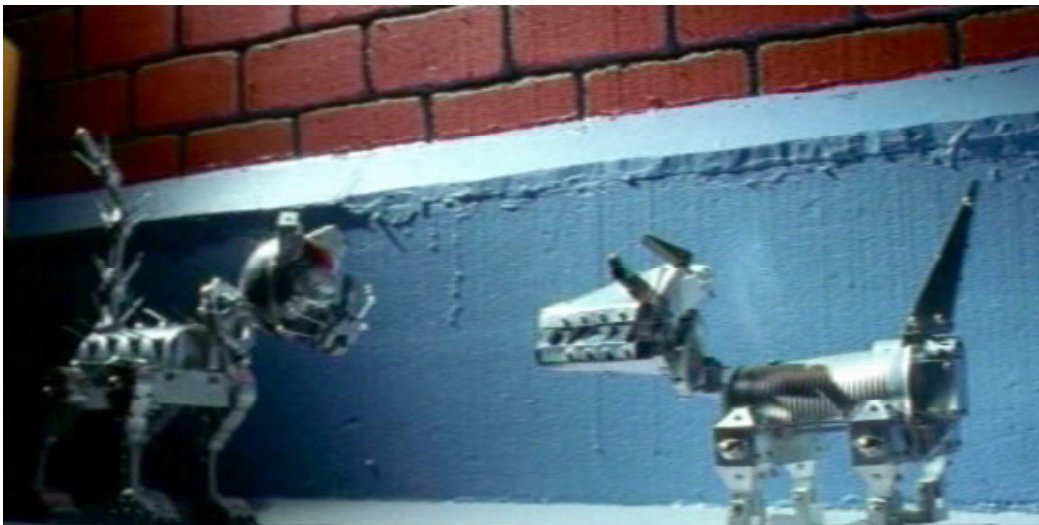


# Meta Mutt To Mars



PRESSKIT

I N T E R N A T I O N A L   S A L E S

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**N E W   Z E A L A N D   F I L M**

## **Essential Information**

Writer/Director	Ian Powell
Producer/s	Ian Powell & Tim Prebble
Production Company	Hairless Films
Contact	hairless@ihug.co.nz
Technical Information	35mm
Film Ratio:	1:1.85
Sound:	Dolby Digital
Video Format:	DVD, SP Beta, Digital Beta
Video Format Ratio:	PAL
Running Time	10 Mins 57 Secs
Country of Production	New Zealand
Date of completion	2006
Sales	Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission email juliette@nzfilm.co.nz Tel: +64 4 382 7686

## **Log Line**

Meta Mutt to Mars is a stop-motion tale of escalating revenge between arch rivals Spike the cat and Robo-dog Meta Mutt.

## **Short Synopsis**

Lured into a devious trap set by his archenemy Spike the robotic cat, Meta Mutt is forcibly enlisted in the fledgling New Zealand Space program and blasted off to Mars. After meeting some friendly aliens Meta Mutt hatches a plan to return to Earth to seek out the ultimate revenge.

## **Film Festival Screenings**

2007 MIC Homegrown 'Works in Animation' Programme, New Zealand  
2007 Show Me Shorts Film Festival, New Zealand

## **Director's Notes - 'Ian Powell'**

Meta Mutt was conceived & written in 1999 and has been filmed over a six year period in Wellington, New Zealand using a dedicated 35mm stop motion film camera loaned by FAT Films. Final editing and postproduction was completed early in 2006.

Meta Mutt To Mars is my first animated film although I have previously used stop motion for a music video shot on location in Osaka, Japan. It is a filmic technique that I have become endlessly fascinated with & intend to explore further.

Stylistically the film is influenced by the B grade science fiction movies of the fifties, film noir and Japanese science fiction from the fifties, sixties and seventies. It is also informed by the optimism and aesthetics of the early years of space exploration, specifically including Laika the Russian astro-dog, who was the first living being sent into orbit in 1957.

I have studied the work of animation legends such as Ray Harryhausen, Jan Svankmajer and Nick Park but also consider the work of New Zealand kinetic artist Len Lye an important influence.

## **Director's Bio**

Born in Lincoln, New Zealand, Ian attended secondary school in Christchurch, followed by the School of Fine Arts at Canterbury University, where he focused on the Drama and Film programme. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1990.

Soon after, he departed for the U.K where he worked and travelled for eighteen months before settling in Japan for the following eight years. While in Japan he worked as an independent filmmaker, English teacher and also taught practical film studies.

In 1995 he set up Hairless Films, an independent film production company, with collaborator Daniele Wilmouth. Projects included music videos and short films.

Returning to New Zealand in March 2000 with his Japanese partner Rie Miyanishi, Ian applied to the Creative New Zealand Screen Innovations Production Fund and received funding for this film. Thus began Meta Mutt's journey.

## **CAST AND CREW**

### **Director, Screenplay, Camera, Editor - Ian Powell**

Ian has worked as an animator, director, cinematographer and editor in New Zealand, and in Japan, the country of Meta Mutt's birth. Currently he is working at Victoria University's film department as the head technician.

### **Character Design- Rie Miyanishi**

Rie is a professional Graphic Designer who is trained in the U.K before working in Osaka Japan for Studio Beam. Her main client was Proctor and Gamble, and she worked on design for Pringles, Max Factor, Pampus and Joy. She designed the characters of Spike the robotic cat and the aliens, she also did art direction and credit title design and layout.

### **Producer, Sound Design & Score - Tim Prebble**

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0695670>

Tim is an award winning sound designer responsible for many of New Zealand's unique feature film soundtracks, including The World's Fastest Indian, Black Sheep, No.2, Perfect Strangers and The Price of Milk.

Although Tim has been a musician all of his life, this film represents his first foray into film scoring. The score for Meta Mutt combines orchestral composition with electronic techniques to evoke the classic sound of 1950s science fiction films. Additional musicians include David Long on theremin and Bruce McKinnon (NZSO) on percussion.

### **Sound Mixer - Gilbert Lake**

Gilbert is an up & coming film sound mixer and rerecording engineer based at Peter Jackson's state of the art film post production facility, Park Road Post.