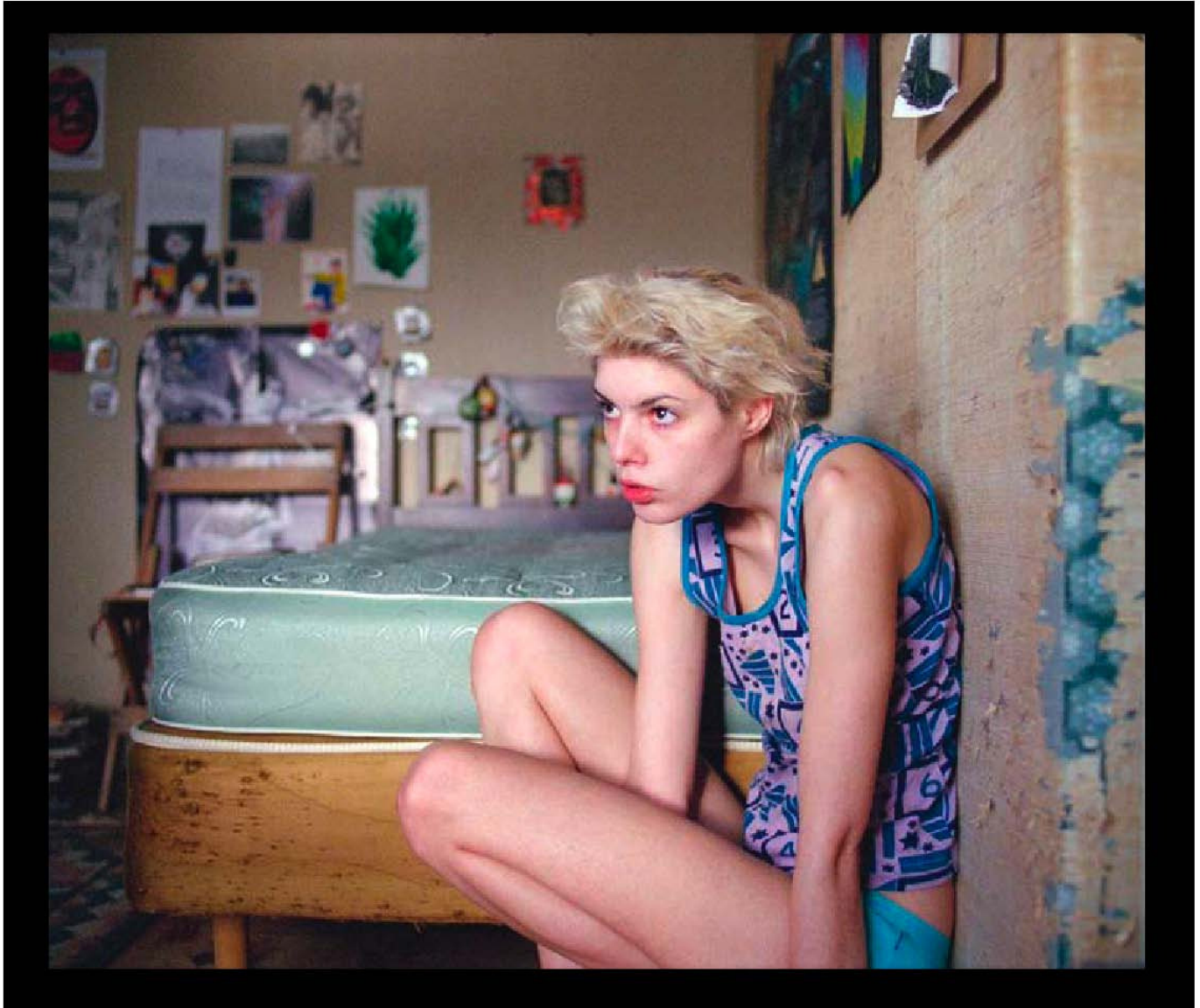


A Short Film by Kirsty Cameron

# THE LETHAL INNOCENTS



## PRESS KIT

### INTERNATIONAL SALES

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# THE LETHAL INNOCENTS

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## Essential Information

Format: 35mm Film Ratio: 1.85  
Academy Sound: Dolby Digital 5.1  
Video Format: Digital Betacam  
Video Format Ratio: 16x9 Letterbox  
Running Time: 09mins 24secs  
Country of Production: New Zealand  
Date of Completion: Dec 2006

## Producer:

M.F films

Michele Driscoll MF Films No.2 Ltd Email: [micheledriscoll@mffilms.co.nz](mailto:micheledriscoll@mffilms.co.nz) Tel: + 64 9 376 0876 Web: [www.mffilms.co.nz](http://www.mffilms.co.nz)

## Sales:



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## CAST

### AVRIL PLANQUEEL

Monika Barton

Janina Suramach

Clare Andrew

Jessica Thompson

Vicky Rodewyk

## CREW

DOP Jac Fitzgerald

EDITOR Karryn De Cinque

SOUND DESIGNER Colleen Brennan

ART DIRECTOR Rosie Guthrie

ACTING COACH Maya Dalziel

1ST AD Rachael Heath

# THE LETHAL INNOCENTS

## Directors Statement

In 'The Lethal Innocents' I wanted to create a suburban fable to tell the story of a girl who does not conform to the clichéd ideas of teenage right and wrong. These girls can be called many things – odd girl out, social misfit, outsider, weirdo, freak..... the list goes on. They are different and therefore often used as scapegoats as they threaten the accepted norm.

Many teenagers who experience this reality attempt desperate measures to escape or to protest, suicide is common, and recently Elizabeth Bush, a 14 year old who I have used as a source of inspiration, took a gun to school and shot the girl who had hurt her most.

So the shape-shifting of Rita is a metaphor for this desire to disappear, to escape the calculated wrath of the queen bees, and also useful in the desire for revenge.

This suburban fable of metamorphosis has many layers I am interested in:

Girls / women who are wayward or different.

The identification of young girls with animals, especially the cat which doubles as a cute fluffy thing and self sufficient loner.

The proliferation of shape-shifting in fairy tales, the stuff that girls are brought up on.

Adolescence as a time of emotional turmoil, great drama and heightened sensitivity.

The trepidation which teenage hood holds for those who don't conform to accepted rules of aesthetic and being.

The portrayal of that which lies beneath the surface.

Influences include the fictional stories 'Metamorphosis' by Kafka and 'Lady into Fox' by David Garnett, the films 'Repulsion' by Polanski and 'Carrie' by De Palma, the children's stories 'The Boy and the Magic' by Collette and 'Harriet and the Matches' by Dr. Henrich Hoffmann.

The bullying is based on testimonials of kids who have been bullied, and the absolute relentlessness of it.

The Lethal Innocents is also an ode to my recently departed cat and soul mate Mister Brown.

## Festival Screenings

2007 Homegrown Film Festival, New Zealand

2007 Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden

# THE LETHAL INNOCENTS

## **Synopsis**

**Rita, a 15 year old girl who dances to a different beat, is relentlessly bullied by the queen bees. When they kill her cat, they go one step too far.**

## **Production Notes**

**The story is an original idea written by Kirsty Cameron. While the finished film is true to the script, we employed a work-shopping process to encourage creative involvement from the largely non-actor cast to empower them to be these characters. We greatly prioritized this preparation, employing Maya Dalziel (a seasoned theatre & film actor & drama tutor), as well as incorporating stunts and choreography thoroughly in the work-shopping stage. We spent a long time looking for our 'Rita' and when we found Avril Planqueel, we knew we had our film.**

**Kirsty brought to the project an already established working relationship with the DOP, sound designer, colour grader & editor from her earlier projects.**

**Our intention was to treat the work like an embroidery, paying attention to all the details as we knew we were asking for a great suspension of disbelief for the idea to work.**

## **Writer / Directors Bio**

**After finishing a fine arts degree at Elam School of Fine Arts in Auckland, Kirsty simultaneously started a career in the film industry as a costume designer while exhibiting video and installation as an artist. She was a founding member of 'TESTSTRIP' an artist run gallery in Auckland. Kirsty has costume designed ten New Zealand feature films, including 'Rain', 'Whalerider' and 'In My Fathers Den'. She has also completed a number of short film / video projects 'Behind Me Is Black' (1999) was shown in the Auckland International Film Festival. 'The Swarm' (2005) exhibited in the St Paul's Gallery and 'Cross My Heart' (2006) was shown at the New Zealand International Film Festival'.**

**Kirsty is interested in making evocative films that have resonance and gravity.**