

**Hark Angel Productions  
PRESENTS**

# **OFFING DAVID**

**STARRING**

ASHA KUERTEN  
NATHANIEL BUZOLIC

**DIRECTED BY**

JEFFREY MICHAEL BAYS

Running Time: 73 minutes

NOT YET RATED

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## SYNOPSIS

Follow a lost mobile phone as it is passed around to random people. There's just one thing no one realises: the owner of the phone is dead. His unlikely murderers must face a growing guilt as the serendipitous girlfriend begins to unravel their scheme.

Starring TV's **Asha Kuerten** (Host of: *Australia's Next Top Model*, *CD:Live*, *Studio Disney*, *Hot Source*, *My Family's Got GUTS*, *The Music Jungle*), **Nathaniel Buzolic** (*Out of the Blue*, *Studio Disney*, *Weather Ed*, *The Mint*), as well as rising Sydney stage and film actors Adam J. Yeend, Richie Harkham, Brendan Clearkin, Sascha Raeburn, Russell Jeffrey, and Tristan Ozinga.

OFFING DAVID is directed by the award-winning American radio producer **Jeffrey Michael Bays** (*Not From Space*), written by Craig Moore and produced by the film's lead actor Richie Harkham. The film is set to be released 2009.

## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

OFFING DAVID is an exercise in pure suspense, using a very simple premise and stretching it into a dramatic puzzle of coincidence and irony. Our goal is to have fun with the audience, using technical exaggerations of sound, music, and rhythmic editing to make them squirm.

I set this film in a bright playful world with whimsical characters seeming to have no guilt. They take no responsibility in their free romance, or even their crimes. As they carry out David's murder it is seen as a grand achievement. Through time however, Matt's guilt begins to creep into this world until we are pulled into his contemplative breakdown.

We have embraced the lessons of the silent film era, focusing less on talking heads and more on the nonverbal, often cutting away to simultaneous action during conversation. This film is just as much about phones as people. One phone in particular enjoys sometimes playful yet insistent appearances, until eventually it becomes a vital player in our plot. Our focus on the simplistic creates an unstoppable forward momentum around our characters as their world speeds out of their control.

--Jeffrey Michael Bays, Director

## PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Toward the beginning Australian Actor Richie Harkham and American Director Jeffrey Michael Bays found themselves in a position no filmmaker wants to be in – a sinking ship without a captain. When the film’s original production company had to pull out for financial reasons early in the running, the two stepped in to keep OFFING DAVID from going under.

“It all seems quite sweet now right now, but at the time we thought that all of our work would be eliminated to nothing,” says Harkham. “We all believed in the quality of the film and rallied around it.”

Swift thinking and great synergy brought Harkham and Bays to the forefront in saving the zero-budget drama from the same dismal fate as many Aussie films. With low opportunity for financing in the Australian film industry, and much of the talent going overseas, local filmmakers often struggle to keep their projects together.

Bays, the director, says it was worth the sacrifice making the film. “We gave some local filmmakers a sneak peak and they were blown away it. One was holding back tears during a suspenseful moment. That’s why we kept going.”

Director and Executive Producer Jeff Bays found the inspiration for OFFING DAVID from years of watching old Alfred Hitchcock movies. “Those movies had a certain sense of humour and vibrant characters that really made them stand out in their time,” says Bays. “They still hold up today.”

Bays points out that the unrecognized genius of Hitchcock was not his suspense, but his humour. “Hitchcock had a fun simplicity in the way he approached storytelling. He knew it was all about just having fun with the audience. Most of his stories were so clear and vivid for that reason.”

“I’m not one of those directors who claims to be the next Hitchcock, but you’ll definitely see an influence,” says Bays. There are nods to scenes from *Saboteur* (1942), *Strangers on a Train* (1951), *Pyscho* (1960), *Rope* (1948), *Rear Window* (1954), and *Trouble With Harry* (1955).

With OFFING DAVID, Bays went back to a lot of silent film techniques. “It was a very talky screenplay and my goal as director was to bring out the visual action as much as possible,” says Bays. “It’s not a movie about people talking; it’s a movie about what happens *while* people are talking.”

In the film Bays combines suspense with a lot of quirky characters and comic situations. He says the film has a sense of humour and shouldn’t be watched with a serious face. “But that makes you all the more surprised when things start to go seriously wrong and these guys are running for their lives. We turn the triviality into raw tension.”

Bays first met Richie Harkham during the OFFING DAVID auditions and cast him in the lead role as Adam, the spoiled rich kid who can charm anyone. "Richie is an amazing actor with such a real presence on the screen," says Bays. "You never know what he's going to do next. It's fun to watch his work. During the auditions he lit up the room with his wit and personality and had everyone glued to his stories. That's what impressed me the most about him. Then later we found out he could act!"

Harkham is a graduate of Sydney's Screenwise acting program and William H. Macy's summer intensive at New York's Atlantic Theater Company. Primarily an actor, he also enjoys being filmmaker when he can, working behind-the-scenes on short films such as Tropfest's *Bowled Over*. In 2004 he wrote and produced his own short film, *Chai*, a dramatic story about a Jewish young man in conflict with his father's way of life.

He joined OFFING DAVID as lead actor and was immediately impressed by Bays' directing style. "Jeff is an amazing director," says Harkham. "He always strives for the most true and real in-the-moment performances which led me to doing some of my best performances to date. As an actor you always strive for emotional realism in a scene. Jeff really took time out to make sure we got to the point where our emotions in the scene were so real I sometimes I forgot I was acting."

Bays himself is the only American on this production, joined by an Australian cast and crew, as well as a Portuguese composer and British graphic designer. They originally planned to shoot OFFING DAVID freestyle with natural lighting and get it done within seven weeks. "It would have been a nice little film with a more reality-show edge to it," says Bays. "That would have been great. But once we started seeing the rushes from that amazing camera and the great acting, we decided to take more time on quality. We brought in professional lighting, and began to plan out more detailed cinematography. In the end we ended up spending nine months on it. It completely exhausted everyone who signed on for the seven-week shoot, but the result on screen is astounding."

OFFING DAVID is written and produced by Craig Moore. Richie Harkham and Jeff Bays are Executive Producers of the film. Principal photography on OFFING DAVID lasted nine months in the Sydney area, with more than 50 volunteers, and zero budget. It commenced in October 2004 and wrapped in July 2005, ending in over 24 hours of raw footage recorded. More than 30 of those volunteers were extras which brought the movie to life – aspiring actors from the Sydney area who enjoyed the chance at being in a feature film.

Harkham admits, "Being a producer of a no-budget feature has been real tough at times. But on the whole I am bringing one of my life long dreams into fruition."

"On this production I learned to embrace change," says Bays. "This film turned out completely different than anyone expected in the beginning. But that's the magic of filmmaking, when you get talented people together things can go in an entirely new and exciting direction. The movie took on a life of its own."

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **ASHA KUERTEN (Sarah)**

Asha started out performing full-time after majoring in Film Studies at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. After extensive music, acting and performing training throughout her educational years, she was asked to host Nine Network's afternoon kids' variety show *[Hot] Source* and did so for two years.

After a successful 200 episodes, she then made the move to Sydney to host *Studio Disney* with former *Popstars* winner Scott Cain, and also former *Cheez TV* host Jade Gatt, also for two years. During this time she recorded a track for the CD Soundtrack for the Disney movie *Chicken Little (2005)*, doing a cover for Carole King's *Its Too Late*, produced by Chong Lim (*Dancing with the Stars*, John Farnham, Olivia Newton-john, Delta Goodrem). She also guest hosted MTV's *TRL Awards* in August 2005.

She was nominated as "Favourite Female Personality" at the ASTRA awards in April 2006, which proved her popularity and versatility as a presenter.

In May 2006 Asha made the move from four years of kids television to FOX 8, hosting the new music show *CD:LIVE* with Molly Meldrum and Lowie from the *HOT30 Countdown*. This is Asha's current position, as well as forthcoming hosting spots on FOX 8's popular series *Australia's Next Top Model*.

She is also pursuing her musical interests, writing, recording and producing demos with music producers and hopes to make this a full-time career move. Asha is no stranger to hosting/presenting as she regularly is asked to host charity events, Disney events, film screenings, short film Festivals and many others.

### **NATHANIEL BUZOLIC (David)**

Recently a host of Australian TV shows *The Mint*, *Weather Ed*, and *Studio Disney*, he now stars in the new BBC Series *Out of the Blue*. He studied acting with the Australian Theatre For Young People from 1998 to 2001 and at Screenwise from 2001 to 2004. He also starred in a number of school productions as well as dancing in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. His first television role was in 2001 when he landed a guest role on *Water Rats*. Other roles followed in the long-running series *Home and Away* and *All Saints*.

### **ADAM J. YEEND (Matt)**

Having only worked in the industry for two years, Adam has quickly built up an impressive bio showing his versatility as an actor in many high profile Australian short films. He played in a lead role in the experimental AFTRS short *Untitled / The Trees* as well as the contrasting duel role in the acclaimed *Dreamstate*.

Adam is a graduate of the University of Western Sydney and holds a degree in Communication Studies. He spent a year studying with *Lord of the Rings* actor John Noble in camera technique and script analysis, as well as the two years at the Lynette

Sheldon Actors' Studio with Lynette Sheldon, training in Stanislavski Technique as taught by the infamous Stella Adler.

Adam also featured in the highly controversial AFTRS drama *Boys Grammar*; playing a school bully, he acted out a violent assault with five other actors. His most recent work was a guest role in the new Channel 7 drama series *Headland*, and the lead role in the topical sci-fi short *Eve* for Visceral Psyche Productions.

Also a writer, Adam is seeking funding for his well-received screenplay entitled *A Life Impracticality*. Next up is the title role in another independent feature, *Child*.

### **RICHIE HARKHAM (Adam)**

Four years ago Richie started serious study as an actor under the direction of Denise Roberts at Sydney's Screenwise acting school. After finishing all the courses Australia had to offer for practical aesthetics, Richie went off to William H. Macy's Atlantic Theater Company in New York City where he acted with the likes of Lucy DeVito and Anna Chlumsky from *My Girl* (1991).

Starring in several Australian shorts such as *No Junk Mail*, *Chai*, *Sox for Supper*, and *Toothpick and Bullet*, Richie took the plunge into feature films with the lead role in OFFING DAVID.

Richie likes pushing his acting to the limit. He was once told at an audition that he was unable to play a homeless person because he could never look like one. This caused him to dress up like a bum and hit the streets of Newtown, fooling everyone – including fellow homeless! Later he starred as a street bum in the short film *Sox For Supper* directed by Antony Waterlow.

Richie says he loves acting as it brings out the life in him, and because it can change people's attitudes. This recently prompted him into getting the lead role as a 12-year-old in Morris Gleitzman's theater production *Worry Warts* at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney in early 2006. He won the theater's Best New Male Actor award for the performance.

As well as graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Sydney, Richie now runs a winery in the Hunter Valley where he specialises in making liquors. He has also secured a role as a cowboy in an upcoming independent feature in Los Angeles.

### **BRENDAN CLEARVIN (Richard)**

Along with his guest role on Channel Seven's *Home and Away*, Brendan has appeared in over 30 short films, 6 television commercials including KFC and HSBC, 6 theatre productions, and now a feature film. Puzzled that he has yet to be cast as a devilishly good-looking romantic lead, Brendan generally plays character roles.

His notable shorts include Australian Tropfest films such as *Gift Wrapped*, *Who's the Saddest*, *Fourplay*, and Wollongong Film Festival's *Don't You Have a Spare?* His

character roles range from policemen and psychiatrists to homeless, criminals, bakery managers, and barmen.

Brendan's theatre roles include a hustler in *Balm in Gilead* (2003), a Texan priest and a disgruntled father in *The Dreamer Examines His Pillow* (2004) an East End professional card player in *Dealer's Choice* (2004), and an upper class English former art critic in *About Alice* (2005). *Dealer's Choice* was selected Best Independent Theatre Production for 2004 in the Sydney Morning Herald.

### **SASCHA RAEBURN (Jane)**

Sascha's latest appearance was on Seven Network's crime show *Forensic Investigators*, but her beginnings started in local community theatre at the age of 11. Being continuously active on the stage led her to receiving a Scholarship at 'PACT' Youth Theatre in Sydney for one year of training with some of Australia's best industry teachers. After performing at the Sydney Opera House in *Wide Open Road* (2002), Sascha moved from the stage to a more serious focus in film. She appeared in over 15 short films including Australian Tropfest films *Wrong Car* (2004), *Point of No Return* (2004), and *Fleet Street* (2002). She has also done some TV ads for companies such as Hyundai.

### **RUSSELL JEFFREY (Kevin)**

Russell had a small guest role on the new Seven Networks drama series *Headland* but has an extensive background in theatre. On stage Russell has performed in over 20 musicals, many at the oldest theatre in Australia - Theatre Royal in Tasmania. More recently he performed with Opera Australia at the Sydney Opera House. His other film credits include: *Hollywood's Last Child: Natalie Wood* (2003), *New Dawn Rising*, *Sound of One Hand Clapping* (1998), *Gettin Out*, and *The Yellow Bus*. He continues to train in with Sandra Lee Paterson at On Camera Connections, and is starring in the upcoming short film *Who Laughs Last*.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

### **JEFFREY MICHAEL BAYS – Director / Executive Producer**

At age 26, Jeff had already established himself as a creative force on radio with the award-winning show *Not From Space* on America's XM Satellite Radio. He then dove into the visual form with *OFFING DAVID*, his directorial feature debut. Jeff is a Bachelor of Arts graduate of Webster University, St. Louis, and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Cinema Studies from La Trobe University in Melbourne. He has recently signed to direct his next feature called "All Sorts of People" with Complete Access Films in London.

On XM Satellite Radio's critically-acclaimed special *Not From Space*, Jeff Bays takes listeners on a satirical journey through corporate greed, media corruption, and an alien invasion led by Microsoft computer mogul Bill Gates. With his trademark satirical wit,

Jeff was writer of this two hour show and also performed many of the key voices, including the voice of Bill Gates.

*Not From Space* was widely recognized, especially by computer “geeks” because of the unique way the show was produced – entirely through the Internet. It received the esteemed Mark Time Award, and a Communicator Award of Excellence in 2003. The two-hour show was rebroadcast on XM Satellite Radio 15 times through 2006, as well as other low power FM stations across the United States. Jeff’s popularity spread as far away as Denmark, where he was featured on the technology show *Harddisken* on Denmark National Radio.

Jeff grew up in small-town America; both parents and two uncles served in the U.S. Navy. Later he himself ranked Cadet Lieutenant Colonel in Civil Air Patrol. While editor of his high school newspaper, he attended the Radio/TV/Film summer intensive at Northwestern University and at the age of 17 sparked his ideas of pursuing a film career. Soon after, he produced a documentary for his local Civil Air Patrol squadron called “Decade of Courage” which honored the hard work of local search & rescue and flood relief efforts. After moving the audience to tears, National Commander Richard L. Anderson awarded the young film crew a Medal of Honor. This was the single event that sparked Jeff’s desire to tell stories and influence lives through the arts.

**RICHIE HARKHAM – Executive Producer**

*See About the Cast.*

**CRAIG MOORE – Writer / Producer**

Born and raised in Sydney’s southwest, Craig specialises in web-design and online systems in the Australian education industry while writing screenplays and short films in his spare time. Craig’s writing is strongly influenced by Australian culture and anything in a tall, cold glass. OFFING DAVID is Craig’s first foray into filmmaking.

**DANIEL CHRISTIE – Director of Photography**

Daniel is a Sydney-based cinematographer who has been making films since he first laid hands on a video camera at the age of five. His passion for creating cinema has since driven him to develop a unique visual style and a keen eye for detail. OFFING DAVID is Daniel’s first collaboration with Director Jeff Bays and his first feature film credit, following many short film credits as DOP, Camera Operator, Glidecam Operator and Sound Recordist. Daniel’s professional experience includes camera assisting and boom operating on music videos and TVCs.

Daniel attributes much of his skill to experience, which is complimented by a Certificate IV in Film and Video Production, with a Cinematography specialisation, from UBS Film School in Sydney as well as a Certificate IV in Screen: Sound, with distinction from North Sydney TAFE.

Daniel has always prided himself on a high level of professionalism, creativity and technical expertise. OFFING DAVID provided an opportunity to put those skills to the

test with challenging situations and minimal resources. You can visit him on the Web at <http://www.djamprod.com/>

**JACQUIE WILSON – Production Manager / 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director**

Jacquie has wanted to tell stories through film for as long as she can remember. After Graduating from Charles Stuart University B.A. (TV Production) in 2002, she decided to strike out on her own in the independent film industry. Jacquie has since directed and edited four short films: *Happens*, *Solitude*, *Way out West*, and *Short Film*, as well as camera operating, editing, assistant directing, and goferring on countless other short films, video clips, and documentaries.

OFFING DAVID is Jacquie's fourth feature film, previously working as a camera person on *Wango and Maloy* and feature documentary *River of a Thousand Secrets* as well as working as a Production Assistant and Wardrobe Assistant on *Edge of the World (2005)*.

Jacquie plans to make her way in the Australian film industry by making great low budget shorts and features until that one day comes when she can afford to pay ridiculous amounts of money for the perfect shot.

**JOÃO CAMACHO – Composer**

Born in Angola (Luanda), João started his musical studies with his father and in the Academia de Amadores de Música de Lisboa. João is now a teacher of Analysis and Composition Techniques in Portugal and has under his care the management of all general choir classes and Composition in the school of Music António Maldonado Rodrigues, in the Association of Física de Torres Vedras and in the Regional conservatory of Palmela, Portugal.

At the National Conservatory of Lisbon, Portugal, João completed the complementary course of Piano in the class of Prof. Bom de Sousa. Also in the Conservatory, he became interested in composition lead by the hand of his friend and teacher Eurico Carrapatoso. For that reason, he chose to follow the course of composition when enrolled in the Superior School of Music in Lisbon (E.S.M.L.). In this school, he had the opportunity to work with some of the most influential teachers and composers of the national musical field, such as Prof. Cristopher Bochmman, António Pinho Vargas and Sérgio Azevedo. After finishing the composition course, he joined the Superior National Academy of Orchestra (A.N.S.O.). In August of 2002, he concluded the course of Orchestra Direction in the class conducted by Jean-Marc Burfin.

João was a member of Lisbon's Chamber Choir from 1992 to 2000 where, under the conducting of Terezita Gutierrez Marques and along with an intense activity in national territory, had the opportunity to participate in various concert tours abroad. In 1999, one of his harmonisations was published on the A.C.A.L. (Lisbon Choir Association) in their "Cancioneiro Antológico" of Choral Repertoire. Recently, the Ricercare Choir recorded a compact disk with some of these harmonisations.

He conducts regularly and with great public success, the Foco Musical Orchestra. Very recently João was nominated artistic director, and band & choir conductor of the Sociedade Filarmónica Humanitária, also in Palmela, Portugal.

### **Blog articles:**

## **Inside Offing David: music score**

OFFING DAVID composer João Camacho says even though it was a lot of work, this independent film was his own personal playground. He describes it as "a very rich experience."

Camacho is an award-winning composer in Portugal and teaches music at the Regional Conservatory of Palmela. He joined the OFFING DAVID team in 2004 while searching for his first project to expand into computer film scoring.



"I had for the first time the opportunity to write all the music that follows the action of a *real* movie," says Camacho, "including suspense scenes, humour, drama, romantic involvement and even a highway chase. No doubt a challenge to my skills and hopefully an open door to other productions like this one."



With computer software called Cubase SX2 he was able to mimic a real orchestra using a vast library of instrument samples. For a person accustomed to real instruments it did have its challenges, but Camacho was able to teach himself the software.

"My musical experience is vast and it was very helpful, namely in the orchestration process," says Camacho, "but writing for a live orchestra is very different to making music using the computer."

His music score plays an omnipresent role in the film OFFING DAVID. "Sometimes it only establishes a general mood," he says, "other times it complements the action stressing the importance of something in the image... it helps dynamically to build the feelings that inspire the audience."

Camacho's world is filled with music, whether it be teaching his classes, conducting, or playing music on his own. His favorite composer is Tchaikovsky, yet he has all the

records of British rockers Dire Straits. He is currently designing music for computer games and hopes to do more film scoring in the future.

## Producing and starring in an indie film



OFFING DAVID Executive Producer Richie Harkham admits, "Being a producer of a no-budget feature has been real tough at times. But on the whole I am bringing one of my life long dreams into fruition."

He joined OFFING DAVID as lead actor and was immediately impressed by the directing style of Jeff Bays. The two teamed up to save the film when it was about to fall apart.

"Jeff is an amazing director," says Harkham. "He always strives for the most true and real in-the-moment performances which led me to doing some of my best performances to date."

In 2004, Harkham took a leap of faith and flew to New York to pursue his acting talents at William H. Macy's Atlantic Theater Company. There he acted with the likes of Lucy DeVito and Anna Chlumsky from *My Girl* (1991). Later that year he landed the lead role in the small indie feature film OFFING DAVID in Sydney. That choice would prove to open up new avenues for him as a film producer. Now after two years of production, the film is almost ready to be sent to festivals.

But even with his new love for producing, Harkham says he will always primarily be an actor. He says being on stage or in front of a camera brings out the life in him.

And, he takes his acting very seriously. This was evident during an audition for a film in which he was reading for the role of a homeless person.

"They told me I could never play a homeless person because I didn't have the right look," explains Harkham. After being turned down for the role he set out to prove them wrong by dressing up as a bum and hitting the streets of Newtown.



Richie Harkham is a graduate of the University of Sydney and currently runs a winery in Australia's Hunter Valley where he specialises in making liquors.

## Inside Offing David: making it shine

Daniel Christie spends hours in front of a computer in a monumental cleanup effort to enhance the visual look of the indie film OFFING DAVID in order to bedazzle its viewers.

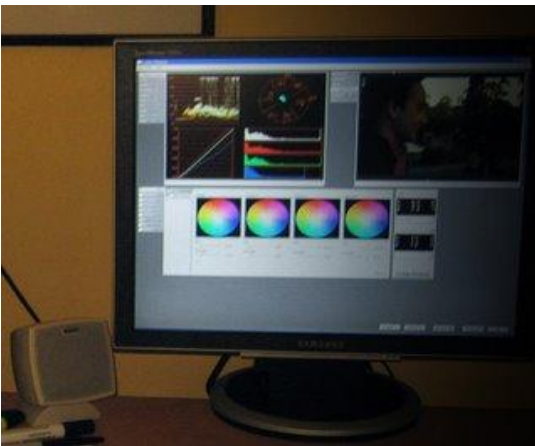
"It's funny, there are a few moments when I actually get distracted from the task at hand and find myself completely absorbed in the narrative of the film," says Christie.



Christie joined the team in 2004 as Director of Photography and is now Visual Effects Supervisor. That dual role gives him unique control over the film's visual look and what is inevitably seen in the theatre.

He says OFFING DAVID does not follow the trend towards light comedies among Australian indie filmmakers, nor does it look the same. He says it has been a goal of the crew to maintain high production values and "cinematic sensibility" in both the camera work and editing which makes it stand out among similarly budgeted films.

"My role as VFX Supervisor is to create effects that will blend seamlessly into the narrative of the film and aid the suspension of reality," says Christie.



Included on his list of 39 visual effects, he must create content that shows up on the display screen of David's mobile phone, with the help of graphic artist Peter Shepherd. He also must hide stray objects which weren't meant to be seen in the film: legs from crew members, misplaced light stands, or microphones which wander into view.

Christie also works closely with the director to judge the colours of thousands of shots which must be adjusted to please the eye.

"Our chosen colour palette subtly characterises the world around our protagonists and helps us enhance the look of the film," says Christie.

The 75-minute drama is digitally stored on a computer hard drive in Sydney taking up nearly 200GB of space. Visual effects and compositing are being done in Adobe After Effects 7, utilising various plug-ins, including Synthetic Aperture's Colour Finesse for colour grading.

Daniel Christie has studied extensively at UBS Film School and works regularly at Metro Screen in Sydney.

## Offing David Saved From Being Offed

by Amy Wheeler | May 19, 2009 14:25 | Edited May 19, 2009 14:26

*New Australian feature film, Offing David, gives rookies a taste of the film world.*



New Australian feature film, *Offing David*, was once headed for a fate similar to the many independent films that never find their way to completion due to a number of obstacles and and/or lack of funds. However, American director Jeff Bays and Australian actor Richie Harkham stepped up to save the low-budget feature from extinction.

"It all seems quite sweet right now, but at the time we thought that all of our work would be for nothing," said Harkham, who doubles as lead actor and executive producer of the film. "We all believed in the quality of the film and rallied around it."

Principal photography lasted nine months in the Sydney area with more than 50 volunteers and zero budget. More than 30 of those volunteers were extras - aspiring actors who enjoyed the chance at being in a feature film.

The filmmakers were able to score Australian TV 'celebs' Asha Kuerten (*Australia's Next Top Model*, *CD: LIVE*, *Studio Disney*, *Hot Source*) and Nathaniel Buzolic (*Out of the Blue*, *Studio Disney*, *Weather Ed*, *The Mint*) to star in the drama. They are joined by Adam J. Yeend, Brenden Clearkin, Sascha Raeburn and Russell Jeffrey.

In his directorial feature film debut, radio producer Bays explained that he chose to use a simple premise to mask a complicated and ironic storyline. "Our focus on the simplistic creates an unstoppable forward momentum around our characters as their world speeds out of their control," he said.

The plot centres around two cunning university students in Sydney attempting to commit a murder, blending in jealousy, cheating and fate. Despite the serious themes, Bays wants the audience to laugh. "The goal is to have fun, using technical exaggerations of sound, music and rhythmic editing to make audiences squirm," he said.

The film is set in a bright, playful world with whimsical, seemingly innocent characters. The inspiration: Hitchcock, of course. Of Hitchcock movies, Bays said, "Those movies had a certain sense of humour and vibrant characters that really made them stand out in their time. They still hold up today." He continues, "I'm not one of those directors who claims to be the next Hitchcock, but you'll definitely see an influence."

Along with Hitchcock, the silent film era also influenced the movie. Bays said they embraced the lessons from that time period, "focusing less on talking heads and more on the nonverbal, often cutting away to simultaneous action during conversation." He explained, "It's not a movie about people talking; it's a movie about what happens *while* people are talking."

Bays is the only American on the production, and he flew to Australia specifically to direct *Offing David*. He explained that they had originally planned to shoot the film freestyle with natural lighting and get it done within seven weeks. "It would have been a nice little film with a more reality show edge to it," Bays said. "That would have been great. But once we started seeing the rushes, we decided to take more time on quality. We brought in professional lighting, and began to plan out more detailed cinematography. In the end we ended up spending nine months on it. It completely exhausted everyone who signed on for the seven-week shoot, but the result on screen is astounding."

Whether the film lights up the big screen or not, one thing is sure: it gave a rookie cast and crew an opportunity to learn first-hand the ins and outs of film business and production.

CAST

Adam	RICHIE HARKHAM
Matt	ADAM J. YEEND
David	NATHANIEL BUZOLIC
Sarah	ASHA KUERTEN
Kevin (Ladies Man)	RUSSELL JEFFREY
Jane	SASCHA RAEBURN
Richard Clark	BRENDAN CLEARINKIN
Policeman	LINDSAY KENNEDY
Dude 1	TRISTAN OZINGA
Dude 2	BROCK TAYLOR
Gossiper 1	KIM WALSH
Gossiper 2	FRANCESCA JAGO
Esky guy	ANDREW PETERSON
Debate guy with beer	PAUL WALTON
Party Extras	BEN PERRY
	DANIELLE BATTEN
	KANE McDONALD
	DANE MOORE
	ASHELY SMYTHE
	CHARLIE BATTEN
	IAN BARRETT
	CRAIG MOORE
	RYAN JEFFERY
	JASON KENNEDY-DAVIDSON
	MARK PAUL
	KIM WALSH
	SARAH FAHMY
	DREW SCOTT
	BRIAN TURNER
	DAVID SYLVESTER
	EL CESANA
	SALLY WILLIAMS
	RON SMYCK
	SHAYNE-PAUL HILL
	SHAUN KATZ
	JOE HOOPER
	GAVIN HENDERSON
	VANESSA PACEY
	ELVIRA NIKOLAOU
	CHRISTINA PAPANDREAS
	CHARISSE GRABER
	JESSIA PACEY

CHRISTAL HORAK  
GEOFF ALLEN  
JOSH NG  
LINDSAY KENNEDY  
STEPHANIE  
JAMES HELM  
SAI GUNDEUAR  
MICHAEL GUIDI  
SUSAN GOULD

Stunt David's Hands

Hand with book ADAM J. YEEND  
Hand in closet 1 JASON KENNEDY-DAVIDSON  
Hand under blanket BROCK TAYLOR

Phone voice CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER  
Tennis Announcer 1 THOMAS BROMHEAD  
Tennis Announcer 2 KARLY NIMMO  
Television Dad ROBIN QUEREE  
Backup Voice for Ms. Kuerten REBECCA CLAY

CREW

Production Manager & 1st Assistant Director  
JACQUIE WILSON

2nd Assistant Director  
FRANCESCA JAGO

Continuity/Set Design KATE CAMERON  
CRAIG MOORE  
RYAN JEFFERY  
JACQUIE WILSON

Lighting/Camera Assistants MARK PAUL  
HENRY STAFFORD  
MATT JERMYN  
DANIEL CHRISTIE  
TROY BULLOCK

Boom Operators SCOTT STEWART  
RYAN JEFFERY  
CRAIG MOORE

DANIEL CHRISTIE  
MIKA MANNINEN  
MARK PAUL

Makeup artists ASHA KUERTEN  
KATE CAMERON

Rides/transportation CRAIG MOORE  
RICHARD HARKHAM  
DANIEL CHRISTIE  
JACQUIE WILSON  
ADAM YEEND  
BRENDAN CLEARKIN  
CHRIS HURLEY

Production Assistants KIM WALSH  
CHRISTAL HORACK  
SHAUN KATZ  
JOE HOOPER

Stills Photographer RYAN JEFFERY

BBQ Safety BROCK TAYLOR

Post-Production Manager  
CHRIS HURLEY

Assistant Editors  
DANIEL CHRISTIE  
ALEX DAN

Editing Assistance  
B. McB  
KATIE BYRNE  
JACQUIE WILSON

Visual Effects Supervisor  
DANIEL CHRISTIE

Phone Graphics

PETER SHEPHERD

Sound Editing & Foley Artist  
PHIL JEFFERS

Re-recording Mixer & Additional Sound Editing  
JOHN KASSAB

Foley Recordist  
NATHALIE PRAT

Music Supervisor  
CHRIS HURLEY

Songs:

“MAD MAD WORLD”  
Written by William Almeida (MC Buda)  
Performed by Buddhafied  
Courtesy of Buddhafied Productions

“DON’T EVEN TELL ME”  
Written by Shane Doyle, Michael Mack,  
Andrew Hamilton, Bernard Wanstall  
Performed by BLUDJA

“CAN’T YOU SEE”  
Written by Richard Buchanan  
Performed by The Jennys  
Courtesy of The Jennys

“LUSH LIKE YOU”  
Written and Performed by David Lawrence & Sunbird

“ROMEO”  
Written by Alison Hams (Daisy Train Music)  
Performed by Alison Hams  
Courtesy of STORMFRONT

“WORKIN FOR THE MAN 9-5”  
Written by Nick Gilmore, Robie O’day,  
Michael Buick, and Anton.  
Performed by Alikeminds  
Courtesy of CARATGOLD Productions Studio, Canberra ACT.

“UNDER MY SKIN”

Written and Performed by Jessica Paige

“YOUR PHARAOH SUX”

Written by Warren Bingham

Performed by Farcaster

“SICK MAN”

Written by Shane Doyle, Michael Mack,

Andrew Hamilton, Bernard Wanstall

Performed by BLUDJA

“SLAVE 2 THE AXE”

Written by Bradley James Raudonikis

Performed by Axe Bomber

Taken from the 2004 ep “Slave 2 the Axe”

Courtesy of Ripper T Promotions

“2x2”

Written by S. Humphries, P. Olditch & C. Buckridge

Performed by My Ninja Lover

“LITTLE BOY”

Written and Performed by Matt Cumming

“THE PURPLE HEART”

Written by Bowie Raffan

Performed by Whippet

“UNSAVED HERO”

Written by Nick Butterworth

Performed by Finabah

“SAGAS & DRAMAS”

Written and Performed by 8 Ball Aitken

Courtesy of Phoenix Movement Records

Music Advisor

KRIS GALE

Colourist and Titles

DANIEL CHRISTIE

Filmed on location in  
NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

The Producers Wish to Thank:

PAUL WALTON  
BROCK TAYLOR  
DANIELLE BATTEN  
IAN BARRETT

JASON AND LEE KENNEDY-DAVIDSON

ADRIAN CHRISTIE  
LIZ DE MONTFORT and family

INGLEBURN VOLUME PLUS PETROL

INGLEBURN TENNIS CLUB

THE ACTORS CENTRE  
Surry Hills, NSW

AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION

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