

HURTLE

PRESSBOOK

Sales Agent:
New Zealand Film Commission
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Tel: 64 4 382 7680
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10 mins

35mm

1:1.66

Colour

One Line Synopsis

Two nuns are compelled to obey the strongest urge known to mankind – a dance comedy.

Synopsis

Hurtle is a surreal and comedic choreographic narrative which describes one day in the life of two extraordinary sisters of the cloth.

Featuring choreography designed specifically for camera, the movement is surging and humorous, compelling the characters on to explore live impossibilities of speed and motion.

Compelled by the strongest biological urge known to man, the sisters seek higher spiritual truth and sweet relief from mortal discomfort.

Cast

Nun #1	Taane Mete
Nun #2	Kelly Nash
Jesus	J B Armstrong
Mary	Caroline Binden

Crew

Director	Shona McCullagh
Producer	Margaret Slater
Concept and choreography	Shona McCullagh
Consultant	Chris Graves
Director of Photography	J B Armstrong (Arnie)
Editor	Ken Sparks
Composed and performed by	David Long
Violin	Peter Daly
1st AD	Louise Marinovich
Continuity/2nd AD	Caroline Binden
Production Co-ordinator	Ana Davison
Production	Stuart Giles
	Anne Nicole
Unit Manager	Stephanie Murray
Focus Pullers	Kirsten Green
	Nic Fay
Clapper Loader/VT Op	Rachel Beard
Gaffer	Brendan McCusker
Best Boy	Tony Arahanga
Lighting Assistant	Karl Menzies
Gene Op	Russell Lloyd
Electricians	Jeremy Roelants
	Tony Lumsden
	Barry Cleal

SHONA McCULLAGH

Shona is one of New Zealand's outstanding dancer/choreographers. She graduated from the New Zealand School of Dance in 1983 as *Best All Round Dancer* with a *Special Award in Choreography* and was invited to join Chris Jannides' Sydney based company, *Darc Swan* in 1984. Subsequently she joined *Limbs Dance Company* where she was a dancer, rehearsal director and choreographer from 1985 - 88.

In 1987 Shona took study leave and travelled to the US, England and Canada. While in America she performed with *Douglas Wright & Dancers* in New York and attended the *American Dance Festival*. On her return Shona was voted 1988's *Best Dancer* by Metro Magazine.

In 1989 she became a founding member of the *Douglas Wright Dance Company* and in 1991 became Associate Director, touring to the *London Dance Umbrella* and the *Holland Dance Festival*. In 1997 she rejoined the company to rehearsal direct and perform in the *Retrospective* season.

Shona has choreographed many successful works for *Limbs, Dance Pacific, Merchants of Venus, Footnote, Douglas Wright Dance Company* and the *Royal New Zealand Ballet*. She has also made work for film, television and video and in 1991 collaborated with Wellington band *The Six Volts* to produce a full length dance musical, *Flare Up - a Floral Explosion*. Shona has also choreographed several works for theatre, including Peta Rutter and Carl Bland's *The Bed Show*, Downstage Theatre's *Lysistrata* and several of Auckland's Watershed Theatre productions.

In 1992 Shona was the recipient of an Arts Council Professional Development Grant to study videodance and contemporary dance in Europe. After the birth of her son Arlo in 1993, she formed her own company *The Human Garden*. Her first independent season was a collaborative project with Hungarian dance theatre company *Artus*, performed at the Watershed and as part of the 1994 *International Fringe Festival* in Wellington.

In 1995 Shona revived her performance career to critical acclaim with a *Human Garden* season of her own choreography, *Mad Angels*. In 1997 *The Human Garden* toured to Santiago, Chile and in 1998 Shona was commissioned by the International Festival of the Arts to create a full length work *Quick*.

In 1996 she created her first videodance work, *Somedayy*, in collaboration with filmmaker Chris Graves and in 1998 completed her first dance film, *Hurtle*. *Hurtle* premiered at the International Film Festival in Auckland in July 1998. Shona is a core faculty member of *Unitec's Batchelor of Screen and Performing Arts* tutoring in contemporary technique, videodance, movement for actors and as a guest choreographer.

She is currently choreographing for a commission with composer Gareth Farr for the *Royal New Zealand Ballet Company*.