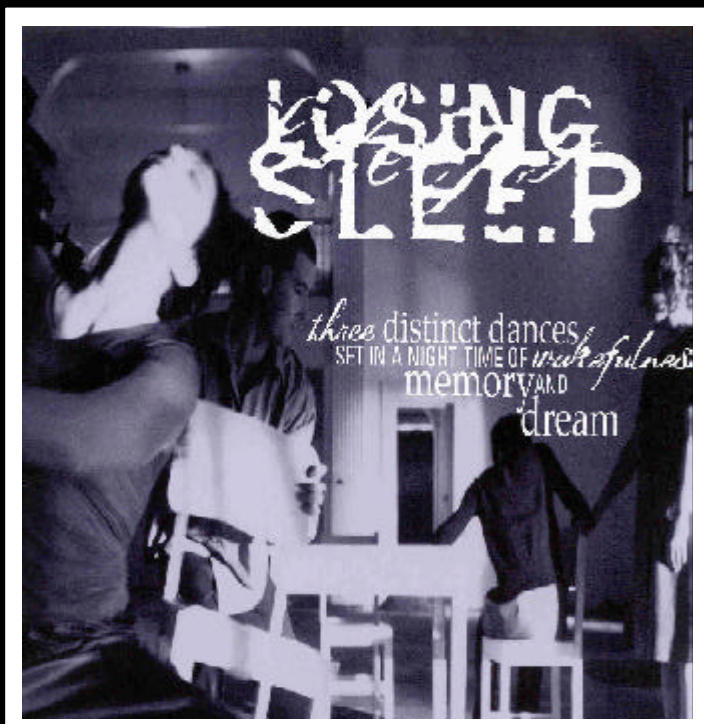


# LOSING SLEEP



# Presskit



TEL: 64 4 382 7680 FAX: 64 4 384 9719 PO BOX 11 546 WELLINGTON

LEVEL 2 THE FILM CENTRE 119 JERVOIS QUAY WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND  
[www.nzfilm.co.nz](http://www.nzfilm.co.nz) [marketing@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:marketing@nzfilm.co.nz)

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# Production Notes

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Writer: Neil Pardington  
Director: Neil Pardington  
Producer: Stuart McKenzie  
Production Company: MAP Film Productions

Black&White/Colour      6 minutes      35 mm      1:1.66      Dolby SR

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## Short Synopsis

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Devised for film by choreographer, Lisa Densem and director, Neil Pardington, ***Losing Sleep*** is a six minute dance film set in a night-tiem fo wakefulness, memory and dream.

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Devised for film by choreographer, Lisa Densem and director, Neil Pardington, ***Losing Sleep*** is a six minute dance film set in a night-tiem fo wakefulness, memory and dream.

Three distinct choreographies explore a dream-like world of shifting relationships between friends and lovers.

A group of friends are caught in a frantic cycle of betrayed trust, deception and shifting allegiances creating an endless pattern of action and reaction in a world without respite or resolve.

Three girlfriends make and break their friendships - continually casting out one of their company in a hopeless cycle of affirmation and dismay.

In a love duet inspired by Paul

Mazursky's 1969 comedy ***Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice*** bedroom politics are played out in a hilarious, but touching dance of requited passion.

***Losing Sleep*** seamlessly translates Lisa Densem's dynamic, yet poignant choreography into a work aptly described as 'cinematic dance, or should I say dancing cinema...a perfect melding of film and movement.'

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# Credits

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## Cast

### Featuring

Lisa Densem  
Megan Adams  
Nicole Bishop  
Kristian Larsen

## Crew

### Director

Neil Pardington

### Choreographer

Lisa Densem

### Producer

Stuart McKenzie

### Executive Producer

Jan Bieringa

### Cinematographer

Phil Burchell

### Editor

Eric de Beus

### Music

Andrew Thomas

### Sound Design

Chris Burt

### Production Design

Neil Pardington and Andrew Thomas

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# Director's Statement

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*Losing Sleep* was an opportunity for me to bring together two of my great loves - film and contemporary dance.

When choreographer Lisa Densem and I were approached by executive producer, Jan Bieringa, to devise a dance film as part of her ScreenDance series, we decided to make Lisa's recent work '**No Sun No Rain**' a point of inspiration.

Lisa's exploration of the shifting dynamics between lovers and friends providing the necessary circumstance for the three new dances that form the film.

The cinema has always been inspirational for Lisa and is strongly reflected in her choreography. Her distinct characterisations, use of fragmented narrative, jump cuts, repetition, black-outs, noir lighting and mood setting 'soundtracks' hailing more from the world of cinema than that of dance. There was a certain resonance then, in making a dance film that returns these devices - albeit in new guises - to the world from which they originated.

We decided, in keeping with this spirit, to base the third section of the film on a scene from one of our favorite films - Paul Mazursky's 1969 comedy '**Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice**'. The hilarious bedroom scene in which Ted (Elliot Gould) is unsuccessful in his attempts to make love to his wife Alice (Dyan Cannon) inspiring what we popularly referred to as 'the bed dance'.

Given this wonderful starting point,

the challenge remained to then capture the mood and dynamic of the dance on film. The response to the film's first screening at the Wellington Film Festival, where it was described as 'cinematic dance, or should I say dancing cinema... a perfect melding of film and movement' suggests that these two worlds, unlike Ted and Alice, did in fact come together in a meaningful way.

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# Director's Biography

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NEIL PARDINGTON, of Scottish and Ngai Tahu descent, studied film and photography at the Elam School of Fine Arts. His films and photographs have since been widely exhibited, his works featuring in private and major public collections throughout New Zealand. Neil is a director of MAP Film Productions. He has produced, written and directed a number of films, including **Chinese Whispers** and **The Dig**, selected for screening at the Cannes Film Festival in 1994.

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# Choreographer's Biography

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LISA DENSEM is a graduate of the New Zealand School of Dance. She is best known for her work as a dancer with Douglas Wright and Michael Parmenter. In 1997 Lisa created her first major work, **No Sun, No Rain** which was awarded 'Best New Moves' at The Wellington Fringe Festival. Lisa moved to Berlin, Germany in 1999 to work with the internationally renowned company 'Sasha Waltz and Guests'.