



ellipsis

press kit



SYNOPSIS

In the middle of a crowded city the paths of two strangers, a man and a woman, collide. This accidental, chance occurrence sets in motion a chain of events that sees the two strangers embark on a night of adventure and connection that challenges their separate lives.

Ellipsis is a film about the random nature of life and human interaction and the small choices that can set our course.

Set in Sydney over the course of one night, it is also a portrait of the city and its inhabitants. The film celebrates the distinct nature and idiosyncrasies of the people that live and work there.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Running time	86 minutes
Production Year	2017
Country of Origin	Australia
Shot On	Alexa Mini
Aspect Ratio	16:9 Flat
Format	DCP
Sound Format	5.1, Stereo

KEY CAST

Emily Barclay	Viv
Benedict Samuel	Jasper

KEY CREW

Directed by	David Wenham
Produced by	David Wenham and Liz Kearney
Executive Produced by	Robert Connolly
Written by	David Wenham, Emily Barclay, Benedict Samuel and Gabrielle Wendelin
Director of Photography	Simon Morris
Editor	Nick Meyers ASE
Sound Recordist	Nick Emond
Casting	Jane Norris CSA Mullinars Consultants
Music composed by	Megan Washington
Music produced by	Evan McHugh



ABOUT THE FILM

ELLIPSIS is produced through Arenamedia by David Wenham and Liz Kearney with Executive Producer Robert Connolly.

The film is part of a significant creative collaboration that evolved out of THE TURNING. It will be the second feature film that Arenamedia has developed and produced with a director from THE TURNING, the first being SPEAR the feature film debut from Stephen Page which was released theatrically in Australia in 2016.

Ellipsis was made as a one off experiment.

The film was conceived, workshopped and shot all in 10 days (3 days workshopping, 7 days filming) with 2 main cast and 4 on set crew. The workshop allowed the actors and director to agree on a premise for a simple narrative, characters that the actors felt comfortable to immediately inhabit, and possible thematic concerns.

There was no written script, no rehearsal and the actors were free to work organically and spontaneously in real, working locations and situations.

During the editing process it was decided that a second story strand may compliment the main narrative and a further one day was added to film this subplot.

This micro budget feature was conceived not with an end product in mind but purely as an exploration of processes that David Wenham is interested in using in future projects.

Ellipsis is a result of this experiment.



DIRECTOR QUOTE

“ELLIPSIS was devised as an experiment. Conceived in three days, shot in seven days.

The idea was propelled out of my experiences working as an actor over 30 years in film, the objective was twofold - to observe the effect on actors performance when all artifice is stripped bare and to trial a fast paced, efficient shooting regime allowing actors to instantly and organically engage in any real situation as the minimal crew captured the drama.

Focusing on small moments of honest human connection, filmed largely in my lively, eclectic inner city Sydney neighbourhood and featuring real life characters interacting with the two main actors, ELLIPSIS is the result of this experiment.”



CAST

EMILY BARCLAY - Viv

Glitch, Please Like Me, The Light Between Oceans, Suburban Mayhem



Emily Barclay is an AFI Award – winning actress who has starred in television, theatre and film. Her television credits include PLEASE LIKE ME, LOWDOWN, GLITCH, PIECE OF MY HEART and THE SILENCE. Her film credits include THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS, WEEKENDER, MR PIP, LOVE BIRDS, LOU, LEGENDS OF THE GUARDIANS: THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE, PRIME MOVER, SUBURBAN MAYHEM and IN MY FATHER'S DEN. Her theatre credits include THIS IS OUR YOUTH at Sydney Opera House, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST at Melbourne Theatre Company, HAMLET, STRANGE INTERLUDE, THE SEAGULL, THAT FACE and GETHSEMANE at Belvoir Street Theatre and THREE SISTERS and LA MUSICA at Young Vic Theatre, London. Emily received a British Independent Film Award for Most Promising Newcomer and a New Zealand Screen Award for Best Actor for IN MY FATHER'S DEN, an Australian Film Institute Award and Inside Film Best Actress Award for SUBURBAN MAYHEM, Logie and AFI Award nominations for her role in THE SILENCE and a Logie Award nomination for her role in GLITCH.

BENEDICT SAMUEL - Jasper

The Walking Dead, The Walk, The Beautiful Lie, Secret City



BENEDICT SAMUEL is currently starring as the iconic Batman villain "The Mad Hatter" on the hit Fox series GOTHAM. Previously he was seen in a heavily recurring role on AMC's THE WALKING DEAD playing "The Wolf", in the the Robert Zemeckis directed Sony Pictures feature THE WALK opposite Joseph Gordon-Levitt, the indie film THE DUEL opposite Woody Harrelson and THE STANFORD PRISON EXPERIMENT for Kyle Patrick Alvarez opposite Billy Crudup, Ezra Miller, Michael Angerano and Ty Sheridan, which premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival. In Australia, he recently starred in the Foxtel mini series SECRET CITY and also as the male lead in highly praised mini series, THE BEAUTIFUL LIE. Benedict is a graduate of the NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DRAMATIC ARTS. His first foray into American cinema was the lead role opposite Krysten Ritter in the indie drama ASTHMA for director Jake Hoffman. Previous credits include the Australian film UNDERGROUND (the Julian Assange story) and also in the massive hit Aussie series HOME AND AWAY. On stage, Benedict played the lead in a Melbourne production of TIS PITY SHE'S A WHORE. He was named as one of 9 "actors to watch" by Vogue Australia in their April 2012 issue.



PRODUCTION TEAM

DAVID WENHAM – Writer/Director/Producer

As an actor for more than 30 years David has appeared in both Australian and International films working with directors Jane Campion, Peter Jackson, Michael Mann, Paul Cox and Baz Luhrmann. He has received critical acclaim and numerous awards for his diverse performances in film, theatre and television and is one of Australia's most respected actors, featuring most recently with Nicole Kidman in LION.

In 2013 David directed a chapter of the omnibus feature of Tim Winton's THE TURNING

LIZ KEARNEY - Producer

Liz Kearney is a producer at Arenamedia. Along with Robert Connolly and Maggie Miles, Liz produced the Australian film PAPER PLANES which was released by Roadshow and grossed almost \$10m at the Australian box office. Liz's first feature THESE FINAL HOURS premiered at MIFF in 2013 and screened in Cannes as part of Directors' Fortnight.

Prior to this, Liz produced the short TRANSMISSION with Zak Hilditch which screened at festivals including Tribeca, Puchon, Flickerfest and St Kilda and won the AACTA award for Best Short Screenplay. Liz also produced one of the chapters THE TURNING with writer/director Jub Clerc.

Liz was an executive producer on Stephen Page's directorial debut SPEAR – a dance film that draws on the amazing body of work Stephen has created with Bangarra Dance Theatre over the last 25 years.

In 2017 with producers Robert Connolly and John Harvey, Liz produced the 8 x 30 min ABC comedy series THE WARRIORS. She also produced the stop motion animated short LOST PROPERTY OFFICE with cardboard sculptor Daniel Agdag which will premiere at the Sydney Film Festival in June 2017.

ROBERT CONNOLLY – Executive Producer

Robert Connolly is the writer and director of the feature films THE BANK (2001), THREE DOLLARS (2005), BALIBO (2009), and UNDERGROUND: THE JULIAN ASSANGE STORY (2012) as well as one of the featured directors on the International Emmy nominated mini series THE SLAP (2011).

His feature film as writer, director, producer PAPER PLANES (2014), starring Sam Worthington, Ed Oxenbould and David Wenham, opened on 250 screens in Australia and has gone to reach over \$9 million at the box office.

He has also completed directing BARRACUDA (2016), a 4 part miniseries for Matchbox and the ABC, based on Christos Tsiolkas's critically acclaimed novel.

Through his Australian production company Arenamedia, Robert also produced the award-winning films, THE BOYS (1998), ROMULUS, MY FATHER (2007) starring Eric Bana and THE TURNING (2013), an acclaimed innovative feature film compendium of short stories based on Tim Winton's acclaimed novel, starring Cate Blanchett, Hugo Weaving and Rose Byrne as well as Arenamedia's first TV series, THE WARRIORS for the ABC, which he co-created with Tony Briggs (THE SAPPHIRES) and collaborated with a team of established and emerging indigenous writers and directors.

Rob acted as an EP on SPEAR, the feature film debut of Bangarra's Artist Director Stephen Page and David Wenham directorial debut ELLIPSIS.

In 2014, Robert joined forces with Endemol Australia to produce the eight-part epic mini-series GALLIPOLI for the Nine Network.

Currently Robert is directing DEEP STATE a major 8 x 1 hour TV series based the UK and Morocco for Fox Networks Group and producer Hilary Bevan Jones.

Robert has won five AFI/AACTA awards for THE BANK, THREE DOLLARS, BALIBO, ROMULUS, MY FATHER and PAPER PLANES. As a director, he has screened his films in over thirty major international film festivals including the Berlin, Toronto and Busan International Film Festivals.

SIMON MORRIS - Director of Photography

Simon begun making films at the early age of 12, shooting his friends in small short film roles on his grandmothers VHS camera, cutting them together with two VCRs. He later moved on to splicing reels of film as a projectionist for 6 years, always pursuing his passion of film making.

Since then, Simon has become an established Director of Photography in the Australian film and TV industry with experience in commercials, feature drama, documentaries and shorts. Notable recent works include the critically acclaimed feature documentary DEEP WATER: THE REAL STORY (Directed by Amanda Blue, produced by Blackfella Films) about Sydney's hidden violent and homophobic past which airs on SBS in October 2016.

The three part SBS Documentary series DNA NATION (directed by Bruce Permezel, produced by Blackfella Films) which travelled across 14 countries telling the human migration story using DNA evidence.

The three part ABC documentary series CHANGING MINDS (Directed by Cian O'Clery, Produced by Northern Pictures), which set out to de-stigmatize and shed light on mental health issues in Australia. It was shot inside the locked mental health wards of Liverpool and Campbelltown Hospitals in Sydney, a first of its kind in Australia. It went on to be nominated for a 2015 LOGIE Award for 'Best Factual TV Series'.

Feature doc TENDER (Directed by Lynette Wallworth, Produced by Kath Shelper) which screened at many festivals including the Sydney, Adelaide, New York and London BFI Film Festivals, all receiving rave reviews. TENDER'Tender' also went on to win a 2015 AACTA Award for 'Best TV Documentary'.

His scripted drama works include various short films, notably MY CONSTELLATION which was a Tropfest 2013 finalist, it went on to screen at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival Kids and won a silver award from the Australian Cinematographers Society. SLINGSHOT which won Best Australian Short at Flickerfest 2016 among many other festivals and awards. Also recently, the Screen Australia short film ALONE (Directed by Erin Good, Produced by Belinda Mravicic) which screened at the 2015 St Kilda Short Film Festival received a nomination for 'Best Cinematography'.

Simon continues to have a driving passion for visual storytelling with a cinematic style.

NICK MEYERS - Editor

Nick Meyers started out in movies by shooting his own films on a cheap super-8 camera. There was no focus control, but a dial for cloudy or sunny meant that he could make movies rain or shine.

In the 80s, between working in the editing department of the ABC and performing in various bedroom bands, he was also part of the film-making group THE MARINE BIOLOGISTS which explored a crossover between narrative and experimental film.

The 90s saw him move into the night club world, creating the dramatic lighting effects for THE TENDER TRAP night-club in King's Cross.

In 1998 he edited THE BOYS.

Since then he has worked with Robert Connolly on THE BANK, THREE DOLLARS and BALIBO, and with Artist and Film-maker George Gittoes on the documentaries RAMPAGE, THE MISCREANTS OF TALLIWOOD and SNOW MONKEY.

Recent collaborations include SLEEPING BEAUTY with Julia Leigh, MRS CAREY'S CONCERT with Bob Connolly & Sophie Raymond, THE ROCKET with Kim Mordaunt, THESE FINAL HOURS with Zak Hilditch, and PAPER PLANES with Robert Connolly.

MEGAN WASHINGTON - Composer

Megan Washington is an Australian musician and songwriter also known professionally as "Washington". Originally performing jazz music, her style evolved to indie pop and alternative rock where she sings and plays piano and guitar. On 30 July 2010, she released her debut album, *I Believe You Liar*, on Universal Music, which peaked at number three on the ARIA Albums Chart and, by end of 2011, received a platinum certificate from ARIA for shipment of 70,000 copies.

In December 2009 Washington won the inaugural Vanda & Young Songwriting Competition for her track *How to Tame Lions*. At the ARIA Music Awards of 2010 she won the Best Female Artist and Breakthrough Artist awards and received five further nominations for work associated with *I Believe You Liar* and *How to Tame Lions*. Washington's second album, *There There*, was released on 12 September 2014 through Universal Music.

Megan made her acting debut in Michael Kantor's 2013 rock-musical THE BOY CASTAWAYS.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

ARENAMEDIA

Helmed by acclaimed Producer / Director Robert Connolly and supported by a dedicated team of inspired practitioners, ARENAMEDIA is an innovative Australian screen business that creates and markets Australian content with a social and political focus across a variety of platforms.

With over 20 years experience, ARENAMEDIA's credits include the awards- winning feature films THE BOYS, THE BANK, THREE DOLLARS, ROMULUS MY FATHER, BALIBO, THE TURNING and SPEAR. Its 2015 production, PAPER PLANES starring Ed Oxenbould and Sam Worthington, screened at the Toronto, Busan, London and Berlin Film Festivals and reached over \$9 Million at the Australian box office.

The company has just completed David Wenham's directorial debut ELLIPSIS and a new Indigenous TV series THE WARRIORS for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

SALES

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND - CINEMAPLUS

CinemaPlus is an Australian distribution and rights management company conceived by Robert Connolly, specialising in innovative producer and talent driven value-added 'event' cinema and theatrical releases.

CinemaPlus was conceived as a mechanism to showcase the intrinsic value of the theatrical cinematic experience for audiences. By leveraging the cinematic quality of modern Australian productions across all media, CinemaPlus aims to provide a better connection between content producers and their audiences by creating 'event' cinema experiences and valuing cinema-going audiences. At CinemaPlus events, audiences can not only watch content in its intended theatrical environment, they may also receive direct contact with filmmakers and cast, physical take-home packages containing additional content, and access to online story content to enhance their viewing experience.

CINEMAPLUS has spearheaded the theatrical release of NBC Universal's UNDERGROUND: THE JULIAN ASSANGE STORY, Michael Kantor's THE BOY CASTAWAYS, partnered with Madman Entertainment for a theatrical event season of THE TURNING and Focus Features' CLOSED CIRCUIT in association with Eric Bana's Pick Up Truck Pictures. In 2015 CINEMAPLUS released the latest film by Australian Veteran Director Paul Cox, FORCE OF DESTINY and in 2016, released SPEAR and Academy Award® Winner Eva Orner's latest documentary CHASING ASYLUM.

REST OF WORLD - LEVEL K

LevelK handles international sales & distribution for Film and TV production companies and acts as a digital partner for distributors in their home country.

Established in 2009, LevelK has assembled a stable of critically acclaimed, award winning independent and foreign films and series with commercial appeal. Based in Copenhagen and New York, LevelK is a passionate multi-language speaking, ambitious team with specialized market knowledge.

LevelK has a presence that extends globally and a dynamism that is reflected through LevelK's approach to innovative cross-platform/cross-country distribution combining theatrical and traditional means alongside digital distribution and marketing. LevelK is a recognized and solid business partner that prioritizes targeted distribution and value service and communication.



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