

# STRANGER

A short film by  
Jonathan Watt and Kieran Charnock



## PRESS KIT

INTERNATIONAL SALES

Page Productions: Lucy Edwards Email: [lucy@pageproductions.co.nz](mailto:lucy@pageproductions.co.nz) Tel: +64273512751

Address: 33 Parakai Street, Paraparaumu, Wellington 5032 New Zealand

**Essential Information:**

Genre: Drama/thriller

Running Time: 00:07:28

Shooting format: Digital

Aspect ratio 16:9

Screening Formats available: HD1080P

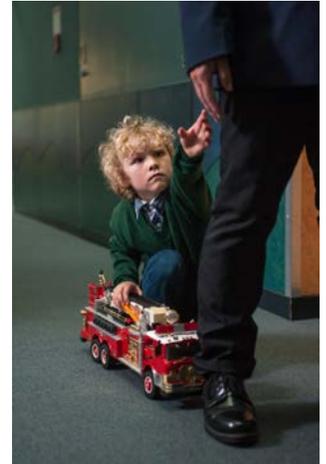
Country of Production: New Zealand

Date of Completion: April 2018

**Producers:**

**Page Productions LTD in association with The New Zealand Film Commission**

Lucy Edwards and Gabriel Page Email: [lucy@pageproductions.co.nz](mailto:lucy@pageproductions.co.nz), Tel: +64 273512751



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**CAST**

Des Morgan

Josh Morgan

**CREW**

DOP Matt Sharp

EDITOR Ben Powdrell

SOUND DESIGNER Michelle M Scullion and Gabriel Page

ART DIRECTOR Nic Leamouth

ACTING COACH Ella Gilbert

1ST AD Gabriel Page

**LOGLINE**

A five year old boy is haunted by a silent masked monster as he tries to locate his missing father.

**SYNOPSIS**

When a sickly-thin man with a thick wrap of bandages over his face arrives home, Alex is terrified and can identify him only as a stranger. His father, Bradley, is ashamed of his

injuries; remembering what a 'hero' he used to be to his son. He tries to reconnect with Alex but cannot get close without scaring him. It is only after Alex grows suspicious of the masked Stranger's somewhat familiar behaviour and eventually catches a glimpse of his eyes through a gap in the bandages that he can recognise his father immediately; the wounds disappear and it becomes clear that there is a bond that runs far deeper than that which lies on the surface.

### **WRITER/DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

Anyone who has been a parent or child will be touched by *Stranger*. The film explores the idea that there is a unifying bond between us all that transcends the physical world, a connection that cannot be broken by simple things such as appearances, words and actions, a human connection that is always there from the moment we are born. *Stranger* exemplifies this in the most basic form: the relationship between a son and his father. As the audience we feel for Alex as he confronts this terrible masked stranger that has somehow made its way into his life, only to finally realise it was his father all along - changed on the outside, but always the same loving father on the inside. *Stranger* is the story of a son and father attempting to reconnect, told as a thriller entirely from the point of view of a five year old boy. After researching the lives of people who have suffered facial disfigurement and the feeling of isolation that often followed we found that the initial reaction of many was a total loss of identity. They felt their uniqueness had been 'erased' in a world where our physical appearances are constantly defining who we are. A vast majority, however, came through the other side with a renewed, invigorated and truer sense of themselves. With the absence of an exterior the focus must change to what is within: the soul. This concept is the heart of our story and asks the question of our audience: 'Who really are you and -what truly defines you?'

### **WRITER/DIRECTOR BIOS (Kieran Charnock & Jonathan Watt)**

We are- two friends who have been making films together since we first met at college over 10 years ago. Our friendship and mutual passion for film and filmmaking has led to a great working relationship and we find ourselves creatively encouraged and motivated by each other in our pursuit of a career in filmmaking. While we are two very different people, we are inspired by the same films and television shows, and can always come to agreement on the vision of each project we undertake together. Our different journeys since college bring a variety of experience and skills to our writer/director team. As well as *Stranger*, we have made several other short films and are currently in post-production on our first feature film, *Black Shark*, which will be released in early 2018.