

PRESS KIT



FRANK FILM LTD
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- When A City Falls Press Kit -

November 2011

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Quick reference fact sheet

Title: When A City Falls

Tagline: From the Streets of Christchurch - The People's Story

Director: Gerard Smyth

Producers: Alice Shannon & Gerard Smyth

Production Company: Frank Film

Cinematography: Jacob Bryant & Gerard Smyth

Editors: Richard Lord & Ken Sparks

Sound Design: Ben Edwards & Chris Sinclair

Music: Tiki Taane, Aaron Tokona & Richard Nunns

Financed by: The New Zealand Film Commission, NZ on Air & private investors

Distribution: Frank Film & Metropolis Film

Publicity: Alice Shannon & Sue May

The Shoot: September 2010 to September 2011

Technical: High Definition 16:9, Digital Video, Surround Stereo, 105 mins approx

See us: 'When A City Falls' on Facebook, www.whenacityfalls.co.nz & www.frankfilm.co.nz

Contacts: alice@frankfilm.co.nz mob + 64 27 431 0599, gerard@frankfilm.co.nz mob + 64 21 224 5123



Synopses

In brief

The Canterbury earthquakes. It's the people's story shot in the streets of Christchurch. Who New Zealanders when our lives are turned?

Filmed on the hoof without narration, 'When a City Falls' offers a new and grass roots understanding of what happened to half a million New Zealanders the year their lives changed forever.

Extended

One man's journey through disaster, recovery and discovery.

2010 on the Canterbury Plains and all is well. Lambs, blue skies and daffodils. In Cathedral Square choir boys sing to their God. Punts push new season's tourists along the Avon. They photograph the 'Garden city'; the 'most English city outside of England'.

We get hit with a 7.1 earthquake. We stand up, wave our fists at the heavens and compliment ourselves on our ability to recover. And then we get hit even harder. Now the city has fallen. Many are dead. Many injured. Many narrowly escape.

A fragile people reappear in the following days. We have learnt from the first earthquake and once again a response is growing. Once again adrenaline is taking over. Now the whole country is rallying for Christchurch. It's the energy of the people that's unprecedented. Communities are rising from the sand. People are holding tight to each other.

A year later and the quakes keep rolling. Now the Canterbury earthquakes are the most ever quakes recorded in a series. And we're still counting....

"When A City Falls" sees New Zealanders in our darkest days. How do we respond? Who do we become?

We discover something wonderful about ourselves. We discover we are a functional people, concerned and caring for our neighbours, our fellow Kiwis.

"When A City Falls" travels way beyond earthquake reactive television footage to a tale of hope, an uplifting story that speaks of the kindness of human hearts.

Director's Statement

I don't know of any other major disaster where moving images of each stage of an unfolding catastrophe have been shot as the story unfolds. What this means is that as the behind-the-camera narrator and central city 'everyman', I have shot Christchurch before, during and after the earthquakes, which have progressively demolished my city. Raw, powerful and utterly believable. It's onscreen and real. Its characters are grassroots us. This work is uniquely of New Zealand.

Why did I choose to get involved? It's certainly not typical of my work today. Thirty years ago as a news cameraman – in the Springbok tour days – I knew how to shoot from the hip. Of late, my documentary work has been born of consideration and planning. But this work gave little room for such luxuries.

I felt the strength of the earthquakes. I live in the inner city of Christchurch, in the hardest hit part of the city, from what famously becomes the 'red zone' I am finding myself intricately and intimately involved in a project I have had no forward notice of. It's instant documentary. It's instinct. And it has thrown me into the heart of a world least expected. I run at what I see to record.

I am shooting people in all states of being. And I am learning new things about human beings as they, as we, collectively meet death and near death experiences.

I am finding myself swinging from a dark terror to the oddest elation. People are connecting to survive. I am loving humanity as I have never known before. I am caught up in a people moving. A fractured community is moulding into a new world in front of my lens.

For the weeks and months following the earthquakes I am obsessively recording everything that moves. This includes the work itself!

- Gerard Smyth

Statement About the Production

The film's production has been an extraordinary team effort. The days after the second earthquake were not an obvious time to come together to continue making a film.

Researcher Rhys died in the CTV building collapse. Producer Alice had lost her house. Editor Richard was grieving the loss of 16 work mates in the CTV building. Director Gerard's mum and sister had both lost their homes.

Film making craft support came from expat Cantabrians. Cinematographer Jake Bryant ('North', 'South', 'The Art Star and the Sudanese Twins') turned up with his camera. Christchurch and the wider Canterbury Plains look stunning - albeit so often with the cruel beauty afforded by the earthquake. An original sound track was composed by Tiki Taane, Aaron Tokona and Richard Nunns. Park Road Post also came on board offering the project the highest quality distributions formats.

Biographies

Gerard Smyth

Director/Co-Producer

Owner of Frank Film

Historically my personal interest in Christchurch runs pretty deep. Of Irish ancestry, my family has lived here for over 150 years. Both sides have always been connected to the arts. My Dad was an academic, writer and broadcaster.

I have now long continued the family business. Telling tales of Christchurch and beyond has been my world for over 40 years. Documentaries, probably somewhere near one hundred, have been shot in many lands. Tales have mostly been about those whose lives and dreams are found in the margins. My works have been frequently been awarded. In 2009 I was a finalist for 'best documentary' (Barefoot Cinema) in the Qantas Film and Television Awards. This work was financially supported by the NZFC.

Alice Shannon

Producer

Beginning her career at Vid Pro in Auckland in 1986 Alice now has over 20 years of various industry experience. After being involved in establishing Cry TV (General Manager), NZ's first music television channel, Alice then changed direction to documentary production. She has now worked at Frank Film for ten years, helping to produce a variety of documentaries including Qantas Film and Television Awards nominated features 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind' (2006) and 'Barefoot Cinema' (2009).

Paul Swadel

Executive Producer

Paul has directed and produced many short films and documentaries which have successfully screened in many international film festivals. He is an experienced EP who has worked on features such as 'The Devil Dared Me To' and 'A Song of Good' (Best Picture award, NZ Screen Awards 2008). He also directed television series 'The Big Picture' (Best series award, NZ Screen Awards 2008).

Jacob Bryant

Director of Photography

Jacob is a Christchurch-born, award winning cinematographer. His recent work can be seen on the Marcus Lush television series 'South' and 'North'. He is two time Qantas Film and Television award winner for his work on the feature 'The Art Star and the Sudanese Twins'. Best Camera 2009 & 'ICE' – Best Camera factual 2007.

Ken Sparks

Editor

Ken holds a BA in Music and Drama. His introduction to editing was as an assistant on Vincent Ward's documentary 'In Spring One Plants Alone'. Since then he has edited commercials, music videos, documentaries and drama and dance projects. He is a two time editing winner at the NZ Film and Television Awards – for 'The Road to Jerusalem' in 1998 and for 'Black Grace' in 2006; and he was a finalist in 1995 and in 1996.

Biographies continued

Richard Lord

Editor

Richard is a Christchurch-based film editor. He has been in the industry for 7 years, both shooting and editing and has developed a passion for documentary story telling as well as stills photography. He has a BSc in Geography and a Grad Dip in Digital Video Post Production.

Alun Bollinger

Creative Consultant

Alun has been crafting the slanting southern light onto film for about 40 years. Arguably New Zealand's premier cinematographer, images framed by Bollinger's camera are some of the most indelible memories to come from iconic films like 'Goodbye Port Pie', 'Vigil' and 'Heavenly Creatures'. Within the industry AlBol is known and respected for his skills in assisting directors with script development.

Ben Edwards

Sound design

Ben is a Christchurch local who has now lost two audio production studios to the earthquakes. Ben has been involved in the music and sound recording industry for the last 15 years. Earlier this year Ben recorded a collective of Christchurch artists under the moniker 'Harbour Union' to raise funds for the recovery.

Chris Sinclair

Sound Design

Chris has recently returned to Christchurch after eleven years away working in the United Kingdom. He has over 20 years of various industry experience in sound design, re-recording mix and dialogue editing.



Credits

written & directed by
GERARD SMYTH

produced by
ALICE SHANNON
GERARD SMYTH

edited by
RICHARD LORD
KEN SPARKS

cinematography
JACOB BRYANT
GERARD SMYTH

research
RHYS BROOKBANKS
CATE BROUGHTON
JENNIFER DUTTON
BRENT FRASER
JO MALCOLM

supervising sound editor
CHRIS SINCLAIR

sound design
BEN EDWARDS
CHRIS SINCLAIR

creative consultant
ALUN BOLLINGER

executive producer
PAUL SWADEL

music director
BEN EDWARDS

original soundtrack by
TIKI TAANE & AARON TOKONA
TE TAONGA PUORO - RICHARD NUNNS

featuring
CAROLINE BLACKMORE
CARMEL COURTNEY
BEN EDWARDS
MARK LA ROCHE
SERENITY THURLOW
ARIANA TIKAO
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
THE CHRISTCHURCH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

development
GARTH CAMPBELL
GREG JACKSON

Credits continued

production assistant

JENNIFER DUTTON

sound assistants

CARRIE-JO CARALYUS

JENNIFER DUTTON

ROB JAMIESON

JAKE SHELDRAKE

MAGGIE SMYTH

JAKE STANTON

additional footage supplied by

ARCHIVE NEW ZEALAND ('Christchurch Garden City of New Zealand & Canterbury is a Hundred')

SIMON BAKER

SCOTTY BEHRNES

SAM BRITTEN

NIGEL BROOK

STEVEN GOODENOUGH/PHOTO NEW ZEALAND

MIKE HARVEY

RICHARD LORD/CARAVAN MEDIA

BRIAN McCAUSLAND

LOGAN McMILLAN/GORILLA PICTURES

JOE MORGAN/

DAN WATSON

PETER YOUNG/FISH EYE FILMS

amateur footage supplied by

YouTube User BUGSANDAL

ANTHONY DEAN

WENDY INGRAM

RICHARD HARRIS

TIM McDONALD

FINN & SALLY McMILLAN

SHAUN RYAN

DANIEL SZESNIAK

DAWN WALSH

Stills supplied by

'Darfield Faultline' by DAVID BARRELL & RICHARD JONGENS/GNS

'CTV Site Rubble' by CARYS MONTEATH/THE PRESS

'City with Dust Rising' by GILLIAN NEEDHAM/GETTY

'CTV Building' by PHILIP PEARSON

'Ann Malcolm CTV Site' by GEOFF SLOAN/THE STAR

'Swayed Rail Tracks' by MALCOLM TEASDALE/KIWIRAIL

stills photographer

RICHARD LORD/CARAVAN MEDIA

publicity

ALICE SHANNON

SUE MAY

distribution

GORDON ADAM/METROPOLIS

Credits continued

graphic design

ANDREW ASHTON

AARON BEEHRE

art department

MICHAEL DELL

DENALI LORD

ROSIE SMYTH

lighting

ANDY RENNIE/BRIGHT LIGHTS

Park Road Post

general manager

CAMERON HARLAND

head of production

DEAN WATKINS

sound producer

AMANDA HEATLEY

facilities manager

NINA KURZMANN

head of picture

DAVID HOLLINGSWORTH

senior online editor

ROB GORDON

colourist

MATT WEAR

head of sound

JOHN NEILL

senior re-recording mixer

MIKE HEDGES

senior re-recording mixer

GILBERT LAKE

digital mastering supervisor

VICTORIA CHU

digital mastering operator

STEVE DEUBURGUET

projectionist

PAUL HARRIS

head of technology

PHIL OATLEY

data wrangler

NATALIE BEST

data wrangler

CLARE BRODY

data wrangler

JEANNIE YEUNG

Credits continued

Participants

ADRIAENS FAMILY
ART AGNOS
VENUS ALLEN
SARAH ALLERBY
SENIOR SERGEANT ROY APPLEY
GRANT BANBURY
SIMON BARNETT
CAROL BARTLE
ANN BAYCROFT
THE VERY REVEREND PETER BECK
SHANE BOYLE
DES BULL
RICHARD & CLAUDIA BULLOCK
DARREN CHETTLE
LOUISE CHEYNE
EILEEN CLARK
JOCELYN COWEY
ANNA CRIGHTON
NOLA CUNNINGHAM
SHANTI DAELLENBACH
LIANNE DALZIEL
BILL DEMETER
ANTONY DUNN
ALAN EDGE
DR. ERIK ELLIS
PETER EVANS
ALANA FAIMALO
FITZGERALD FAMILY
MURRAY FLETT
FOLDESI FAMILY
RACHAEL FONOTIA
JACKIE & RICHARD FOOT
CINDY GIBB
NOELENE HALL
JOHN HARE
STACEY HERBERT
JENNY HERRING
URSULA HIRGEL
MARK HORNBY
SAM JOHNSON
BISHOP BARRY JONES
ESTHER JONES
KERRY JOYCE
ROBIN JUDKINS ONZM
RT. HON. JOHN KEY
NILGUN KULPE
CAROLE-LYNNE KERRIGAN
RICHARD LANGSTEN
CHAD LAWRENCE
HOLLY LEIGHTON
LING FAMILY
IAN LOCKHEAD
JAMES LUNDAY
JOSEPH MASTERS

STEVE MATEER
BISHOP VICTORIA MATTHEWS
LAURA McCONCHIE
MARK & RAURI McENTYRE
ADAM McGRATH
GRANIA McKENZIE
FIN McMILLAN
JESSICA MILLIGAN
LORNA MOKE
REVEREND DAVID MOORE
GARRY MOORE
GRANT MORRIS
TIM MURDOCH
PATRICK O'CONNOR
LOIS OGILVIE
MATT OLEKIN
SIR TIPENE O'REGAN
JOSE PAPPILOT
MAYOR BOB PARKER
AIDAN PHILLIPS
CLAIRE PHILLIPS
DR. MARK QUIGLEY
VERNON RAMEKA
RYAN REYNOLDS
ALLUN RHODES
XAVIER RHODES
JASON ROBINSON
SARONA SAMUELU
DAVID SHEPPARD
JOHN SINCLAIR
ANN STANAWAY
SANDY STEUK
ANTHEA STRUTHERS
NEIL STRUTHERS
ROGER SUTTON
SHAYNE TATUM
ROBIN TAKLE
JANET TAYLOR-MURPHY
TENNENT FAMILY
JASON THOMPSON
JAN TREGEA
BRIGETTE UNWIN
ROBBIE VITRANO
AARON WAINE
KATHERIN WALKER
SALLY WARD
SIR MILES WARREN
SARAH WHEELER
TIM WILLIAMSON
KOWHAI WILLIAMS
JADE WILSON
CORALIE WINN
TINEKA WITTEMAN
MIKE WOODS
MORGAN WOODS