



LOGLINE:

**A DYSFUNCTIONAL GANG OF CRIMINALS  
TAKES A MIDDLE CLASS MAORI FAMILY  
HOSTAGE AND DISCOVERS TOO LATE  
THEY'RE A FAMILY OF CANNIBALS.**

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

WHEN THE TAN GANG'S PRISON BREAKOUT GOES VIOLENTLY  
WRONG, THEY NEED A HIDEOUT IN A HURRY.

PICKING THE MCMANSION OF A MIDDLE-CLASS  
MAORI FAMILY PROBABLY SEEMS LIKE A SAFE BET.

BUT HOW ARE THE TANS TO KNOW THAT THIS PARTICULAR  
FAMILY HAVE REINTRODUCED SOME VERY OLD-FASHIONED  
CUISINE TO THEIR DINING TABLE?

WILL THE TANS ESCAPE THE TRAP, OR IS THERE  
GANGSTER IN THE CASSEROLE TONIGHT?

IN NEW ZEALAND CINEMAS OCTOBER 25 2012

# FRESH MEAT

PRESS KIT



THIS IS A SHORT FORM PRESS KIT. FURTHER STORY INFORMATION AND BIOS AVAILABLE FROM [BONNIE@GIBSON.CO.NZ](mailto:Bonnie@gibson.co.nz)

## STORY OF THE FILM

**Fresh Meat is a unique blend of comedy horror and action.**

Director Danny Mulheron: "To be honest it's not often as a director you get to have car crashes, shoot outs, lesbian shower scenes, cannibalism, comedy, horror and thrills, all in one movie. It's a real privilege to make a film I would enjoy watching and I hope people will come away having had a lot of laughs, a few frights and a nice date!"

Dave Gibson originally came across the story with a Canadian producer Derek Diorio (Fresh Meat Executive Producer). "I was keen to do another horror film but had struggled to find New Zealand writers who loved the genre as much as I do. Derek came to me with the script about a white middle class family (of cannibals) whose home was invaded by a gang

of criminals. It was set somewhere in the middle of Canada and I became fixated by the idea of changing it."

Dave then had to find a writer willing to accept his twisted take on the story. Fortunately celebrated Maori scriptwriter Briar Grace-Smith was up for the task (albeit with some initial hesitations). Dave explains, "I had worked with Briar before and I knew she had an interesting dark side to her. I also knew she liked watching horror films and she completely embraced the challenge. There was only one thing we had to help her with and that was around coming up with new and interesting ways to kill people. That was the only slight gap in her knowledge."

For Dave there was no other choice for the director role. "Danny has served an enormous apprenticeship in terms of working with actors and comedy and this is a comedy horror. It's right

up his alley. I didn't want it to be some sort of mutilating dead bodies slasher pic. Danny was perfect as he's got a lighter touch and he can find the humour, even within the gore."

But who would play Dr Hemi Crane? None other than veteran actor Temuera Morrison. It was a case of "love at first sight" when Tem met Danny and from there everything fell into place. "We actors are quite vulnerable," Morrison explains. "We're trying to contend with the dialogue, the movements and everything needs sculpting and shaping so it was really fortunate Danny and I just gelled. We have a good basic respect for each other and we have that communication. He guided us through the journey and it's all about being on the same waka (canoe), paddling together."

The action is largely set in the Crane's middle-class McMansion in suburban

Churton Park. The beige exterior hides a blood-thirsty interior with a paedophile in the boot of the Corolla, a vegetarian in the oven and a bloody great abattoir in the basement.

The full house set was constructed by production designer Kevin Leonard-Jones and his art department team in the facilities at Avalon Studios in Lower Hutt, Wellington.

The magazine style interiors, the colour schemes and the furniture were selected to create the vision of a house worthy of the new Urban Maori. The Crane family appear to have it all; middle class yet upwardly mobile, their grey and white interior perfect to offset the deep red of splattered blood.

"DANNY WAS PERFECT AS HE'S GOT A LIGHTER TOUCH AND HE CAN FIND THE HUMOUR, EVEN WITHIN THE GORE."

DAVE GIBSON, PRODUCER

# "I'M NOT EVEN INTERESTED IN BOYS!"

RINA CRANE (HANNA TEVITA)

## MID-LENGTH SYNOPSIS

After a botched prison break the Tan brothers' gang take refuge in suburbia where they invade the family home of Maori academic Hemi Crane.

He and his wife Margaret, a successful TV chef, along with their teenage children Glenn and Rina don't seem to pose much of a threat to Ritchie and Paulie Tan, their fumbling accomplice Johnny, and the smoking hot Gigi.

Or do they?

The house might look like your standard suburban McMansion, but

there's a few additions to the Crane residence that aren't on the architect's plans. Like a bloody great abattoir in the basement for instance. And a homeowner who's a devotee of an ancient Maori cult, on a mission to reintroduce cannibalism to the 21st century.

The tables are set to turn in this unique mash up of comedy, horror and action. And in the middle of this chaos Gigi and Rina are looking at each other with a whole different desire for human flesh.





"THIS IS 90 MINUTES OF ROCK AND ROLL."  
DAVE GIBSON, PRODUCER

## "I'LL KILL YOU FUCKING ALL!"

PAULIE TAN (RALPH HILAGA)



**Dave Gibson, Producer:**

I came across the story when I was on the hunt for a horror film and it was set somewhere in the middle of Canada. When I read it I was attracted to the terrific amount of energy and the events that just keep compounding. I love the set up of the home invasion and the fact it goes so horribly wrong. The cannibals turn the tables, so to speak, on the gang.

Originally it was all white people running around eating each other and I can't remember how it came about but I know I was the idiot who had

the idea of moving the story to New Zealand and making the family contemporary Maori cannibals. I tried the idea on a few people and they were stunned and I really liked that.

I am attracted to working on genre films. When you're playing with a genre you're allowed to have some fun and do silly things. You can do gore, splatter and lesbian shower scenes as the audience knows what they're in for and they go for it.

This is 90 minutes of rock and roll.

A man with short brown hair and a light beard, wearing a purple zip-up hoodie over a yellow t-shirt, looks directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is holding a bundle of red dynamite with black wires, which is sparking at the bottom. The background is a bright yellow wall with a vertical streak of red and orange paint on the left side.

# "HI HONEY. I'M HOME."

JOHNNY (JACK SHADBOLT)

WRITER AND DIRECTOR DANNY MULHERON HAS WORKED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF ROLES AND MEDIA OVER THE YEARS INCLUDING A STINT WITH PETER JACKSON IN LOS ANGELES WORKING ON THE SIXTH AND FINAL INSTALMENT OF 'NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET (DREAM LOVER)' AND CO WRITING 'MEET THE FEEBLES', IN WHICH HE ALSO STARRED AS THE PRIMA DONNA HIPPO HEIDI. THIS IS HIS DEBUT FEATURE AS DIRECTOR.

"WHAT I LOVE ABOUT THIS MOVIE THE MOST IS THE FACT THAT WE WERE EVEN ABLE TO MAKE IT.

I WANTED TO PRESENT THE CANNIBALISM NOT AS A SPLATTER MOVIE BUT RATHER IN THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT. WHAT WE SEE BEING EATEN IS ALL THE BEST CUTS. THE CRANE FAMILY DO IT BEAUTIFULLY. IT'S ALL CUT UP LIKE A BOUTIQUE BUTCHERY AND EVERYTHING IS DONE JUST SO. AND THAT IS THE POINT.

IT'S NOT TRYING TO SAY IT'S HORRIBLE. IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE A GOOD BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY.

I HOPE PEOPLE COME OUT OF THE MOVIE HUNGRY."

DANNY MULHERON, DIRECTOR



## LEAD ACTOR - KATE ELLIOTT

*What was it that attracted you about playing Gigi?*

Gigi's a great role. She has vulnerability and strength and her story has a great arc. I also really wanted to work with Temuera Morrison and to do my own stunts so it ticked all the boxes.

*How did you find your character?*

I did a lot of investigating on YouTube about girls firing shotguns and ended up sending videos back and forth to Danny of these weird hick American women firing shotguns in slow motion. I've always played strong females but I've never played anyone really good at using her fists and a shotgun.

### **Director Danny Mulheron:**

She was so committed to it after some initial worries. Once she got a shotgun in her hand she realised the thrill of shooting things up and running and punching people. She was asking me, 'What is this?' 'Am I being made fun of?', 'Am I being exploited?' 'Yes, yes and yes' I'd respond. But she really got into it and she's a hero. I would say to her, "You're Clint Eastwood in hot pants in this movie."

"I'VE ALWAYS PLAYED STRONG FEMALES BUT I'VE NEVER PLAYED ANYONE REALLY GOOD AT USING HER FISTS AND A SHOTGUN."

KATE ELLIOTT, LEAD ACTOR

WARDROBE DESIGNER NIC SMILLIE LITERALLY ROLLED WITH THE BLOOD-SPLATTERED PUNCHES. GIGI'S WARDROBE CAME ABOUT WHEN ACTOR LEANDO MACADAAN WAS ASKED TO IMAGINE HIS CHARACTER'S DREAM GIRLFRIEND...

THE PINK HOT PANTS AND KNEE-HIGH SOCKS WERE THE RESULT.

# "GIRLS LIKE ME DON'T CALL THE COPS!"

GIGI (KATE ELLIOTT)

TOY LOVE, THE INSIDERS GUIDE TO LOVE, 30 DAYS OF NIGHT, BLISS, POWER RANGERS SAMURAI





## LEAD ACTOR - TEMUERA MORRISON

*You came on board Fresh Meat from very early on, what was it that attracted you about the script?*

The big thing for me is that I have always been looking for a comedy genre film. For most of my career I've been playing these tough roles in *Once Were Warriors*, *Crooked Earth* and I had my eye on what scriptwriter Briar Grace-Smith was up to. I had seen a lot of this new Maori breed of writers coming through so I'd been on the look out to work with her. Normally she's right into the Maori elements, creating quite spiritual, moving work so it's something fresh for her as well as me.

*How did you find your character?*

He's a bit of a mad professor really. There's a word in Maori 'whaka hihī' that means a little bit 'stuck up' and he's a bit like that. Hemi thinks very highly of himself and he is very educated of course. He's just rather partial to human flesh, as a viable sustainable lifestyle. He's just totally mad I think.

**"TEMUERA WAS A REAL SWEETHEART TO WORK WITH. HE IS A REAL PRO AND HE ACTED AS A MENTOR FOR THE YOUNGER KIDS WHO WERE NATURALLY IN AWE OF HIM."**

DANNY MULHERON, DIRECTOR

**"WE'RE NOT MAORI CANNIBALS,  
WE'RE JUST CANNIBALS WHO  
HAPPEN TO BE MAORI."**

HEMI CRANE (TEMUERA MORRISON)

[ONCE WERE WARRIORS, WHAT BECOMES OF THE BROKEN HEARTED, RIVER QUEEN, CROOKED EARTH, STAR WARS EPISODE II: ATTACK OF THE CLONES, GREEN LANTERN]

## THE SETS

AS HOST OF HER OWN COOKING SHOW, WITH A SUCCESSFUL ONLINE ORDERING BUSINESS, MARGARET CRANE ALSO NEEDED A PARTICULARLY STRONG SETTING FOR THE PREPARATION OF MEAT. THE ABATTOIR WAS A PARTICULAR STANDOUT FOR DESIGNER **KEVIN LEONARD-JONES** WITH ITS RANGE OF IMPLEMENTS AND FULL RIGGING FOR THE INFAMOUS "SWING" SCENE.

GRUESOME BODY PARTS, LEGS, ARMS AND SALAMI, INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY, SAWS AND AN IMPRESSIVE SELECTION OF BLADES CREATE A HORRIFIC, YET TERRIBLY ORDERLY, TAKE ON CANNIBALISM. AS DIRECTOR DANNY SAYS, "THEY'RE WORKING WITH THE BEST MEATS AND BEAUTIFUL FOOD. IT'S ALL ABOUT A WELL MANAGED AND WELL PRESENTED APPROACH."



# "NO BALL TO YOU TOO PEDO!"

GLENN CRANE (KAHN WEST)

"I HAVE TREATED CANNIBALISM AS SOMETHING QUITE NORMAL WHICH IS WHAT THIS FAMILY DOES... IT'S CHEEKY."

BRIAR GRACE-SMITH, WRITER



BRIAR GRACE-SMITH IS AN AWARD-WINNING WRITER. HER LIST OF PREVIOUS TV AND FILM CREDITS, WHICH INCLUDE 'FISH SKIN SUIT' AND 'THE STRENGTH OF WATER', ARE **NOTHING** LIKE FRESH MEAT.

#### Briar Grace-Smith:

I was able to channel my inner teenage boy. I have a teenage son and I quite often used him in terms of humour and character to check if he would laugh at certain things. Most of the language is from being around my kids, my friends and my own family. As writers we tend to listen closely to how people speak.

It was fun embracing but also refining

the other stereotypes of Maori characters I have seen. So in Fresh Meat we have a middle class Maori family we don't usually see on screen in New Zealand. We have Hemi Crane, an associate professor and Margaret Crane, the celebrity chef so they were a fun family to deal with the cannibalism issue through.

I have treated cannibalism as something quite normal which is what

this family does. It's cheeky. It's about owning our past and recreating our future, rather than pretending it didn't happen. I also had a lot of fun thinking about recipes you could possibly use human flesh with. Apparently pork tastes pretty close so there is a recipe in there for mini pork and rosemary pies that people can order on the internet for dinner parties.









## CAST LIST

### CHARACTER

HEMI CRANE  
MARGARET CRANE  
RINA CRANE  
GIGI  
JOHNNY  
RITCHIE TAN  
PAULIE TAN  
GLENN CRANE  
SHAUN

### ACTOR

TEMUERA MORRISON  
NICOLA KAWANA  
HANNA TEVITA  
KATE ELLIOTT  
JACK SHADBOLT  
LEAND MACADAAN  
RALPH HILAGA  
KAHN WEST  
WILL ROBERTSON

FURTHER BIOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER TITBITS  
ABOUT ALL THE ACTORS ARE AVAILABLE  
BY EMAILING [Bonnie@gibson.co.nz](mailto:Bonnie@gibson.co.nz)





## PRODUCTION CREDITS

DIRECTOR DANNY MULHERON

WRITTEN BY  
STORY BRIAR GRACE-SMITH  
BRAD ABRAHAM & JOSEPH O'BRIEN

PRODUCER DAVE GIBSON  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DEREK DIORIO  
LINE PRODUCER CHRIS TYSON

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON BAUMFIELD  
DESIGNER KEVIN LEONARD-JONES  
COSTUME DESIGNER NIC SMILLIE  
MAKEUP SUPERVISOR HIL COOK  
VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR JOHN STRANG  
STUNT CO-ORDINATOR RODNEY COOK  
EDITOR PAUL SUTORJUIS  
CASTING DIRECTOR RACHEL BULLOCK

ORIGINAL SCORE PLAN 9  
DAVID DONALDSON  
STEVE ROCHE  
JANET RODDICK

YEAR  
2012

LENGTH  
91 minutes

FORMAT  
DCP & 35mm

RATING (NZ)  
R16

COUNTRY  
New Zealand

PRODUCTION COMPANY  
Gibson Group

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
New Zealand Film Commission

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