

REST STOP

A moonlit night, a sleepy driver, and a rest stop. Big mistake.

PRESSKIT



I N T E R N A T I O N A L S A L E S

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Director: Roseanne Liang
Writer: Jochen Fitzherbert
Producer: Karla Rodgers
Production Company: Killing Time Productions Ltd
Technical Information: 35mm/ 1:1.85 / Dolby Digital
Running Time: 9 minutes
Country of Production: New Zealand
Date of completion: 8 August 2004
Genre: Noir/Comedy
Sales: Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission
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LOG LINE

No rest for the witless.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

On a cold and lonely night, a hapless driver stops to investigate an isolated rest stop. He finds himself caught in a series of deadly accidents...

LONG SYNOPSIS

New Zealand, 1955. The world is in cold-war turmoil, James Dean has just died in a car crash, and Art is on his way home. His only companion is his car, and the dark country road unwinding under him.

That's when Art passes the rest stop.

What starts as an innocent investigation of an abandoned car turns into a series of gruesome accidents. In a blur of car headlamps, sizeable rocks and unchecked handbrakes, our hapless hero manages to stumble across an assassination, run over two men and get his coat irrevocably stuck in a door...

No wonder the possums can't stop staring.

FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

2005 Just For Laughs Film Festival, Canada
2005 Palm Springs International Film Festival, USA
2005 St Tropez Film Festival, France
2005 Hofer Filmtage, Germany
2005 Ourense International Independent Film Festival, Spain
2005 Interfilm Berlin, Germany
2006 New Zealand Embassy Film Festival – Tokyo, Japan
2006 Festival de la Cite, France
2006 Stubbies Short Film Festival, New Zealand

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

REST STOP is a comedy of accidents that pays homage to a classic era of goodies and baddies, emulating a killer style that is thrilling to watch and even better to laugh at. Its sheer surreal craziness is comedy at its most unique.

It's about folly. It's about fate. It's about lady luck, and how she'll do you over given half the chance. It's also about her warped sense of humour. Is it a slapstick farce or a cautionary tale? Either way, like some whimsical car crash, I find it impossible to look away.

From rear projection to recreating an external location in an internal set, I was excited by the prospect of matching the unique comedy with an equally unique 'film-imitating-film-imitating-reality' style. For years I've loved the subtle theatrical feel of Hitchcock's painted backdrops, the unsettling effect of his 'outdoor' sets. Call me sentimental, but if every stroke of genius is a lucky misreckoning, then cost-effective filmmaking in the 1950s was cinematic inspiration.

Inspiration also came from the titular rest stops that lie in wait by the lonely New Zealand country road. The shapes of the native bush (the uncurling fronds of ferns, the spiky pom-poms of cabbage trees), set in the moonlight, creates the perfect mood for shady grave-digging and midnight fist fights. A noir film set in the New Zealand bush is an uncommon, and delightfully sublime combination.

It was wonderful to see the characters of REST STOP embodied in a trio of such gifted actors. Jochen Fitzherbert also wrote the film, and his natural screen presence and brilliant comedic timing is a joy to watch.

Having admired the acting clout of Scott Wills and Bruce Hopkins in numerous plays (DANNY AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA) and films (LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS; RETURN OF THE KING), I got a huge kick out of seeing them both on my humble set. They were, as expected, wonderful to work with, and equally wonderful to watch.

This film is my first since graduating from film school. I was blown away by the warmth of the talented and professional crew. The trials of the obligatory learning curve were all but forgotten amidst the calming atmosphere they created around me.

I am very grateful to Karla Rodgers for her staunch support, her guidance, and sheer hard work throughout the whole process. I couldn't wish for a more stellar job in making REST STOP happen.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Roseanne Liang is a Chinese New Zealander, born and bred in Auckland, New Zealand. During her first year in film school, she made a short film called FILMWORTHY, which won the TV2's Awards, a national youth filmmaking competition.

Her second-year graduation film, HENCHMAN, was officially selected for the prestigious Sydney and London Film Festivals 2003, garnered the 'Best Actor' award at the Festival du Cinema de Paris 2003, and was exhibited at the Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival 2004.

REST STOP is her first project since graduating film school in early 2003. She is actively developing several short, and long-form projects, including what hopes to be her first feature film.

Roseanne also works in the New Zealand film and television industry as an editor and actress.

PRODUCTION COMPANY: KILLING TIME PRODUCTIONS LTD

Killing Time Productions Ltd was created early in 2004 by Roseanne Liang and Karla Rodgers to produce REST STOP.

From the melding of Roseanne and Karla's expertise, experience and personalities emerged a philosophy of creativity, positivity, professionalism and respect which they hope to instill in all future filmmaking projects.

The partnership has already inspired both Roseanne and Karla to pursue further projects together through the company. They already have a number of other projects on the boil, including the development of further shorts and feature projects.

PRODUCER: KARLA RODGERS

Karla Rodgers has been involved in the New Zealand film industry for over 18 years. During those 18 years she has been fortunate to experience many facets of the film industry from the commercial world to Line Producing TV dramas, short films and feature projects.

With extensive experience, knowledge and an intrinsic understanding of filmmaking, Karla has also acted as Executive Producer on various projects.

As a creative producer Karla works very closely with script and story development and is currently working on several other projects including feature scripts.

She lives in Auckland with her husband, son, dog and two cats.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Key Cast:

Bruce Hopkins (who appears as Carl, the third man in REST STOP) has an international fan following as 'Gamling' in the LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy (THE TWO TOWERS; THE RETURN OF THE KING).

Production Notes:

Almost all interior car scenes are shot in rear projection.

The majority of the film was shot at a rest stop set built in an interior studio. The 'sky' was a painted backdrop. The stylistic reason for this was to emulate a theatrical 1950s 'faux' film style.

One shot in the film marries the real and the 'faux' film world. When the hero runs out of his car after spilling coffee on his pants, the fake rear projection world can still be seen through the windows of his car, retaining its surreal cinematic falseness in an otherwise real world.

REST STOP CREDITS LIST

DIRECTED BY
ROSEANNE LIANG

PRODUCED BY
KARLA RODGERS

WRITTEN BY
JOCHEN FITZHERBERT

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
MATTHEW METCALFE & JESSIE WARN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
RICHARD HARLING

ART
BOB
CARL
BOB DOUBLE

JOCHEN FITZHERBERT
SCOTT WILLS
BRUCE HOPKINS
CHRIS EVANS

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

JENNIFER BUTCHER
ANOUSHKA RUEDI-KLAUS
ADRIENNE MOYLE

FOCUS PULLER
CLAPPER / LOADER
VIDEO SPLIT

HENRY WEST
JULIA GREEN
PIP LOVELL-SMITH

GAFFER
LIGHTING ASSISTANT

MARK MATEO
JOSHUA CREEKS
BEN DOBSON
EVAN PARTINGTON
ROB DAVIDSON
GUNHILD ODDSEN

KEY GRIP

DEAN MAXTED

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
ART DIRECTOR

ASHLEY TURNER
DAVE STEWART

WARDROBE / MAKEUP

HOLLY SHEPHEARD

SCENIC ARTIST

KATHRYN LIM

GREENSMANS
GREENS ASSISTANT

ROGER ALLEN
CHRISTIAN PICK
SAM HOLLYER
ALAN GREEN

SOUND RECORDIST

MARK STOREY

UNIT

DEE JAMIESON

CATERING

5 LOAVES & 2 FISH

STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER

PHILIP PEACOCKE

VEHICLE WRANGLER

CHRIS WILDERMOTH
DAVID BELK

STUNT CO-ORDINATOR

TIM WONG

ARMOURER

GUNNER ASHFORD
KEVIN GODKIN

ANIMAL WRANGLERS

ANIMALS ON Q
MARIE MANDERSON
MATHEW WARD

SAFETY OFFICER

FILM SAFETY LIMITED
SHIKANE CHAMPAGNE

TRAFFIC CONTROL

MICHELLE HARRIS

VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR
VISUAL EFFECTS UNIT

ANDREW SHANKS
JOHN CAIRNS
MIKE DEMCHY
TIM SHAFE

EDITOR
ASSISTANT EDITOR
EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

GARY HUNT
ROSEANNE LIANG
CHARLES KNIGHT

COMPOSER
MUSICIANS

KINGSLEY MELHUIH
KINGSLEY MELHUIH
JOHN BELL
ANDREW MCMILLAN

VOCALIST

MATT SHANKS
LORRAINE HAVILL

TELECINE

OKTOBER

NEG MATCHING SERVICES

FINE CUT
MICHELLE DAVIES

MUSIC PRODUCTION

EDEN TERRACE AUDIO
NICK BUCKTON

SOUND FX & FOLEY

DIGITAL FRUITCAKE
ANDREW MCDOWALL
GREG JUNOVICH

DOLBY DIGITAL MIX

THE INSIDE TRACK
CHRIS BURT

FILM POST FACILITY

ATLAB NEW ZEALAND
BRUCE MCARTHUR

COLOUR GRADER
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TONY MANNING
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VEHICLES
INSURANCE

AUCKLAND TOWING
HENDERSON RENTALS
MAHONY TRENDALL & JACK

SPECIAL THANKS TO :

METHOD FILMS
MAC'S BREWERY
WHITTAKER'S CHOCOLATE
MARC LAUREANO
SIMON RABY
JOHN WALLIS
CARLA WICKHAM
AUCKLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

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EDDIE PAUNOVIC

A KILLING TIME PRODUCTION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE SHORT FILM FUND OF THE NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION