

ZERO

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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

Writer/Director	Leo Woodhead
Producer	Jackie Dennis
Production Company	Mushroom Pictures
Executive Producer	Matthew Horrocks
Country of Production	New Zealand
Date of Completion	February 2010
Shooting Format	35mm
Screening Format	35mm, 1.1:85

35mm ~ Dolby Digital ~ Colour ~ 15mins ~ 1:1.85

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ONE LINER

A volatile teenager struggles to detach himself from the influence of his imprisoned father.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

In a rough neighbourhood, a volatile teenager struggles to detach himself from the influence of his imprisoned father. Attracting the sympathy of the girl next door and given direction by a local mechanic, the boy starts to glimpse an alternate path for himself. But as the trio spend more time together, the boy's violent emotions re-emerge, threatening to destroy his chance at a new beginning.

FESTIVALS

2010- 60th Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin– Generation 14 Plus, Germany
2010- Cannes Cinephiles-Cinema des Antipodes, France
2010- Wairoa Maori Film Festival, New Zealand
2010- New Zealand International Film Festival, New Zealand
2010- 54th BFI London Film Festival, UK
2010- Chicago International Film Festival, USA
2010- St Tropez Antipodes Film Festival, France
2010- Show Me Shorts Film Festival, New Zealand
2011 Aubagne Film Festival, France
2011, Magma Film Festival, New Zealand

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I'd heard a story about a boy snapping one day in class, unable to express his emotions. When they finally got him to open up, he showed them a letter from his father, who was in jail. It read "I am your family". This kid was so conflicted about missing his father and hating him for being a bad role-model, he could only take it out on other people. From here I started to build this kid's world – his friends, his environment, the mechanics where his dad used to work.

The location of *Zero* was always going to be the same. We filmed in Glen Innes, a lower income suburb in east Auckland. It is a place I spent a lot of time in, a unique mixture of fading industrialism, council flats and blue collar workers. This sense of place was crucial to making us feel something for our lead character - that he is trying to think of a life outside this cold, restricting setting. Filming entirely in the same community also the actors get a feel for the world of the film; an authenticity we would have lost had we shot in dispersed locations.

I've been told that I keep making films about lost or wayward young men. I think it is an issue that is universal, and has not really been talked about in New Zealand, England, or many 'developed' countries. I saw a lot of kids when I was growing up who felt they had no choice in their future, as if their path was pre-ordained. The lead in *Zero* is just like this - he feels unable to choose, and repeats the mistakes of his father. However, I still think the film has a note of positivity - he can actually choose something different, regardless of how afraid and alone he may become. Even in the darkest of moments, there is still a small amount of hope - and it is never too late to change who you are.

FILMOGRAPHIES

Director & Writer: **Leo Woodhead**

Leo Woodhead has a Masters of Screen Production from the Department of Film, TV and Media, Auckland University. In 2007, Leo wrote and directed *Cargo*, a short film about child trafficking in the Czech Republic. Self-funded by Leo, the film went on to screen at Venice, London's BFI, Tribeca, Paris Cinema, Prague Short film Festival, Melbourne Film Festival and Telluride Film Festival. *Cargo* was nominated for the 2008 Qantas Short Film Award. Against strong competition Leo was awarded the Script to Screen 2008 Screenwriting Scholarship and in March 2009 did a 3 month internship with Killer Films in New York; he has a feature film in development.

Producer: **Jackie Dennis**

Jackie Dennis was an executive for Mushroom Pictures from 1999 -2009 and during this time she worked on the feature films *Cut*, *Chopper*, and *Getting Square* and was Series Producer for *The National Karaoke Challenge* made for SBS. In 2005 Jackie relocated from Sydney to Auckland to be Managing Director of the New Zealand branch of Mushroom Pictures and Mushroom Music. Jackie has written and presented *Licensing Music for Film and Television* seminars for NZ Trade & Enterprises and WIFT, and is Treasurer of the WIFT NZ board. She is now an independent film producer based in Auckland.

Executive Producer: **Matthew Horrocks Reservoir Films**

Matthew Horrocks is a film producer based in Auckland. He has worked for 10 years in the New Zealand and UK film and television industries as a Producer, Locations Manager and Director. Prior to setting up his own production company, The Reservoir, Matthew was a Development Executive with the New Zealand Film Commission from 2003-2006. His producing credits include *Accidents*, an NZFC funded short film directed by Paul Swadel which was selected for the Melbourne and Venice Film Festivals.

Cinematographer: **Martin Preiss**

Martin was born 1978 and raised in Prague, Czech Republic, he is established and experienced cinematographer with box-office hits, feature films in Europe, and many awards and nominations (Palm Springs, Tribeca, New Zealand Film Awards, Caucus Award) in the US, Europe and New Zealand. Films Martin helped make a success include high-budget movies as well as highly artistically valued, non-traditional low budget film pearls. His work is known for beautiful lighting, atmosphere building, visual storytelling and making the production value look outstanding. During his Master studies in Cinematography at Prague's prominent university FAMU, he studied under such DPs as Miroslav Ondricek, ASC, the author of Academy Awarded movies as *Amadeus* or *Regtime*. Martin also does underwater cinematography. You can see his show reel online at www.martinpreiss.cz

Film Editors:

Lenka Hojkova

Lenka Hojkova studied editing at the Film & Television Faculty of Performing Arts (FAMU) in Prague, Czech Republic. During her studies she edited many short fiction and documentary films, some of them, like *My Computer*, *Seam-less* and *Bespojeni*, awarded at the film festivals. Before finishing her Master Degree in 2005 she spent one semester at the University of Auckland in New Zealand where she met director Leo Woodhead and went on to edit his previous short film *Cargo*. Since finishing her MA Lenka has edited the feature film *Labyrinth*, three TV dramas and many TV commercials as a freelance editor.

Julie Alp

Award-winning commercial editor Julie Alp credits her long apprenticeship as an assistant editor on feature films including *Whale Rider*, *Perfect Strangers* and *In My Father's Den* with opening her eyes and mind to the possibilities of the editing process. In 2008 *Jinx Sister*, her first feature as editor, screened to sold out audiences at the Auckland International Film Festival and was nominated for Best Film Under \$1 Million, Best Actress (Sara Wiseman) and Best Supporting Actress (Rachel Nash) at the 2008 Qantas NZ Film and Television Awards. Continuing to gain attention for her ability to extract and shape truthful performances and tell stories with emotional resonance, Julie has been selected to attend the 2010 Talent Campus in Berlin.

Original Music: **John Gibson**

John has composed music for theatre, film, television, contemporary dance and more recently exhibitions and installations since 1980. *Zero* is his first film score since winning with Jack Body the Qantas Film and Television award in 2008 for best score for Vincent Wards film *Rain of the Children*.

Production Company: **Mushroom Pictures Ltd**

Mushroom Pictures is part of Michael Gudinski's Mushroom Group of Companies. The Mushroom Group includes Mushroom Music Publishing, the record company Liberation Music, ATM Merchandising and Frontier Touring. Mushroom Pictures has developed and produced a wide range of film, television and multi-media projects, including *Cut*, *Horseplay*, *Getting Square*, *Macbeth* and *Chopper*, a co-production with Cherub Pictures. Mushroom Pictures has made many television documentaries including the *Great Australian Albums* series, and is also involved in film distribution including the titles *Wolf Creek*, *Storm Warning* and *Cedar Boys*. www.mushroompictures.com.au

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Emily Barclay (Girl)

Emily Barclay has performed in a wide variety of film and television roles. She rose to prominence when she played the role of Celia in 2004's *In My Father's Den* winning Best Actress at the New Zealand Film Awards and Most Promising Newcomer at the 2005 British Independent Film Awards. Emily followed this with the lead role in the critically-acclaimed 2006 Australian black comedy *Suburban Mayhem* winning best actress at both the Australian Film Institute Awards and the Inside Film Awards. In 2008 Emily went on to star in *Prime Mover* and *Piece of My Heart*, which won Emily Best Performance by an Actress at the NZ Qantas Film & Television Awards 2009. In 2009 Emily made her debut stage performance starring as Suzette in the Belvoir Theatre Sydney's production of *Gethsemane*. Emily has just completed filming Director Belinda Chayko's feature film *Lou*.

Hunter MacDonald (Boy)

Hunter has had a love of acting from a young age, winning the Dance and Drama Cup at Remuera School when he was just ten years old. Whilst studying at Trinity College he played various roles in television dramas *Shortland Street*, *Fame*, *Hercules* and *Xena*, and on stage he played the lead in *The Pirate Adventure*. *Zero* is Hunter's first lead role in film.

Erroll Shand (Mechanic)

A New Zealand born and Australian trained actor, Erroll has appeared on many a small screen on both sides of the Tasman in dramas and comedies alike from shows such as *Water Rats* to *Outrageous Fortune* and in 2008 he debuted in the feature film *The Water Horse*. With a growing list of credits Erroll has proven himself to be versatile character actor.

CREDITS

Cast

Girl

Boy

Mechanic

Mother

Father

Additional Mechanics

Menacing Kid

Mechanic's Friend

Gwen's Friend

Driver

Emily Barclay

Hunter MacDonald

Erroll Shand

Nicola Kawana

Jason Capper

Tony Martin

Leon Ruby

Alex Hobson

Cassandra Woodhouse

Chelsea McEwan Millar

Adrian McGaw

Crew

Line Producer

Production Manager

First Assistant Director

Second Assistant Director

Production Runner

Continuity

Additional First Assistant Director

Additional Second Assistant Director

Additional Assistant Director

Location Scout

Location Manager

Rebekah 'Bex' Kelly

Anna Walsh-Wrightson

Emma Hinton

Hannah Tuohy

Kamil Grzybowski

Tina Urdahl

Esther Cahill-Chiaroni

Chris Campbell

Ayrton Winitana

John-Paul Winger

Jordi Scott-Smith

Cinematographer

First Assistant Camera

Martin Preiss A.Č.K.

Pete Cunningham

Jason Cooper-White

Meg Perrott

Jacob Thomas

Crighton Bone

Duncan Paterson

Jonny Yarrell

Clapper Loader

Additional Cinematographer

Additional First Assistant Camera

Gaffer and Grip

Lighting and Grip Assistant

Grant McKinnon

Matt Fill-Wilson

Andrew Denton

Ben Corlett

Stephen Joyce

Art Director

Property Master

Additional Props

Wardrobe Stylist

Wardrobe Assistant

Hair & Make-Up

Tim Castelow

Owen Ashton

Jordi Scott-Smith

Jane Boocock

Lindsay Broomfield

Vanessa Hurley

Sound Recordist

Sound Recordist & Boom Operator

Additional Boom Operator & Runner

Ande Schurr

Ben Vanderpoel

Kieran Clark

Unit Stills Photographer	Kirsty Griffin
Stunt Co-ordinator Stunt Assistant & Stunts Safety Supervisor Safety Officer	Tim Wong Adrian McGaw Robert 'Gibbo' Gibson Mitchell Johnson Scene Safe
Unit Manager Additional Unit/Security Caterer	Mihi Morehu Tem Morehu Belinda Jane Brown The Wild Wild Kitchen
Traffic Control	Nick Aloua Action Traffic Control
Security Guards Insurance	Strategic Security Mahony Trendall & Jack
Casting Director Casting Associate	Stu Turner Joe Fisher
Basketball players Junior Filmaono, Joel Herbert, Junior Mara, John Taulu, Jake Woodhead	
Party Goers Melanie Adcock, Phillippa Ahery, Holly Beekham, Alex Borrie, Carlo Flachi, Bernard Hoggins, Romy Hooper, Sophie Lindsay, Hayley Marlow, Jacob Panapasa, Julian Pollizzaro, John Reid, Dee Salt, Richard Sharp, Scott Takiari	
Post production Editor Editor Edit Suite	Julie Alp Lenka Hojková Postboy Ltd
Sound Designer, Foley & ADR Sound Suite	Amy Barber Dick Reade Audio
Park Road Post Production Laboratory Liaison Rushes Colourist Laboratory Coordinator Digital Intermediate Colourist Digital Intermediate Editor Sound Re-recording Mixer Post Production Coordinator	Andy Wickens Jon Newell Peter Amies Matthew Wear Meetal Gokul Tim Chaproniere Alison Ingram
Original Music	John Gibson
Party songs Shotgun (Piers Graham / Matt Heath / Chris Stapp / Gerald Stewart) Published by Mushroom Music Publishing Performed by Deja Voodoo, Courtesy of Liberation Music	
You Gotta Lose (Andrew Ashton / Aaron Carson/ Matthew Hyde / Paul Stephenson) Kickstand (Andrew Ashton / Aaron Carson/ Matthew Hyde / Paul Stephenson) Performed by The Larry Normans Courtesy of The Larry Normans	