

NOTHING SPECIAL

Written by Helena Brooks and Jaquie Brown
Directed by Helena Brooks

A neurotic young man tries desperately to overcome his
mistaken identity as Jesus reincarnate.
But can he ever escape his most zealous devotee – his mother?

PRESS KIT



I N T E R N A T I O N A L S A L E S

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

Essential Information

Writers	Helena Brooks & Jaquie Brown
Director	Helena Brooks
Producer/s	Steve Sachs & Helena Brooks
Production Company	Rocket Pictures & Lucky Pictures
Technical Information	35mm / 1:1.85 / Dolby Stereo / Colour
Running Time	11 minutes including titles
Country of Production	New Zealand
Date of completion	December 2004
Genre	Black comedy
Sales/ Festivals	Kate Kennedy, New Zealand Film Commission email kate@nzfilm.co.nz Tel: +64 4 382 7686

Log Line

A neurotic young man tries desperately to overcome a mistaken identification as Jesus reincarnate. But can he ever escape his most zealous devotee – his mother?

Short Synopsis

Nothing Special is a black comedy about Billy, a young boy who becomes the reluctant subject of worship when his deluded mother decides he is the reincarnate of Jesus.

Long Synopsis

Billy, an ordinary nine year old, becomes the reluctant subject of worship when his delusional mother decides he is the reincarnate of Jesus Christ.

Her zealous mission to let people know the happy news means he is routinely humiliated in front of the whole neighbourhood and he soon starts to hate attention of any kind.

As soon as he is old enough, a traumatised Billy attempts to escape by moving cities and changing his name – all he wants to be is the most normal, boring, forgettable person in the whole world.

Surrounded by dull people in a drab office job, Billy thinks he has found paradise, but his attempts at 'normal' behaviour border on the eccentric with an implementation of a daily word quota, and a paranoia of anything special.

The arrival of a beautiful new girl arrives at the office sets off a chain of events that threatens his safe existence and makes him wonder if he can ever live a life that is Nothing Special.

Director's Notes – Helena Brooks

The story of 'Nothing Special' appealed to me because it's funny and has such a unique premise. I like films that are strong on ideas and offer different ways of looking at the world.

Forefront in my mind when casting and directing the lead character of Billy was for him to be likeable and attractive, despite the fact that he is quite eccentric. Kip Chapman was perfect for the part, playing nervous in a very funny 'Frank Spencer-like' way, while also being easy on the eye. Together in rehearsal we worked hard on making Billy's neurotic behaviour an endearing trait.

Creating a beautiful stylised world for the film and the characters has always really important to me in filmmaking. The ideas behind the production design of *Nothing Special* was to have a childhood saturated with colour, signifying intensity of feeling and emotion. I was inspired by Dr Seuss books, which like the film have unusual, mad themes. From Seuss came the limited colour palette of red, green, mint, yellow and stripes.

When Billy runs away from home and creates the life he has always wanted, it is visually very different from his childhood. We pulled out all colour and made his new world a safe haven of greys and whites.

The intrusion of anything intense is signified with saturated colour; red 'Special' labels, the girl dressed in red, and his mother in bright green.

Director's Bio

Helena's first short film *Harry & Peter in Love* was made at film school and self-funded. It won National and International acclaim including winning 'Best Art Direction' at the New York Short Film Festival. It also screened at Mexico's 'Expresión en Corto', London's 'BBC Southampton Film Festival' and 'The New Zealand International Film Festival'.

She has since been busy directing TV programmes, commercials and music videos where she recently won 'Best Rock Video' at the Juice TV Music Awards.

Production Companies: Rocket Pictures & Lucky Pictures

Rocket Pictures is Steve Sachs company and Lucky Pictures was started by Helena Brooks and Jaquie Brown to make this film.

Producer: Steve Sachs

Steve Sachs has over 15 years' experience as a producer and line producer in the United States and New Zealand.

Before moving to New Zealand ten years ago with his Kiwi wife, Margot Francis, an Emmy award winning film editor, he worked extensively in New York and Los Angeles on independent features and network and cable TV drama.

Upon his arrival he produced a drama series *True Life Stories*, which won the best drama series award at the 1995 New Zealand Film and Television Awards.

He established Rocket Pictures Ltd in 1995 and since then has produced several short films and TV dramas, including *Sarah's Washing*, directed by Greg Page, which won the Merit Award at the Chicago Film Festival and *A Moment Passing*, written and directed by Charlie De Salis, which made official selection at the Venice Film Festival. Steve has also produced the two New Zealand feature films *Savage Honeymoon*, written and directed by Mark Beesley and *The Locals*, written and directed by Greg Page.

KEY CREW

Written by	HELENA BROOKS & JAQUIE BROWN
Directed by	HELENA BROOKS
Produced by	STEVE SACHS & HELENA BROOKS
Executive Producers	MATTHEW METCALFE & JESSE WARN
Production Designer	HELENA BROOKS
Sound Designer	CARL SMITH
Director of Photography	DALE MCCREADY
Music Composer	JUSTYN PILBROW

CAST

BILLY - KIP CHAPMAN
HEATHER – ALISON ROUTLEDGE
YOUNG BILLY – LLIAM POWELL
BOSS – GREG JOHNSON
FISH & CHIP WOMAN – GERALDINE BROPHY
GIRLFRIEND – EMILY O'BRIEN-BROWN

CREW

Director of Photography	Dale McCready
Editor	Margo Francis
Art Director	Teresa Peters
Associate Producer	Jaquie Brown
Co- Producer	Lucy Jordan
Production Manager	Fraser Brown
Production Co-ordinator	Sarah Corban
Location Sound	Al Seconi
Boom Operator	Dean Judd
1st Assistant Director	Karyn Childs
2nd Assistant Director	David Gunson
Steadicam	Dale McCready
Focus Puller	Inga Fillary
Clapper Loader	Aletia Hudson
Gaffer	Paul Eversden
Best Boy	Spencer Locke-Bonney
Key Grip	Kim Worthington
Grip	Daimon Wright
Continuity	Guy Strachan
Make Up Artist	Emma Peters
Assistant Make Up Artist	Tarnya Mills
Art Dept Assistants	Kirsty Johnson, Alexa Wilson, James Brown
Wardrobe Standby	Shelley Kostanic

Location Manager	John-Paul Winger
Unit	Catriona Henshall
Production Assistant	Rachael Walker
Assistant Editors	Doug Dillaman & Jochen Fitzherbert
Telecine	Images Post
Sound Mix and Tracklay	Carl Smith
Laboratory	Film Lab
Casting	Catch Casting
Catering	5 Loaves, 2 Fishes
Post Production Supervisor	Grant Baker
Grading	Paul Lear
Special Effects	Brenton Cumberpatch
Titles	The Wilderness
Camera Equipment	Panavision
Insurance	Mahoney Trendall & Jack
Film Stock	KODAK
Music Licensing	Nicky Donoghue at Mana Music
<p>“Dance all around the world” (Simpson/Murphy) Control Performed by Blerta Courtesy of EMI Music NZ</p>	