

TOGETHER

Christmas together... Worlds apart.

PRESSKIT

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

Juliette Veber - NZ Film - PO Box 11 546 - Wellington - New Zealand
Tel +64 4 382 7686 - Fax +64 4 384 9719 - juliette@nzfilm.co.nz

NEW ZEALAND FILM

Essential Information

Writer/Director	Felicity Morgan-Rhind
Producer/s	Nik Beachman
Production Company	Second Cine
Technical Information	35mm/ Digibeta / 1:1.85 / Dolby Digital
Running Time	15 minutes including titles
Country of Production	NZ
Date of completion	August, 2004
Genre	Drama
Sales	Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film Commission email juliette@nzfilm.co.nz Tel: +64 4 382 7686

Log Line

Christmas Day with the family, aren't you glad when it's over?

Short Synopsis

Over Christmas lunch an estranged daughter struggles with her Dad's Alzheimer's and the reaction her return creates in the family.

Long Synopsis

Broken hearted and in need of support Rose returns to NZ for a surprise Christmas visit. To her surprise Rose finds her father— and only ally in the family - slipping into the later stages of Alzheimer's disease. He doesn't recognise her.

To add insult to injury he's confusing her with somebody called Ngaire who seems to occupy a special and intimate part of his long term memory. Rose of course wants to know who Ngaire is... Mum certainly doesn't want to talk about it or the fact that Rose's 8 year relationship is over.

When Rose asks why hasn't she been told of her Dad's deterioration she is reminded by sister Sonya that nobody knew how to get hold of her. Rose can't argue with this. Her big city life in Sydney is full and frantic and what with work and relationships. She's been slack.

Rose's Mum and Sonya (mother of two, and one more on the way) are exhausted. To cope they have created a restrictive set of rules. This includes keeping Dad safely enclosed in the beach house, far from his beloved fishing.

The more Rose fights to be heard the more she is shunned. And Dad's Christmas present from her seems to be the final straw.

Just when things couldn't get much worse Rose receives the support she is looking for from a very unlikely source. She learns that to love, one has to be able to forgive.

Director's Notes

I remember vividly bumping into a friend one Christmas day in the early 90's. She was in tears. The reason? Her father had spent their entire Christmas lunch trying to fondle her breasts. She was leaving for London! I followed. Her story remained with me.

Later I returned to NZ for my first Christmas in 12 years and realised I had lost my position as oldest child in my family. Whilst away my family and I had become two separate entities. I had discovered the world whilst they had got on with the mundane art of living with and loving each other. Feeling misunderstood and ostracised I retreated into the safety of behaving like the 16 year old child I had been when I left home. Suffice to say this did me little good!

After two years of self-reflection, I emerged an integrated member of my family with a script that in the writing, allowed me to fondly observe the tragic and comic moments of my re-integration into the family bosom.

This film is not a true story. I don't think Dad even noticed my breasts, my Mum has always accepted my 'interesting' sexuality and thankfully Alzheimer's has not yet reared its head.

Sadly my Dad died before I made this film. I have dedicated **Together** to him because he was my rock, the one who quietly nodded his approval as I stumbled around the world finding myself. He was the glue that held our family together; but in his absence we are finding a new togetherness.

Director's Bio

WRITER/DIRECTOR

Donuts for Breakfast 15min film 2000

Sundance 2001

New York Film Festival 2000,

Gijon Film Festival 2000.

Winner Otago Film Festival 2000

The Hardest Decision – 50 min Doco 2002 TV3 NZ

Silver at the NZ Media Peace awards 2003

Angel 10min film 2003

POV Film Festival Sydney 2003

When Children Kill – 50 min Doco 2004 TV3 NZ

TVC Director Film Construction NZ

Production Company: Second Cine

Nik Beachman established Second Cine in 1999 to enable the production of theatrical short films. TOGETHER is its Fourth short film production.

Producer: Nik Beachman

Nik Beachman began his career in film working on THE PIANO in 1992. He has a diverse background in production for TV drama and features, working as a production manager and AD. His first short film as Producer, THE PAINTED LADY by Belinda Schmid, was selected for competition at the Tampere and Montreal Film Festivals, and was runner-up for Best Short Film at the Nokia NZ Film Awards in 2000.

His second short, SHE'S RACING by Kirsten Marcon, was officially selected for the Edinburgh and Telluride Film Festivals, and won a Silver Plaque at the 2000 Chicago International Film Festival. Nik produced the short film HOME KILL in 2000, which was officially selected for Munich Film Festival, 2002.

Nik has also worked extensively of late as a producer and line producer of Commercials. He is currently developing a feature project, BULIBASHA, with director, Andrew Bancroft.

Festival Screenings

2005 Brisbane International Film Festival, Australia
2005 Drifting Clouds Film Festival, New Zealand
2005 Sao Paulo International Film Festival, Brazil
2006 Richmond Road Short Film Festival, New Zealand
2006 New Zealand Short Films in New York – Asia Society, USA
2006 Outtakes Reel Queer Film Festival, New Zealand
2006 Magma Short Film Festival, Rotorua, New Zealand

Awards

2005 Drifting Clouds Film Festival
Achievement in Performance by an Actress – Danielle Cormack 'Together'

2005 Drifting Clouds Film Festival
Achievement in Scriptwriting – Felicity Morgan Rhind 'Together'

Cast

An ensemble cast of fine actors was assembled for TOGETHER. Playing Rose is Danielle Cormack, one of New Zealand's most prolific and accomplished screen actors. Feature film lead roles in 'Topless Woman Talk About their Lives', 'Channeling Baby' and 'Siam Sunset' have made her a recognized talent here and abroad. Ilona Rodgers (Barbara) and David Weatherley (Brian) both have 30 years of experience in theatre, television, and film. Joining them is Scott Wills 'Stickmen' and Kirsty Hamilton 'Saving Grace' Talented newcomers Sam Langdale-Hunt, and Rachel White round out the cast.

KEY CREW

Writer / Director	Felicity Morgan-Rhind
Producer	Nik Beachman
Executive Producers	Angela Littlejohn Karl Zhorab
Director Of Photography	Andrew Commis
Art Director	Ross Mcgarva
Wardrobe Designer	Sarah Voon
Editor	David Coulson
Sound Designer	Tim Prebble

CAST

Rose	Danielle Cormack
Brian	David Weatherley
Sonja	Kirsty Hamilton
Mike	Scott Wills
Barbara	Ilona Rogers
Jeremey	Sam Langdale-Hunt
Lucinda	Rachel White

CREW

Production Manager	Juliette Veber
Production Co-ordinator	Thea Govorko
Production Assistant	Alanna Elliott
Production Runner:	Tim Judson

1 st Assistant Director	Axel Paton
Continuity	Lisa Cook

Camera Assistant	Bruce Polwart
Clapper Loader	Sam Bailey
Steadicam Operator	Murray Milne

Gaffer	Tony Blackwood
--------	----------------

Best Boy

Dave Sargison

Key Grip

Terry Joosten

Grip Assistant

Damon Wright

Standby Props

Bryony Matthew

Wardrobe Assist

Kristen Seth

Makeup Artist

Linda Couper

Sound Recordist

Craig Perry

Boom Operators

Peter Kraan

Natalie Price

Water Safety

Shane Armitage

Stunt Co-ordinator

Stuart Thorpe

Caterers

5 Loaves & 2 Fish

Stills Photographer

Michael Lonsdale

Bryony Matthew

Camera Equipment

Silverscreen Productions

Assistant Editor

Malcolm Clarke

Offline Edit

Oktobor

Film Post

Film Unit