie Rountree, John Rountree, Ben Zwartz, Karin Paul, Sophie Paul, Jeremy Paul
Skaters	Dan Caddy, Kirk Torrance
Radio Voice	Mick Rose
Digital Colourist	Jon Newell
Digital Online Editor	Shanon Moratti
DI Supervisor	Colin Harrison
Sound Post	Park Road Post - John Neill
Re-recording Mixers	John Bozwell and Mel Graham
Foley Artist	Park Road Post - Robyn McFarlane
Film Recording	Weta Digital

Dinghy from Sea Scouts
City Jetty - Fergs Rock & Kayak

Thanks to:

Kate Kennedy, Sandy Gildea and Vicky Pope at New Zealand Film Commission

Murray McKenzie, Tanya Boelema, Craig Gerritsen, Keith Gerritsen, Becky Austin, Jen Hann, Dermot O'Connor, Sila Sua, Ben Zwartz, Wendy Crane, Helen Thomas, David & Helen Zwartz, John Rountree

Claude Dasan - Panavision NZ Ltd; Grant Campbell - Kodak NZ;
Film Equipment Company; Alan "Woody" Woodfield; Paul Murphy - Get A Grip;
Peter Tonks - Intensive Care Unit; As Safely As Possible;
Capital Communications; Dave Gibson, Rex Potier, Jan Haynes - Gibson Group;
Mike Hopkins; Roger Kerswill - Sea Scouts; Splash Gordon;
Jean Johnston - Film Wellington; Duncan Chrisholm - Hutt City Council;
Mike Osborn - Ferg's Rock & Kayak; Perry Walker - Wellington Waterfront;
Jeanette Skinner & Owen Spearpoint; Mike & Margo Osborne;
Brendon Wilson - The Interisland Line; Tim Alexander - CB Richard Ellis;
Luke Paardekooper - Eastbourne Scouts; Thistle Hall on Cuba; Zebos;
Parade Café; Helipro; Geoff Marland - HAVANA Coffee;
Julie Willet - ETA/Griffins; Carol Stone - The Dominion Post;
Ben Ward - Monaco/Gameboy Advanced; October Conway - SONY;
Jason - Blo Hairdressing; Scott Hindman; Carlos Slater; Steve Benson;
Steve Booth; Peter Daube; Philippa Dick; Jocelyn Hirst