

FOUR KNIGHTS FILM PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH
FRESH SHORTS AND THE SHORT FILM FUND OF THE NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION

A SHORT FILM BY SAM KELLY

A HOME
TO SURVIVE

LAMBS

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY SAM KELLY PRODUCER TOM HERN CINEMATOGRAPHER DENSON BAKER ACS PRODUCTION DESIGNER ANDY SMITH COSTUME DESIGNERS KRISTIN SETH,
CIARA DICKENS EDITOR JEFF HURRELL COMPOSER DAVID LONG SOUND DESIGNER JEREMY CULLEN LINE PRODUCER ZELDA EDWARDS
CASTING DIRECTOR YVETTE REID ASSOCIATE PRODUCER WAYNE POUTOA POST PRODUCTION BY PARK ROAD POST

 62nd Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Generation

 NZ
FILM

FOUR KNIGHTS FILM PRESENTS

In association with FRESH SHORTS, and the
SHORT FILM FUND OF THE NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION:

LAMBS

LOGLINE/SHORT SYNOPSIS

Jimmy, a big-hearted
fourteen year old boy is facing
a difficult decision - stay in his abusive
home to protect his younger siblings,
or leave to start a new life
of his own.

WRITER/DIRECTOR	Sam Kelly
PRODUCER	Tom Hern
CINEMATOGRAPHER	Denson Baker ACS
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	Andy Smith
COSTUME DESIGNERS	Kristin Seth Ciara Dickens
EDITOR	Jeff Hurrell
COMPOSER	David Long
SOUND DESIGNER	Jeremy Cullen
LINE PRODUCER	Zelda Edwards
CASTING DIRECTOR	Yvette Reid
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER	Wayne Poutoa

PRODUCTION NOTES

DURATION:

14.51

SHOOTING FORMAT:

16mm & 35mm

SCREENING FORMATS:

35mm print (with english subtitles),
35mm print clean of subtitles,
HDcam, Digibeta.

ASPECT RATIO:

2:35:1 Anamorphic

DATE OF COMPLETION:

January 2012

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION:

New Zealand

GENRE:

Drama

CAST

“Jimmy”	Waka Rowlands
“Sasha”	Dyanni Ross
“Blake”	Shaden Te Huna
“Chantelle”	Lata Savaii
“Mrs McMillan”	Jessica Robinson
“Zach”	Stephen Rewiti
“Terrance”	Rob Ahu
“Patricia”	Kerry Akavi
“Natalie”	Tessa Fee
“Truck Driver”	Ioelu Fili
“Puku”	Kaya Lal
“Mark”	Arama Wihapi

SALES

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MEDIUM SYNOPSIS

Jimmy (14) deals drugs at school, doesn't do well in class, and is beaten by his mum's boyfriend. His best friend has moved to another city and now Jimmy wants to leave as well. However, Jimmy protects his younger siblings from harm at home, and he doesn't want to leave them. Now Jimmy must decide between self-preservation and self-sacrifice.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As research for a feature film I am writing, I spent time over the last year meeting 'at risk' youth from Wellington, New Zealand. These children have been prosecuted for offenses ranging from burglary to aggravated assault. There was notable similarities in many of their lives, often facing neglect, abuse, drugs, and gang affiliations. I felt disturbed that children in my developed country were in survival mode, yet moved by the courage and heart that many of the kids showed.

My short film "Lambs" steals stories from these many real lives and weaves them into the character of Jimmy — a teenager with a big heart, who protects his siblings even when he suffers because of it. When he reaches his breaking point, the dilemma he faces is the hardest of his short life. "Lambs" portrays the best and worst of family. And the reality of too many young New Zealanders' lives.

BIOGRAPHIES

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Sam Kelly

Sam Kelly learned filmmaking by making short films while at school and university. His practice paid off at New Zealand's popular 48HOURS short filmmaking competition, where over 800 professional and amateur filmmaking teams in cities across New Zealand take part in the challenge to write, direct, and complete a short film within 48 hours. Sam won 'Best Film' in Wellington city against 150-200 teams for the three years in a row that he entered. The genres he drew from the hat in each year were horror, grindhouse, and juvenile delinquent. Sam's horror film is the only 48HOURS film, and one of the few short films ever made, listed in Hamish McDoull's book "Top 100 Essential NZ Films".

Subsequently, Sam won New Zealand Young Filmmaker of the Year. The impressive prize package involved free film stock, equipment hire, and post-production through Peter Jackson's world class facility Park Road Post. Sam was also granted funding from the New Zealand Film Commission, which together with the prize package, allowed him to make the short film "Lambs".

Sam recently completed a Masters in Screenwriting at Victoria University, and is writing a feature film that he hopes to shoot soon.

PRODUCERS BIO

Tom Hern

Tom has over ten years experience in the film and tv industry on both sides of the camera.

Starting his career as an actor, Hern played leading roles in TV productions such as *The Tribe*, *Power Rangers Dino Thunder*, *Shortland St* and *ICE*. In 2006, longing to be involved in stories that he felt passionate about, Hern co-founded *Six String Pictures* with his old acting buddy (turned writer-director), James Napier Robertson. Together the pair independently developed, financed and produced their debut feature, the micro-budget, whodunnit thriller, *I'm Not Harry Jenson*. *Harry* was released in over 30 cinemas theatrically in New Zealand to strong reviews and went on to play at a number of International film festivals including the *Shanghai International Film Festival* and *The New Zealand International Film Festival*.

Last year Tom co-founded Four Knights Film Ltd, with Napier Robertson and Australasian entrepreneurs, Tim and Sasha Wood. Four Knights have one feature green-lit for production in 2012, *Stealing Tommy* (in association with the New Zealand Film Commission), and are on the cusp of closing finance another, *Genesis: The Dark Horse*.

Hern is a passionate and creative producer who loves evocative, dramatic cinema.

Hern attended the Rotterdam Producer's Lab as part of Cinemart 2010.

CINEMATOGRAPHER'S BIO

Denson Baker

Denson Baker ACS is an award winning cinematographer of international feature films including the *The Black Balloon*, *The Waiting City* and *Oranges and Sunshine*. Denson has also shot many music videos, documentaries & commercials.

Denson has photographed Academy Award Nominated, Golden Globe & AFI Award winning actors, Grammy & Aria Award winning musicians, international supermodels and distinguished individuals including Toni Collette, Emily Watson, Hugo Weaving, Radha Mitchell, Joel Edgerton, David Wenham, The Black Eyed Peas, Snoop Dog, Tony Hawk, and Pope Benedict XVI...

In 2005 Denson was accredited by the Australian Cinematographers Society. He is also a member of the New Zealand Cinematographers Society (NZCS) and has worked in many parts of the world including Australia, New Zealand, India, Italy, Germany, South Korea, The Pacific Islands, the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

