



When the outside world gets in...

**A short film written & directed by Academy Award winner
GRANT MAJOR**

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

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N E W Z E A L A N D F I L M

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Writer/Director: Grant Major
Producer: Dan Salmon
Production Company: Octopus Pictures Ltd
Format: 35mm
Film Ratio: 1:1.85 (35mm)
Sound: Dolby 5.1
Running Time: 9'27" (@ 24fps)
Country of Production: New Zealand
Date of completion: July 2009

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TAGLINE

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ONELINER

A man wakes to discover his life is overgrown and the outside world is getting in; to restore order he must return to the family home to confront his memories.

FESTIVALS

2009 New Zealand International Film Festival, New Zealand
2009 Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia
2009 Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival, Korea
2010 Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Japan
2010 Cannes Cinephiles- Cinema des Antipodes, France

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A man wakes to the realisation his life has become overgrown. The outside world is getting in, to restore order he must return to the family home to confront his memories.

In a series of moments of growing anxiety the man confronts his stasis, agoraphobia and the smothering encroachment of nature as he heads back to his childhood home. On his journey his world's tangled undergrowth progressively buries itself into his psyche.

As his memories confront the world before him the man must face the possibility that finding his parents may bring a self-realisation that he is not ready to confront.

SYNOPSIS

Our story is an internal one, of dreams within dreams. A loner is shut away in a house that strangely resembles his old family home. He is galvanized to change his life and after studying a well worn portrait of his family he ventures out to rediscover what made him what he has become.

His drive home is troubled by further memories of the day the picture was taken hinting at the birth of his agoraphobia perhaps, a distant father but a loving mum. His memories unleash a second fear as nature begins to consume his world and, on reaching his hometown, he finds it smothered in forest, weeds and rot.

As the man's nears his home the roots dig ever more deeply into his psyche. The once familiar objects and textures of his home are now a dank and mysterious chamber of memories and darker turmoil. Will his parents still be there? Fleeting ghosts of their former presence emerge as the man ventures to the heart of the house and the inexorable tide of nature transforms him completely.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES – GRANT MAJOR

Write what you know they say and while I can't claim to be 'the man' in this story these ideas have been knocking around in my head for some time as a collection of un-related visions and feelings.

Forming them into a story was a hugely enjoyable experience, being able to turn it into a film is something else again and the nuts and bolts of making this short movie took the experience to a whole new level. In casting the role of this troubled man I found a face in Ian Hughes capable of telling this story without language but with great feeling and depth. Every step of the way my collaborators brought greater structure and creativity to this personal vision.

We all have memories of our family home, our parents and our early life. These snatches of images, of moments that sear themselves into our mind and stay with us reach the surface of consciousness at times of reflection. But memories that anchor us in time and place are susceptible to being colonized

by other more mysterious psychological tendencies and my idea to bring the camera and realize these visions are what spurred me into making this film.

To change something a decision has to be made, the result of a journey through enquiry, reflection, false starts and finally determination. In waking up the man has reached this point.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY – GRANT MAJOR

One time Academy Award winner Grant Major is a New Zealander and has been in the film industry for 25 years, the last 16 of these as production designer.

Grant Major was nominated for four Academy Awards and four British Academy of Film Awards (BAFTA) for his work as a production designer on *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *King Kong*. Major won an American Film Institute award for *The Fellowship of the Ring* as well as an Art Director's Guild Award for *The Two Towers* and again for *The Return of the King*. Major finally claimed his Academy Award and a Los Angeles Film Critics Society Award on the third instalment of the trilogy *The Return of the King*. He was nominated by International Press Association for a Satellite Award in 2003 for both *The Return of the King* and his work as production designer on *Whale Rider*, winning for *The Return of the King*.

Previously, Major received a New Zealand Film and Television award for Best Design on Peter Jackson's *Heavenly Creatures* in 1995. Two years later Major picked up the same award for *The Ugly*. Major's other film credits include Jackson's *The Frighteners*, *Memory and Desire*, *The Aberrations*, *Jack be Nimble*, *An Angel at my Table* and, as art director, for *Other Halves*.

Grant Major's career in design began at Television New Zealand, his background ranges from production design for Commonwealth Games ceremonies to designer for the New Zealand Pavilions at the World Expos.

He lives in Auckland with his partner Judy and their 10 year old son.

PRODUCTION COMPANY – OCTOPUS PICTURES

Octopus Pictures is a boutique tv/film production company, formed by Dan Salmon and Tash Christie in October 1999.

The company and its directors are recognised and respected as specialising in the production of high end documentaries, factual series and shortfilms with local appeal/relevance and export potential eg. *WASTED!*, *2050-What If* (TV3), *Children of 1984* (TVNZ), *Made in Taiwan* (TV3), *Toki Does New York* (TVNZ), *A Good Way to Die?* (TV3).

Programmes and work by both company directors have won numerous awards both in New Zealand and overseas eg. Qantas Media Award, FIFO

Grand Jury Prix and Prix du Public and NZ Screen Awards 2003 – Best Director, Documentary and Best Documentary Series, NZ Film and Television Awards 2002 – Best Producer, Lifestyle Series.

Octopus Pictures has recently expanded its core business to provide marketing and capability expertise to key screen industry organisations eg. Film Auckland and the production of special corporate projects eg. Sweeny Vesty, Auckland Museum. While still holding a passion for stand-alone documentaries, OctopusWheke Pictures is also developing kids' series, docudrama and factual reality series.

PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY – DAN SALMON

Dan Salmon is an award-winning Director and Producer of drama, documentary and commercials. He most recently won the Grand Prix du Jury and Prix du Public at the Festival International de Film Documentaire Oceanien for the documentary *Made in Taiwan*. His credits include the award winning docudrama series *What If...? 2050* (Writer, Producer, Director), the authorial documentary *Children of 1984* (Writer, Producer, Director) and the architectural history series *NZ at Home* (Director). He has collaborated on a variety of film, TVC and drama projects - from the quirky TV3 serial drama *Ice House* (Director) and 48HOURS Short Film Contest finalist *Pub Pets* (Director) to the music video for the feature film *No. 2's* chart-topping single *Bathe in the River* (Producer).

Dan has produced the documentary *No Way Out*, and is in post production as Director on *Toki Does New York*. He is currently in pre production on a New Zealand Film Commission short film *Often Licked Never Beaten* (Writers - Miriam Smith & John Dryden, Producer - Philippa Campbell.) and has a feature film in development with Writer Stephanie Johnson, and Producer Philippa Campbell.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER – SHORTS CONBRIO

Shorts Conbrio is a partnership between Producer/Writer Christina Milligan, Actor/Writer Rawiri Paratene and Editor/Post-Producer Roger Grant. All three have long histories in making award-winning films, documentaries and television drama. Although best known for playing 'Koro' in the internationally-acclaimed feature 'Whale Rider', Rawiri is an award-winning writer and director and is a committed mentor of young Maori filmmakers. Christina produced the iconic New Zealand feature 'The End of the Golden Weather' together with many hours of prime-time television drama, and her writing credits include the Australian hit 'McLeod's Daughters'. Roger has edited hundreds of hours of live and animated television drama and has recently post-produced the feature documentary 'Untouchable Girls'.

KEY CAST BIOGRAPHIES

MAN – Ian Hughes

Ian started in the business over eighteen years ago in a children's pantomime playing a tin solder. Since then he has played, amongst other things a dog, a turnip, a number of westies, an old Fijian man, a television set, a Rabbit, a cat, a Priest, a Tree, a poet and a boxer, Also Jack Kerroac, William Borroughs and a number of women.

He has also produced and designed for theatre and wrote, directed and starred in the short film *The Waiting Room*.

Ian has appeared in the feature films *Topless Woman Talk about Their Lives* playing a paranoid man called Ant and *He Died With A Falafel In His Hand* playing a paranoid man called Iain, and on stage in *Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead* at Downstage Theatre, as a paranoid man called Guildenstern – or was it Rosencrantz?

He has done his time on *Shortland Street* playing lovable geek "Martin - Sticky- Stickwell" and on *Lord Of The Rings* as "Beragond" but his name was changed to "Irolas" – we don't know why? Ian is currently performing a Solo Show, *Ship Songs*.

His agent is Auckland Actors, New Zealand.

MOTHER – Rachel Nash

Rachel is a graduate of Theatre Corporate Drama School (Merit Award). In addition to this she also attended two NZTF Summer Schools, Theatre Corporate Resource Centre Classes; Rachel also participated in Workshops in Mask, Farce, Film Technique, Theatresports and Playback Theatre. Her agent is Kathryn Rawlings & Associates, New Zealand.

FATHER - Ross Harper

Ross' life has been sign-posted mostly by relationships (rather than career development) and he believes that it is his relationships that have been and will always be the source of the greatest learning. The discoveries there-in have been taken to acting and songwriting in particular, both of which he feels have a lot more room for development. He remains excited by the possibilities and adventure they can provide. He plays and writes at the piano.

Ross is also a graduate in Horticultural Science from Lincoln University and once had a garden design and development business. He has renovated and landscaped the various houses he has owned and is about to begin on the current one. However

it is acting and song-writing that excite him most and he often reflects on how they can be a barometer for his progress as a person, partner and father. His agent is Auckland Actors, New Zealand.

KEY CREW BIOGRAPHIES

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY – John Cavill

John Cavill has nearly 30 years' experience as a Director Of Photography with commercial, television and feature film credits to his name.

He trained as a television cameraman in 1978 at the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand and eight years later formed his own company as a freelance camera operator and director of photography.

Most recent feature film works to date include the 2007 Walden Media blockbuster, *Bridge to Terabithia* and Peter Jackson's *King Kong* from 2004 to 2005. In 2004, John was also Director Of Photography in the New Zealand feature *River Queen*.

John has also been the Camera Operator for Paramount's *Without a Paddle* and WETA Digitals' *Master and Commander, Far Side of the World* in 2003 and Peter Jackson's *The Lord of The Rings* trilogy from 1999 to 2003.

He has also worked as Director of Photography for *Street Legal*, *Xena Warrior Princess* and *Hercules, the Legendary Journeys*.

EDITOR – Tim Woodhouse

Tim Woodhouse has been editing for over 20 years. He has been nominated for editing awards in both New Zealand and Australia and won "Best Editor" at the 2002 New Zealand Television Awards for his work on the multi-award winning drama *Staunch* and again in 2005 for the feature length documentary *Haunting Douglas*.

SOUND DESIGNER - Michael Hodgson

Extended periods of listening to shortwave radio on headphones as a boy left a deep impression on Michael Hodgson. Purchasing an electric guitar in his teens he did not aspire to scorching lead breaks but instead enjoyed leaving the guitar set to an open tuning as it lay on the floor feeding back through an amplifier. The neighbours were not amused.

In a career spanning 22 years he has created experimental sonic environments as Tinnitus and provided visual enhancement for performances by The Headless Chickens, JPSE (Jean Paul Sartre Experience), Supergroove, NRA, MCOJ & the Rhythm Slave and collaborated with Salmonella Dub.

In 1996 Michael was introduced to Paddy Free and they formed the electronic band Pitch Black recognized for their rich combination of stonking beats and audio-triggered visuals with dynamic live shows. Pitch Black has released 4 major albums, numerous remixes and completed 5 international tours spanning Europe, UK, Australia, Japan and North America.

Michael now collaborates with motion graphics artist Bruce Ferguson to produce large-scale animated video productions for the likes of NBC New York, Lancôme Australia, Macquarie Bank Australia, New Zealand Music Awards, Tiger Beer and Heineken NZ, Hong Kong Cancer Fund, numerous Louis Vuitton events and in-store installations from Shanghai to Paris to Tokyo.

CREDITS

CAST

MAN	Ian Hughes
FATHER	Ross Harper
MOTHER	Rachel Nash
BOY	Malachi Coneyeer

CREW

WRITER/ DIRECTOR	Grant Major
PRODUCER	Dan Salmon
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	Roger Grant
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	Christina Milligan
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	Rawiri Paratene
EXECUTIVE PRODUCTION COMPANY	Shorts Conbrio
STORY	Grant Major
STORY DEVELOPED BY	Grant Major and Sara-Kate Lynch
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	John Cavill
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	Grant Major
EDITOR	Tim Woodhouse
SOUND DESIGNER	Michael Hodgson
COSTUME DESIGNER	Barbara Darragh
LINE PRODUCER	Michele Driscoll
ART DIRECTOR	Joe Bleakley
ART DIRECTOR	Grace Mok
STANDBY PROPS/DRESSER	Grace Mok
ART DEPT ASSISTANT	Christopher Haines
ART DEPT ASSISTANT	Alan Parr
ART DEPT ASSISTANT	Michael Williams
ART DEPT ASSISTANT	Stan Woodhouse
ART DEPT ASSISTANT	Kirsty McDonald
PROSTHETIC	Weta Workshop
PROSTHETIC MAKER	Gino Acevedo
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Hamish McFarlane
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Mark Harlen
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Quentin Whitwell
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR	Kathleen Thomas
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Keiran McGee
PRODUCTION RUNNER	Dilnavaz Baria
PRODUCTION RUNNER	Natalie Frigault
PRODUCTION RUNNER	Christopher Haines
PRODUCTION RUNNER	Eva Inaunen
PRODUCTION RUNNER	Brendon Udy
UNIT ASSISTANT	Jade Irons
UNIT ASSISTANT	Zohra Trinder
FOCUS PULLER/ STEADY CAM OP LOADER	Alex McDonald
VIDEO SPLIT OPERATOR	Dave Hammond
VIDEO SPLIT OPERATOR	Stephanie Dunant
CAMERA EQUIPMENT	Helen Breeze
SOUND OPERATOR	Metro Film Ltd
SOUND OPERATOR	Colleen Brennan
SOUND OPERATOR	Nikora Edwards
KEY GRIP	Todd Nevill

BEST BOY GRIP	Chris Rawiri
GRIP ASSISTANT	Steve Joyce
GRIP ASSISTANT	Winston Harris
GRIP TRUCK HIRE	Motion Slickness Limited
GRIP TRUCK HIRE	Kevin Donovan
GAFFER	Grant McKinnon
BEST BOY	Kerry Peck
LIGHTING ASSISTANT	Reece Baker
LIGHTING ASSISTANT	Andrew Denton
LIGHTING ASSISTANT	Reuben Fietje
LIGHTING ASSISTANT	Venusi Junior Taupoepau
LIGHTING ASSISTANT	Mabelle Teh
LIGHTING EQUIPMENT	Volcano Lighting
GREENSMAN	Roger Allen
GREENSMAN ASSISTANT	Sam Hollyer
HEAD PAINTER	Kathryn Lim
PAINTER	Taya Polkinghorne
PAINTER	Melissa Moors
HEAD CARPENTER	John Miles
CARPENTER	Richard Sheath
CARPENTER	Russ Munro
KEY MAKEUP ARTIST/ WARDROBE	Jane Petersen
LOCATION STILLS	Rebekah Robinson
PHOTOGRAPHER	PRPVFX Limited
VISUAL EFFECTS	George Port
VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR	Carol Petrie
VISUAL EFFECTS CO-ORDINATOR	Jacob Leaf
VISUAL EFFECTS ARTIST	Abigail Gee
VISUAL EFFECTS ARTIST	George Ritchie
VISUAL EFFECTS ARTIST	Jon Thorsen
VISUAL EFFECTS ARTIST	Giles Molloy
TITLE DESIGN	Digipost
DIGITAL INTERMEDIATE	Garry Little
DIGIPOST LIAISON	Peter Williams
SENIOR COLOURIST	Atlab New Zealand
FILM PROCESSING	Bruce McArthur
ATLAB LIAISON	Kodak New Zealand Limited
FILM STOCK	Digipost
DOLBY SOUND MIX FACILITY	Bruno Barrett-Garnier
RE-RECORDING MIXER	Belinda-Jane Brown Wild Wild Kitchen
CATERER	Location Services West Auckland Ltd.
	Henderson Rentals
LOCATION EQUIPMENT	Mahony Trendall & Jack Limited
VEHICLES	Auckland City
INSURANCE	Barry Linton
LOCATION	Claire & Steve Green
LOCATION	Enterprise Waitakere
LOCATION	Gray Phillips
LOCATION	New Zealand Sugar (Logo Below)
LOCATION	Waitakere City Council
LOCATION	