



I KILL

A short documentary
Directed and Edited by David White and Paul Wedel
Produced By David White

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press kit

QUICK REFERENCE FACT SHEET	3
LOGLINE AND DIRECTOR STATEMENT	4
THE FILMMAKERS	6
CREDITS	7

quick reference fact sheet

TITLE: I KILL

STARRING: Beatle (Steve) Tarrant

DIRECTORS / EDITORS David White and Paul Wedel

PRODUCER: David White

PRODUCTION COMPANY: White Balance Pictures

IN ASSOCIATION WITH: The New Zealand Film Commission.

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Paul Wedel

THE SHOOT: Shot in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

TECHNICAL: Colour / HD / Dolby Stereo

LANGUAGE: English and English Subtitles (if needed)

DURATION: 9 mintues.

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Beatle Tarrant chainsaws a skinned cattle in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand.

logline

The kindest slaughter: a short documentary about one man's bloody job.



Beatle Tarrant cuts open a pig in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand.

director statement

I have known Beatle for a good portion of my life, however he was always a figure on the peripheral. He was employed by my parents to kill animals on our farm for us to eat. I remember when I was about 15, Beatle turned up ready to kill a cattle beast. My father, Beatle and I got into my father's truck and drove to where the herd of cattle were grazing. Beatle explained the reason to take my father's truck and not his was so the animal would not be startled by a vehicle that was a different shape and colour from what it was familiar and comfortable.

My father lifted one hand from the wheel, and pointed out the beast to be killed. Beatle then pulled out his gun, pointed it out the window, and as we were still driving – BAM – he fired. A bullet went straight into the beast's head. The beast fell on the spot, while the rest of the herd just kept chomping away at the grass, unaware that one of their own had died beside them.

I will never forget that. The ease, the accuracy and effortless proficiency Beatle displayed was absolute. There was anxiety neither for the killer nor animal. One moment the beast was alive, the next he was dead. At that moment I thought to myself that if you needed to die, this is way you would want to go.

To me, Beatle manifests a distinct quality of the New Zealand way of life. I have always found him a remarkable person with his "I KILL" license plate on his Chevy truck and his outgoing phone message that says unapologetically, "I must be out killing, leave me a message."

Co-director and Producer David White with Beatle Tarrant on location in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand.

Yet he performs his job with a care and aplomb that seems at odds with this persona. This documentary examines his beliefs, how he got into this line of work, why he does it, and his outlook on life.

As I was writing notes before we shot this documentary, I was sitting in a bar in New York and I could sense a strong disassociation between this urban megalopolis and the world in which Beatle lives, where he humanely kills and prepares this meat.



Beatle Tarrant lines up a shot in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand.

As I sat there, I asked one man in the sprawling city, what would be the one question you would ask Beatle, and he said “does he like his job?” and that is what we went to find out.

David White – Co-Director

the filmmakers

DAVID WHITE AND PAUL WEDEL / DIRECTORS

Paul and David met in a tiny office in Wellington New Zealand in 2006 when Paul signed up to edit a drama feature David was producing. They then started directing and editing films as a duo when they filmed a documentary about rural men who modify nearly-dead vehicles and then smash them on their farms. Since then, Paul and David have established a strong symbiosis, from which they have made some of their favourite films.



PAUL WEDEL: Originally from Canada, Paul is an editor, graphic designer, sound editor and colourist who has recently turned to directing and cinematography. He has worked on documentaries for the National Film Board of Canada, BBC Knowledge and the New Zealand Film Commission.



DAVID WHITE: David started out as an actor, however since that fleeting foray in front of the camera, he turned his hand to producing and directing. He started with music videos, which won an array of awards before producing the independent feature film *The Last Great Snail Chase* (2007).

He recently finished producing the feature documentary *Shihad: Beautiful Machine* about New Zealand's most famous rock band. He has just finished directing (with Paul Wedel) two short documentaries – one for BBC Knowledge, the other for the New Zealand Film Commission and has array of different projects on the horizon.

credits

WHITE BALANCE PICTURES PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION FRESH SHORTS

I KILL

WITH BEATLE TARRANT

DIRECTED AND EDITED BY	DAVID WHITE AND PAUL WEDEL
PRODUCED BY	DAVID WHITE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	PAUL WEDEL
ADDITIONAL CAMERA	SIMON PRICE AND DAVID WHITE
SOUND RECORDING	DYLAN JAUSLIN
ADDITIONAL SOUND RECORDING	AARON AARDVARK
SOUND POST	PAUL WEDEL

MANY THANKS TO BEATLE, VAL, RANDALL, AND REGAN

THANKS TO

LYN AND JOHN WHITE
LEIGH ROSIN
WILL MOORE
PALMERSTON NORTH SPEEDWAY
MEEANEE MAULERS
LISA CHATFIELD
LAUREN GRANSHAW
LIZZIE DUNN
LAURENCE ALEXANDER
RUBBER MONKEY RENTALS
CHRIS HAMPSON
VINCENT BURKE
HENRY FELTHAM
ANTHONY WHITE
RHIANNON WHITE

MANY ANIMALS WERE KILLED IN THE MAKING OF THIS DOCUMENTARY

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