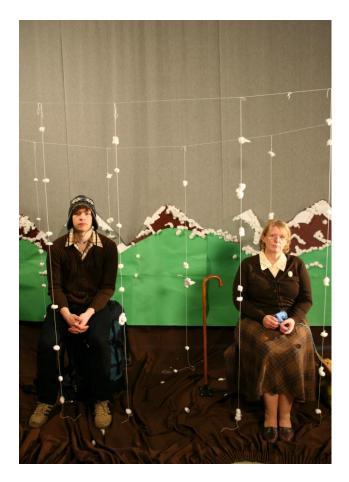


BETTY BANNED SWEETS



PRESS KIT

Sometimes the best party is the one you don't want

PRODUCTION NOTES

R 0 S Ε S Ν Т Ε Ν Α Т Ν Α L Т Α L

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

Writer / Director: Producer: Production Company: Screening Format: Length: Date of completion: Country of Production: Language: Sales: Michelle Savill Michelle Savill Paint-by-Numbers Collective HD Cam/Digibeta 14 mins 2008 New Zealand English Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission, juliette@nzfilm.co.nz Tel: +64 4 382 7686

LOG LINE

Sometimes the best party is the one you don't want.

ONELINER

While Benjamin obsessively dreams of escaping to South America, his mother plans his unwanted birthday party- but sometimes the best parties are the ones you don't want.

SYNOPSIS

Twenty three year-old Benjamin and his mother have a strangely co-dependent relationship, much to Benjamin's growing disdain. To escape it he retreats into his studio and his shoe-boxed sized models of the places he is desperate to visit.

While Benjamin obsessively creates dioramas and makes plans to get away, his mother obsessively plans an unwanted birthday party for him.

By the day of the party, Benjamin's decision for the immediate future will have been made, but not necessarily by him.

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS/AWARDS

2008 Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia
2008 Brisbane International Film Festival, Australia
2008 46th Gijon international Film Festival for Young People, Spain
2008 Show Me Shorts, New Zealand
2009 International Film Festival Rotterdam- New Arrivals, Netherlands
2009 In Competition- 31st Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival, France
2009 Aspen Shortsfest International Competition, USA
2009 Best Du Best- Brussels Film Festival, Belgium
2009 63rd Edinburgh International Film Festival, Scotland
2009 Sao Paulo International Short Film Festival, Brazil
2009 Vladivostok International Film Festival, Russia
2009 La Casa Encendida, Spain
2009 St Tropez Antipodes International Film Festival, France

2009 Mill Valley Film Festival, USA 2009 12th Short Film Night, Switzerland 2009 Prague Short Film Festival, Czech Republic 2010 Istanbul Short Film Festival, Turkey

DIRECTOR / WRITER'S BIOGRAPHY: MICHELLE SAVILL

Michelle Savill is from New Zealand but spent a large part of her childhood living in the Philippines. She is now 24 and has just completed a postgraduate year in Film Studies at Waikato Institute of Technology in Hamilton, New Zealand. It was during this year that she wrote and directed her first short film drama *Betty Banned Sweets*.

Michelle is interested in films that are narratively spare but allow the world of the characters to unfold though silence and space within the frame. Her films have a carefully studied naïve beauty. They are lonely yet hopeful, playful yet painful all at the same time.

Michelle Savill now lives in Wellington. She is rewriting her next short film script, which she aims to produce early next year.

DIRECTORS NOTES

The idea for a mother and son film popped into my head after reading a newspaper article about an Indian boy who married a hill at his mother's request. The boy claimed that he had no regrets about doing so. The devotion he must have had for his mother amazed me and I decided to adapt it into a New Zealand setting.

I also wanted to make a kind of frustrated film about someone who really wanted to travel but never quite gets to. I have many friends who dream about travelling but never quite get around to it. It seems like a lot of people in New Zealand are waiting for their lives to start with a trip overseas.

Betty Banned Sweets is a production filmed in Hamilton. I was lucky to find such talented actors who had an ability to express the characters in a natural and subdued tone. This film is Matt Scheurich's first time acting, and while Lee Hutson has theatre experience; this was her first short film. Matt Scheurich was not originally cast to play the part of Benjamin, I asked him to do it a week before we started filming because the original actor pulled out. Matt had the exact look that I wanted, and I was overjoyed to discover that he could act really well. I now can't imagine anyone else in that role.

We filmed over six weekends in September and although Hamilton has very unpredictable weather but we were fortunate to have clear skies every weekend.

Each room was filmed in a different house and the rooms were completely refurnished and decorated for the shoot. As a result there was no chance for pick ups and thankfully we did not need to do any.

PLAYERS

Benjamin – Matt Scheurich Betty – Lee Hutson Sister – Sandra Jensen Car Park Man – Michael Easther Shoestore Girl – Miss Pip Bicyclist – Leyton Geezer Spanish Voice - Simon Acarapi

CREW

Writer / Director / Producer	Michelle Savill
Director of Photography Editor Sound Set Design Wardrobe Titles Music	Chris Tan Tracey Egerton Isaac Dean Heather Diprose Gradon Diprose Luke McPake Mike Crook Mild America Tilly and the Wall
On-set Assistants	Natalie Good Natalie Rufener Jason Hanson Rosie Percival Nadine Lee Kate W Tamar Dorfliger
Special Thanks	The Diorama Makers Wendy Richdale Angela Grimmer Zena Elliott Rebecca Newhaven Wilson Parking

Angela Grimmer Zena Elliott Rebecca Newhaven Wilson Parking Collins Footwear Colin Hancock at Treck'n'Travel Our Grandparents

This is a Paint-by-Numbers Collective film

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