

What would you do for love?



Blankets

With LEON WADHAM, CARLY OWEN and CHAD MOFFITT
Director of Photography ROB MARSH Art Director ZOE WILSON Make-up Designer DARA WAKELY
Costume Designer BEX JOYCE Gaffer/Grip BYRON SPARROW Gunmetal Sound KEN SAVILLE Editor JEFF HURRELL
Visual Effects Supervisor FRANK RUIETER DJ/VJ Sound Design JOHN MCKAY Music TOM MCLEOD Casting TINA CLEARY
Written by CASEY WHELAN Directed by LOUISE LEITCH Produced by MELISSA DODDS
AN MSD PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION AND PICTURE THE DIFFERENCE LTD.
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WWW.BLANKETS.CO.NZ



BLANKETS PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Writer Casey Whelan
Producer Melissa Dodds
Director Louise Leitch

Format: Originated Red Epic 5k: HDCam finish
Duration: 11 minutes
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Sound: 5.1 Surround
Language: English

Filmed on location in Wellington, New Zealand

www.blankets.co.nz

<https://twitter.com/blanketsshortfi> and <https://www.facebook.com/Blanketsshortfilm>

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Produced by An MSD Production in association with Picture the Difference Ltd.

This film was made with assistance from the New Zealand Film Commission.

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FESTIVALS SO FAR..

JUNE 13 - WORLD PREMIERE PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL SHORTFEST 2013

AUG 24&29 – MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL 2013

OCT 17-20 – SAN JOSE SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2013

OCT 19 – HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2013

TAG LINE

What would you do for love?

LOG LINE

Teenager Jack relives magic moments with his girlfriend, reflecting on what his world would be without her.

SYNOPSIS

Jack spends an afternoon alone in his room, reliving the magic of a teenage love story and the tragic events that threaten to tear it apart. As he considers his world without his girl, he is left questioning what it really means to do the right thing.



FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

LOUISE LEITCH - DIRECTOR

60 word version

Louise Leitch grew up in Australia and graduated from Canberra University with a BA in Communication & Media. At the age of 23 she was running an award-winning production unit for the Australian government. She went on to direct close to 200 episodes of iconic Australian television drama before moving to New Zealand and embarking on her film career.



100 word version

Louise Leitch grew up in Australia and graduated from Canberra University with a BA in Communication & Media. At the age of 23 she was running an award-winning production unit for the Australian government. She went on to direct close to 200 episodes of iconic Australian television drama before moving to New Zealand and embarking on her film career.

Filmography: *Whakatiki* - world premiere in-competition 2012 Tribeca Film Festival. Screenings include Austin, Hawaii, Vladivostok, ImagiNATIVE.

Awards 2012: *Whakatiki* - Best Short Film First Peoples' Festival Montreal. Best Actress in a Short Film at both Wairoa Film Festival and the New Zealand Film Awards.

150 word version

Louise Leitch grew up in Australia and graduated from Canberra University with a BA in Communication and Media. She began her career directing dramatised productions for such high profile clients as Qantas, Westpac, Coca-Cola Amatil, the Cancer Council and the Australian government. Her work won national and international awards. Louise went on to direct close to 200 episodes of Australian television drama before moving to New Zealand. Since its world premiere at Tribeca Film Festival, New York in 2012, her short film *Whakatiki* has screened at a further 14 festivals to date including Austin, Hawaii, Vladivostok and ImagiNATIVE. *Whakatiki* won Best Short Film at 2012 First Peoples' Festival, Montreal, Best Actress in a Short Film at 2012 Wairoa Film Festival and Best Actress in a Short Film, 2012 New Zealand Film Awards. Louise has other short and feature narratives in development.

MELISSA DODDS - PRODUCER

Melissa Dodds has produced numerous short films including Louise Leitch's *Whakatiki* which had its world premiere at Tribeca Film Festival in 2012 and has



racked up a further 14 film festival acceptances to date. Recent accolades include Best Short Film at the Presence Autochtone Montreal First Peoples' Film Festival and Best Actress Award for Mabelle Dennison who played Kiri in *Whakatiki* at the 2012 New Zealand Film Awards and the 2012 Wairoa Film Festival. Other short film successes include Patrick Gillies' *Kitty* which has been selected for over fifteen international film festivals including a world premiere at the Montreal World Film Festival.

Melissa has recently released *Existence*, a feature film funded by the New Zealand Film Commission's Escalator scheme, which had preview screenings at the New Zealand International Film Festival in 2012 and has screened at a further three international film festivals since. *Existence* won Best Feature Film Script in the 2012 New Zealand Writers Guilds Screenwriters Awards. *Existence Limited* is currently in discussions with international film festivals, theatrical and online distributors.

Additionally Melissa was associate producer on Patrick Gillies' digital/16mm feature film *Offensive Behaviour* which premiered at the 2006 Cannes Marché du Film and line produced Paul Campion's debut feature *The Devil's Rock* released through Vendetta Films in 2011.

Melissa has a number of short films, feature films and a television series in development.

CASEY WHELAN - WRITER

Born in Wellington New Zealand, Casey Whelan is a proud Kiwi despite or due to spending most of her life overseas. A self-declared “oil brat,” she travelled with her family starting in the UK, then to Egypt, Holland and later moving to more exciting hot spots such as Nigeria and Pakistan.



After a stellar education at top international schools, she returned to New Zealand to undertake a Bachelor of Arts at Auckland University, double majoring in Film and English. On top of graduating six months early, she was selected for and finished at the top of two limited entry courses; Screenwriting with Shuchi Kothari, and Short Film Production with John Callen.

After graduation she interned with John Callen on *The Kiwi Who Saved Britain* before joining the writing staff of New Zealand’s longest-running television drama, *Shortland Street*. In her three years there, she worked as a dialogue writer and later moved to a full-time script-coordination role. During this period, Casey co-wrote the independently produced short film *Check Out* with fellow “Shortland Streeter,” Peter Mochrie.

Now a full-time, freelance writer, Casey’s screenplays have attracted considerable attention. *String* was a finalist in the 2010 New Zealand Writers Guild (NZWG) Short Film Script Competition. Working with director Louise Leitch and producer Melissa Dodds, her screenplay *Blankets* received 2011 New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) Fresh Shorts funding and *Dancers*, awarded 2012/13 NZFC Premiere Short funding, is in development with Executive Producer Robin Scholes (*Mr Pip, Once Were Warriors*).

Casey’s feature film script *You and Me* was a quarterfinalist in 2009 LA based Silver Screenwriting Competition, was selected for the 2011 Gaylene Preston “It” Workshop (which Louise and Casey attended as a writer/director team), and was one of three scripts chosen for the 2011/2012 NZWG Alan Sharp Mentorship. *You and Me*, and another of Casey’s feature screenplays, *Living La Vida Lagos*, were not only named top ten finalists in the 2012 NZWG Un-produced Feature Film Script Competition, they also won first and second runner-up positions, garnering Casey an award for Highly Commended work.

END CREDITS

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Jack | Leon Wadham |
| Linda | Carly Owen |
| Paramedic | Chad Moffitt |
| Director | Louise Leitch |
| Producer | Melissa Dodds |
| Writer | Casey Whelan |
| Director of Photography | Rob Marsh |
| Editor | Jeff Hurrell |
| Composer | Tom McLeod |
| Sound Designer | John McKay |
| Visual Effects Supervisor | Frank Rueter |
| Casting | Tina Cleary |
| First AD | Jules Lovelock |
| Third AD/Production Assist | Casey Whelan |
| Production Design/Art Director | Zoe Wilson |
| Art Assist | Rose Petterson |
| Costume/Wardrobe | Bex Joyce |
| Makeup Supervisor | Dara Wakely |
| Origami Makers | Alan Wong & The Wellington Origami Club James Drinsdale & Chrystia Siolkowsky |
| Wind Effects | Peter Zivkovic/NZFX |
| First Assist Camera | Aline Tran |
| Second Assist Camera | Piki Huia |
| Stills/Data Wrangler | Jessica Charlton |
| Script Supervisor | Karen Alexander |
| Sound Recordist | Ken Saville |
| Boom Operator | Dylan Jauslin |
| Gaffer/Grip | Byron Sparrow |
| Lighting/Grip Assist | Chris Murphy |
| Lighting/Grip Assist | Chris Chandler |
| Lighting/Grip Assist | David Brownjohn |
| Camera | Rocket |
| Grip/Lighting | Gunmetal |
| Radios | Noel Stevens/ Wireless Warehouse |
| Catering | Billie Lusk/Billionaires Catering |

**Stock Footage “African Wildlife Equator – Challenge of Change”
Kindly provided by NHNZ Dunedin**

VFX services by OHUfx

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Storyboards | Dieter Klapper Bodo Keller |
| CG Artist | Bodo Keller |
| Stop Motion Artist | David Duke |
| Stop Motion Technical Assist | Helen Williamson |
| Compositing | Frank Rueter |
| Score Supervisor | Sarah Lineham |
| Titles and Credits | Brendan Dee |
| Edit Assist | Betsy Bauer |
| Sound Design/ Additional Sound Facilities | John McKay OutPost Limited |

Post Production Services by Park Road Post Production, Wellington

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Head of Production | Dean Watkins |
| Producer | Nina Kurzmann |
| Post Production Producer Sound | Amanada Heatley |
| Editor | Tim Willis |
| Colourist | Matthew Wear |
| Head of Sound | John Neill |
| Re-recording Mixer | Tim Chaproniere |
| Sound Recordist | Toby Lloyd |
| Mix Tech | Alexis Feoderoff |
| Taperoom Supervisor | Victoria Chu |
| Tape Operator | Stephen Duburguet |
| Taperoom Operator - Digital Mastering | Michael Harris |
| Digital Lab Manager | Amy Shand |
| Head of Technology | Phil Oatley |

"Won't You Tell Me"

Written by Tom McLeod
Performed by Sarah Lineham
Courtesy of Major Tom Productions

"Funny Sisters"

Written & Performed by Eva Prowse and Henry Marks
Courtesy of Eva Prowse and Henry Marks

"Take Me"

Written and performed by Tom McLeod
Courtesy of Major Tom Productions

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Costa Botes
Nick Keller
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Celsius Coffee

(logos: Swonderful, Celsius, Museum Hotel & Park Road Post)

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PRESS RELEASE 14 JUNE 2013: *BLANKETS* SET TO TRAVEL



Writer Casey Whelan, Director Louise Leitch and Producer Melissa Dodds are proud to announce that their New Zealand Film Commission Fresh Short30 film, *Blankets*, has been invited to world premiere at the Palm Springs International ShortFest between 18th – 24th June 2013. *Blankets* has been included for presentation in the official line-up and has been selected as a featured film in the Festival's Short Film Market.

The 11 minute film tells the story of Jack, who spends an afternoon alone in his room, reliving the magic of a teenage love story and the tragic events that threaten to tear it apart. The short stars Leon Wadham (*Go Girls*), Carly Owen and Chad Moffitt (*Beyond the Edge*) and features stunning stop-motion animation.

The world premiere for *Blankets* comes off the back of Louise Leitch and Melissa Dodds' success last year with *Whakatiki*, a short film written by Bernadette Murphy. *Whakatiki* had its world premiere at Tribeca Film Festival in April 2012 and has gone on to attend more than 15 film festivals including Austin, Hawaii, ImagineNATIVE, NZIFF and Vladivostok. *Whakatiki* won Best Short Film at the 2012 Montreal First People's Festival and Best Actress awards for Mabelle Dennison at both the Wairoa Maori Film Festival and the 2012 MOA NZ Film Awards.

The team behind *Blankets* are also pleased to announce that they have been greenlit by Executive Producer Robin Scholes (*Once Were Warriors, Mr Pip*) for their NZFC funded Premiere Short film, *Dancers*. *Dancers* is a stepping stone towards their feature film, currently in development, with the working title "Living La Vida Lagos"; a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age drama.

The team are set to travel to Palm Springs for this year's festival, with a raft of meetings, seminars and check-ins planned.

ENDS

Melissa Dodds

Producer

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<http://www.facebook.com/Blanketsshortfilm>

<http://www.facebook.com/PalmSpringsFilmFestival?fref=ts>