

# GRASS



## Presskit

**NEW ZEALAND FILM**

COMMISSION

TE TUMU WHAKAATA TAONGA



World Sales & Festival Distribution: New Zealand Film Commission  
CONTACT: Kate Kennedy • PO Box 11-546, Wellington, New Zealand  
Tel: 64 4 382 7686 • Fax: 64 4 384 9719 • [kate@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:kate@nzfilm.co.nz)  
[www.nzfilm.co.nz](http://www.nzfilm.co.nz)

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# Production Notes

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Writer/Director	Simon Otto
Animation Director	Brent Chambers and Raymond McGrath
Producers	Susan Chambers and Brent Chambers
Production Company	Flux Animation Studio

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Colour	7 minutes	35mm	1:1.85	Dolby
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## Log Line

"One man's attempt to fit in with the world around him and gain the acceptance of his neighbours. A black comedy about the perils of conformity."

## Director's biography

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### **Simon Otto**

Simon comes from a background in advertising having worked for a number of ad agencies as a writer.

He now runs his own commercial production company, TESTPATTERN ,producing original creative TV campaigns for a diverse range of clients. Currently developing another black comedy short film, "Tow Job" as well a psychological thriller feature, "Captive audience" through his theatrical- release production company, "Persistence of Vision".

### **Animation Director**

#### **Brent Chambers**

After a formal training in Graphic Design Brent Chambers was one of the founding staff of Freelance Animators, training as an animator under Disney veteran John Ewing.

Whilst at freelance Brent was promoted to Animation Director for that company working on shows for Warner Brothers and Disney including Tiny Toons, Animaniacs, Darkwing Duck and the video releases "Goof troop Ramp Tramp" and " It's your Best birthday ever Charlie Brown".

In 1995 he established FAL, the commercial wing of Freelance, that same year winning a Gold Axis award for the ANZ serious saver commercial.

The following year Brent left freelance to set up Whizzdom animation for Kids TV working on television series for both New Zealand and Australia. Brent then established Flux Animation in 1997. Brent is represented by Hornet Inc in the US as a Director working on International commercials which include " Saturday Night Live" Cartoon Network, Mattel and is currently in development for a pre-school show for the Disney Channel.

### **Raymond McGrath**

Raymond McGrath is an animation Director at Flux animation and has been working in the Industry for ten years.

He began his training as a Character Animator at Freelance Animators under the brilliant director Brent Chambers and Disney great John Ewing. While at Freelance he worked on many local and International projects including Charlie Brown and an American Tail. His training began in 2D animation but he has since moved into 3D as well and is fluent in both disciplines as well as postproduction and contributing to Sound Design. He has been with flux animation since it began and in that time has had the pleasure of working on hundreds of television commercials.

He has extensive experience in storyboarding for film and television, story development, and has worked on numerous projects from concept through to finished product. He has Directed live action shoots for animated commercials and co-directed on the animated short " Grass" as well as animating, modeling, and designing on that project. He has illustrated nearly two Dozen children's books, and has also been the presenter on the children's television series " Artoonz" which enjoyed two successful seasons on " What Now".

Raymond has also been heavily involved in local theatre, and has performed numerous lead roles in musicals, drama but mostly comedy, as well as set design, set painting, and artwork for advertising.

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# Producer's biography

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## ***Susan and Brent Chambers***

They formed Flux Animation Studio in 1997.

Flux worked on character design and pre-production for Yoram Gross and Energee Entertainment on Australian series Flipper, Wicked, and Fairy tale Police.

The company grew rapidly and began to build a reputation as one of New Zealand's leading commercial animation houses. Flux now has a permanent staff of 28 and has produced several of their own series for TVNZ: "Tamatoa", "Artoon", and "The Adventures of Massey Ferguson".

In 2004 Flux Animation will commence work on our International co-production "Stains down Drains" developed here in NZ which is 26 half hour episodes. In addition to our television work Flux continues to produce television commercials, and be recognized both locally and internationally with a number of awards for our commercials over the last two years.

# Credits

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## Crew

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Director/Director	Simon Otto
Animation Director	Brent Chambers/ Raymond McGrath
Executive Producer	John Gilbert Mike Smith Big house Films
Producer	Susan Chambers / Flux Animation
Production Supervisor	Amanda Forsman
3D Animation/ Modeling	Sam Jenson Kevin Phillips Andrew Newland Sudhir Redy Bas Barriball Jonathan Cardno Kevin McCulloch
Music Composer/ Arranger	Andrew McDowall
Musicians	Scott McDowell Iain Greenstreet Andrew McDowell
Recorded at	Digital Fruitcake
Dolby Stereo Mix	Inside Track
Compositing/Editing Rendering	Andrew McKee
Concept artwork	Josh Dobson Alan Cochrane Rodney Selby Dave Butler
Office Manager	Joanne Kennedy
Funded by	New Zealand Film Commission
Presented by	Persistence of Vision
Produced by	Flux Animation Studio

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

Stephen the Lawnmower Man from Greenacres

Masport Lawnmowers

Dave Bishop

Chris Anderton

Tony Kovacs

The Short Film Fund of the New Zealand Film Commission

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

John Gilbert & Mike Smith

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