

# POSSUM

press kit

**Director:** Brad McGann  
**Producer:** Trevor Haysom

duration: 15 minutes 30 seconds  
Sepia Black & White  
ratio : 1:1:85  
35mm Mono

## **One Line Synopsis**

Set in isolated forest country, **POSSUM** is a dark journey into the psyche of a nine year old boy struggling to understand the unusual circumstances of his family life.

## **Synopsis**

Even stray dogs remain elusive to Little Man, a nine year old boy, who seeks to understand the remote world around him. He finds refuge with Kid, his younger autistic sister who provides Little Man with a brief glimpse of another world. When Kid is forced to conform to unspoken family rules this sensitive connection is broken forever.

Set against isolated forest country, Possum is a timeless and touching fable which journeys into the nether-region of a child's imagination, a place where myth and reality become blurred.

## Brad McGann - Writer and Director

'POSSUM' is Brad's fourth film. Originally from Auckland New Zealand, Brad moved to Melbourne, Australia in 1989 to attend film school at Swinburne (now VCA) after completing a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Otago. His first film 'A HOME AWAY FROM HERE' was a 30 minute black and white surrealist drama about a power struggle and the subsequent isolation within the family environment. It was here that Brad developed an interest in psychological human drama, with focus on issues of isolation, identity and the foibles of communication between people in (often) close proximity.

The Australian Film Commission and ABC Television funded his next film 'COME AS YOU ARE' a stylised half hour documentary about alter-ego. Again exploring issues of identity and isolation, the documentary journeys into the lives of three people who for various reasons have created a second self. It has been screened on national television in Australia, and has recently been invited to; the British International Short Film Festival; the International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam; INPUT Broadcasting Conference, France; Oberhausen Short Film Festival, Germany.

He was invited by the ABC TV Drama Department to make a twelve minute film for a series 'Short Wave' show-casing the work of 6 young directors. It was here he made 'IT NEVER RAINS', a realist drama which parallels the urban isolation of two characters from different walks of life. It has screened on national television in Australia and has currently been shown at the Five for Five programme in New Zealand and the St Kilda Short Film Festival in Melbourne.

'Possum'

'POSSUM' represents a stylistic shift from Brad, which exists as a dark fable, and where the narrative hovers between real events and the imagination of a young boy. The film is perhaps the most personal and risk taking of all his work to date. It is a film about the subconscious and the primal relationship between humans and their environment. 'POSSUM' continues Brad's interest in making films about the outsider and the emotion quest for a sense of place and belonging.

'Possum'

## Cast

Little Man	Martin Taylor
Dad	Stephen Papps
Kid	Eve-Marie Brandish
Missy	Alexia Verdonkschot

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## Crew

Writer/Director	Brad McGann
Producer	Trevor Haysom
Director of Photography	Leon Narbey
Production Design	Tracy Grant
Editor	Chris Plummer
Composer	Tom Bailey
Sound Design	Chris Burt
Costume	Kirsty Cameron