

HITCH HIKE

**A short film by
Matthew Saville**

Produced by Julia Parnell

*Sometimes you
find hope in
the strangest
of places*



PRODUCTION NOTES

Writer/Director:	Matthew Saville
Producer:	Julia Parnell
Production Company:	Notable Pictures Ltd
Country of Production:	New Zealand
Date of Completion:	2011
Shooting Format:	RED 4K
Screening Format:	HDCam or Bluray
Ratio:	1:2.35
Duration:	12 mins
Genre:	Drama

HDCam / 5.1 Surround Sound / Colour / 12 mins / 1:2.35

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

FESTIVALS

Tampere Film Festival 2012	World Premiere
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ONE-LINER

A hitchhiking teenager determined to meet his birth mother finds solace in the strangest of places.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

On a trip to find his birth mother, 18-year-old Aaron is forced to hitch a ride with a rough-looking stranger, Maka. Out of fear, Aaron rejects Maka's friendship, but when the reunion with his mother doesn't go quite as planned, he discovers that the stranger may just be the man to help him after all.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

Hitch Hike was inspired by three separate events: my experiences of hitchhiking through New Zealand, the story of an adopted friend, and a chance meeting in a bar with a character very similar to Maka. After a few beers, I asked him why he had a Swastika tattooed on his face. His answer struck me as being quite profound and in fact is included verbatim in the final scene of the film.

The budget for *Hitch Hike* was minimal so I set myself a few rules to make sure it was achievable: I could have no more than four actors, limited props, and I had to shoot largely in natural light. As I started to bring these elements together, a simple story emerged about a young man hitchhiking to find his birth mother. The minimal approach didn't hinder the story at all, in fact it informed the narrative in a positive way and kept the script sparse and efficient.

Fortunately, I had a great DOP who really believed in the story, a skilled casting director, a passionate producer and a very supportive family. Slowly, I worked with my team to pull together the details that would make the story come alive: casting great actors and scouting for the perfect locations. I wanted to set the film close to where I grew up, on the familiar country roads of New Zealand's Waikato region. The right house was really hard to find, and I still remember my DOP Marty's excitement when we found the key location after three long days of searching. It was only a four-minute drive from the house I grew up in, and the owners were generous enough to let us shoot there.

Directing *Hitch Hike* was a true joy and I'm proud of it. The film tells a story I really connect with. It says something about the world we live in and the judgments we make, and in doing so captures a profound moment in a young man's life.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Matthew was born in Durban, South Africa, to a New Zealand mother and South African father. His family moved to New Zealand in 1982 and because of that dual nationality, he is often drawn to exploring themes of identity.

Growing up in the New Zealand countryside, Matthew struggled with dyslexia, which ironically led 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. Since then he has focused on creating his own work.

Matthew's second play *Kikia te Poa*, set in South Africa in the 1899 Boer war, had seasons in Sydney, London and Wellington and received rave reviews in *Time Out* London and the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

In 2006, Matthew was awarded the New Zealand Film Commission's First Writers Initiative and has since then had several screenplays in development with them.

For the last five years he has worked as a freelance writer and actor in television and film. Most recently as a script editor on the New Zealand feature film *The Most Fun You Can Have Dying* in which he acted as well.

Currently Matthew is working on an adaptation of Alan Duff's novel *One Night Out Stealing* for producer Kristian Eek whose short film *Manurewa* won a Crystal Bear at Berlin last year. He has several other scripts in development including an Australia/New Zealand co-production *War of the Comb*, and *Firehands*, which was a finalist in the Final Draft Big Break Competition 2010.

Hitch Hike is Matthew's film directing debut.

PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY

Julia Parnell is an accomplished producer/director with over ten years experience and thirty documentary and television series credits to her name. In 2010 Julia established the production company Notable Pictures Ltd, launching with hit sports series *Bring Your Boots*, *Oz* and *Henare O'Keefe: Te Tuatangata* a moving documentary profile set in one of New Zealand's most troubled suburbs.

After eighteen months in operation, Notable Pictures is going from strength to strength with a second series of *Bring Your Boots*, *Oz*, *Both Worlds*, a new ten part series providing an innovative take on refugee and migrant experiences in New Zealand, and a probing one hour documentary on restorative justice. Julia has recently expanded into producing drama with two short films *Hitch Hike* and *Friday Tigers* completed, and a third film, *Dive*, in pre-production.

CREDITS

PRODUCTION

Writer/Director	Matthew J Saville
Producer	Julia Parnell

CAST

Aaron	Aaron McGregor
Maka	Calvin Tuteao
Heather	Aidee Walker
Farmer's voice	Bruce Saville

CREW

First AD	Ayla Amano
Production Manager	Zanna Gillespie
Continuity	Arthur Meek
Continuity/Runner	Lisa Moore
Production Runner	Ruth Dunphy
Runner	Chris Saville

Director of Photography	Marty Williams
Camera Assist	Tammy Williams
Camera Assist	Oliver Cross

Grip	Oliver Harris
Grip/Lighting Assist	Iain Walker
Grip/Lighting Assist	Michael Reihana
Broadcast Lighting Assist	Andy Lau

Sound Recordist	Cameron Lenart
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Make-up	Mary Dawson
Wardrobe	Emily Smith
Casting	Miranda Rivers
Traffic Management	Traffic Management NZ (Paul Merson)
Story Board Artist	Paul Jason Young
Catering	Lesley Saville
	Bianca Zander
	Azedear Zander

POST PRODUCTION

Editor	Nathan Hickey
Edit Supervisor	Peter Roberts
Script Editor	Bianca Zander
Sound Design and Mix	Melanie Graham
Post Sound Assist	Victoria Parsons
Colourist	Peter Barrett
VFX	Lakshman Anandanayagan
HD Mastering	Images & Sound Ltd
Music	'Champion'
	Composed by Barnaby Weir
	Performed by Fly My Pretties
	Courtesy of Native Tongue & Loop Recordings

THANKS TO:

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Produced in association with
Fresh Shorts, New Zealand Film Commission

