

*the  
Chemo  
Club*

**No money. No morals. No teeth.**

# Contents



Essential Information

Synopsis

Bios

Credits

Interview with Director, Thandi Brewer

Anecdotes

Director's Statement

Cast

Links

# Essential Information

<b>Writer</b>	Thandi Brewer
<b>Director</b>	Thandi Brewer
<b>Producer</b>	Bridget Pickering
<b>Production Company</b>	Fireworx Media (Pty) Ltd
<b>Executive Producers</b>	Bridget Pickering, Neil Brandt, Dan Jawitz
<b>Technical Information</b>	RED Exhibited on HD Cam
<b>Film Ratio</b>	16 mm
<b>Sound</b>	Dolby 5.1 surround mix
<b>Running Time</b>	94 mins
<b>Country of Production</b>	South Africa
<b>Date of Completion</b>	September 2016
<b>Release Date</b>	March 2017



# Synopsis

## SHORT SYNOPSIS:

The Chemo Club is a feature film which follows strong willed **Lulu (Brümilda van Rensburg)** and humble **Faith (Lillian Dube)** as they embark on a heist to recover their stolen funds from a corrupt retirement pensions boss (**Chris Chameleon**).

As former 1970s comic book heroes, they channel their alter egos in the 1970's, enlisting the help of their former colleague (Tobie Cronje) and a younger media student and comic book enthusiast (Rea Rangaka) to complete their heist and return to their glory days.

They summon their inner Goddess; co-opt the dysfunctional nerd in need of a lay **Sivu (Rea Rangaka)**, their old photographer, **Gerhard (Tobie Cronje)** and plan a daring Robin Hood heist with a clapped out Combi.

These four misfits and Gerhard's Yorkshire Terrier "Killer" make up the Chemo Club, out to make one very big score and the payday of a lifetime. It's a case of little old ladies rule as the tension rises until the exciting climactic robbery where everything goes very wrong – and very right for these four oddball "criminals"



Lulu (Brümilda van Rensburg) and Faith (Lillian Dube)

# Synopsis



## FULL SYNOPSIS:

**Lulu Fredericks (Brümilda van Rensburg)** is a granite voiced granny from hell. No friends. No money. No brakes. She drinks too much. Swears too much. Wants too much. She also has cancer and six months to live. And she has a dream. She's bet her ludicrously young doctor that she'll outsmart the Big C and get to Broadway before she dies. One small problem: All of her investments have disappeared into the "Trusted (We can be) Pensions and Investments". And they're not giving them up.

**Faith Moloi (Lillian Dube)** is a gentle church going gogo who hates foul language, is terrified on authority, and just wants to keep her family provided for. One small problem. Trusted isn't paying her pension so she can't pay her electricity, help her single mom recently retrenched daughter Lineo, (**Manaka**

**Ranaka**) or send her dearly loved granddaughter Palesa to leadership camp.

There's an unexpected link between these two baby boomers: they were both sex goddesses of Photo Books in 70's South Africa, Faith was "She". Lulu was "Tessa". They never met of course.

It was a different time. Until Lulu tries to withdraw her investments from glitzy high-rise Trusted and is shattered to discover that her money has disappeared. Almost as shattered as Faith who cannot get her pension out of them. And the two finally meet.

When Lulu discovers that silver-tongued CEO of Trusted, **Grant Roberts, (Chris Chameleon)** is planning to leave the country having stripped "Trusted" and it's investors and pensioners of their money, she arm-twists the reluctant Faith into agreeing to the Robin Hood

heist of 2016, accessing their alter egos: She and Tessa, who would never have stood for this. Their target? Naturally the flamboyantly wealthy, charismatically ruthless entrepreneur Grant, who has piled all of the stolen funds into four Netsukes (Japanese action figures).

It's "Thelma and Louise" meets "The Hotel Marigold" out of "Ocean's 11". And it's not going to be easy.

The gogos have to woo the geekish media student Sivu (Rea Rangaka) as clumsy pyro technician/driver/logistical expert, and guilt ex photobook photographer-now-masquerading as Vogue icon **Gerhard Bothma (Tobie Cronje)** out of retirement by threatening to expose his murky past. These four misfits and Gerhard's Yorkshire Terrier – Killer- make up the Chemo Club, out to make one very big score and the payday of a lifetime.

Will Lulu have her cake and eat it? To score the netsukes, she'll have to put her newly won friendship with Faith on the line. But if it all goes according to their intricate, nearly impossible plan, she won't have to choose between her dream of Broadway and her fantasy image of herself? Or will she?

It's a case of little old ladies rule as the tension rises until the exciting climactic robbery where everything goes very wrong – and very right for these four oddball "criminals" caught in the web they wove themselves: where Gerard redeems himself, where Faith regains her high kicks, and Lulu loses her wig, and throws away her necklace, where Sivu learns a little more than he ever bargained for about women, and where South Africa's pensioners get payback in a way they never anticipated.

# Director's Statement

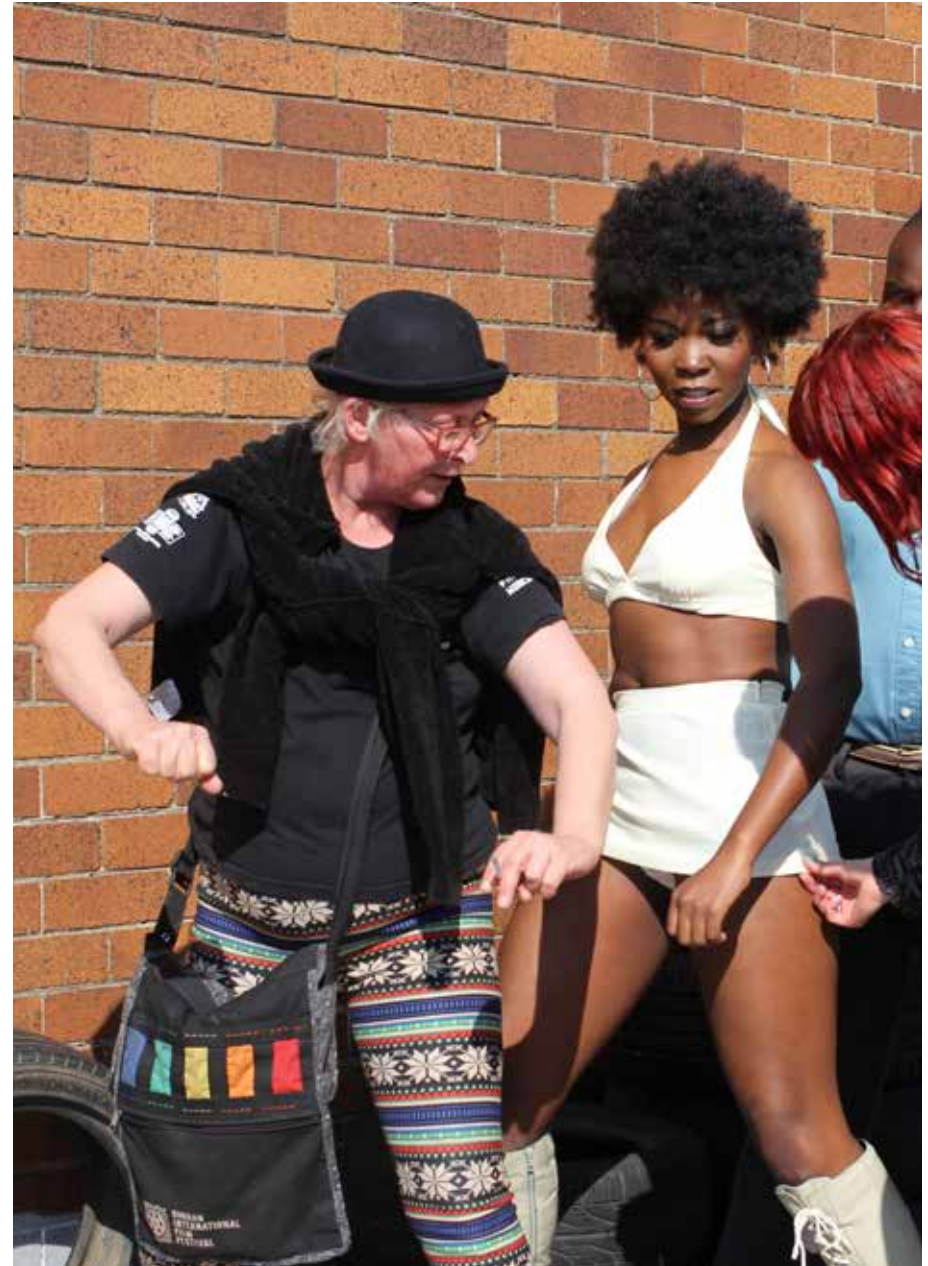
## The Con. The Heist. The Heart.

"The Chemo Club" is a quirky, sometimes moving heist movie with a unique spin that shies away from the normal testosterone and machismo. It's an off-beat comedy caper, with a very South African, deadly serious female -empowering heart.

I wrote "Chemo Club" as a tribute to a remarkable woman who left school at 12, got her honours degree at 74, and was doing a one woman show where she stood on her head and did the splits until three months before her death at 77.

She was impossible, Irish, intransigent... and my mother. And she taught me many things: there's no such thing as too late. Wrinkles don't hurt. You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing. It's better to grow old disgracefully. Never surrender, man the barricades and fight the system particularly in a society that over values youth and undervalues age.

Then there's something else: two women who never knew each other, divided by history, and the relationship that they forge in the present when they finally do meet after 45 years. So it's a chick flick. It's about the power of friendship at a time when Facebook is the currency of relationships. A story of unlikely friendships and underdogs triumphing over the apparently insurmountable odds of cancer, bankruptcy and a society that ignores them.



## Cast



**Brümilda van Rensburg (Lulu)** is one of South Africa's most award-winning actors. She is most known for her portrayal of character Louwna in the TV-series Egoli: *Place of Gold*.

She initially achieved popularity for acting in *Wolwedans in die Skemer* and *Ballade vir 'n Enkeling*. Brümilda is a talented theatre and film actress, a few of her recent films include: *Leading Lady*, *The Power of Three* and *Musiek vir die Agtergrond*. Two of her features, *Dancing in the Forest* and *Brutal Glory*, have been released at the Cannes Film Festival.

She is the winner of multiple awards including Most Stylish Woman and ATKV Mediaveertjie for Best Actress in a Drama amongst others



**Lillian Dube (Faith)** is a South African actress best known for her role as Sister Bettina in the SABC1 drama series *Soul City*, from 1994-2009.

She had a starring role as Koko K in the SABC1 sitcom *My Perfect Family*, in 2011. She also acted in the second season of the SABC3 drama series *The Lab*, in 2008, and created, produced and starred in the SABC2 sitcom *Skwizas*.

She played the role of Mme Motsatse in the short film *The Ring*. She also played the role of Masibobe on the SABC1 soapie *Generations*.



**Tobie Cronjé (Gerhard)** is an award winning South African actor with a career spanning over 40 years in film, television and stage.

He is best known for his roles in the television series *Louis Motors*, *Manakwalanners*, *Onder Draai die Duiwel Rond* and *Egoli* as well as South African films *Die Sersant en die Tiger Moth*, *Babbelkous* (1974), *Kwikstertjie*, *Daar kom Tant Alie*, *Wat Maak Oom Kalie Daar? 'N Plekkie in die Son* (1979), *Skelms* (1980), *Promised Land* (2002), *Jozi* (2009) and more recently *Lafras Verwey*, *Snaaks Genoeg* (2015) and *The Chemo Club* (2017).

He has acted in international co-productions including *Game for Vultures*, *Any Man's Death*, *Options* (1988), *Being Human* and *Pet to the Rescue*.



**Rea Rangaka (Sivu)** is a South African actor, writer and director best known for his starring role as newly appointed fish-out-of-water Chief of Staff Martin Shai in the Mzansi Magic sitcom *The Mayor*. Hailing from the Benoni, South Africa.

He holds a BA Degree in English, Drama, Media and Film Production from the University of Cape Town in 2006. He has starred in multiple productions including *More Than Just a Game*, SABC2 comedy-drama series *Khululeka*, *Mzansi Love* and *Paradise Stop*.

Rangaka has also written, produced and directed the short films *For the Lovers Only* (2012) and *Ode in Blood* (2013).

# Grew



**Director: Thandi Brewer** is an award winning writer, director, script editor and facilitator. She has written many TV series, the latest being *Usindiso/Redemption!!* which she produced in conjunction with Bridget Pickering. It was a regional semi regional finalist for best drama series for the International Emmy's in 2008, won 4 SAFTAs and was hugely successful playing to 4.3 million viewers a night on SABC 1. She has written International film scripts, like *Paris Le Cap*, *Cheap Lives*, *The Weatherman*, *12 Dancing Princesses*, *Story of An African Farm*, *Corner Pocket* and *The Chemo Club*. She is a cancer survivor and *The Chemo Club* marks her feature film directorial debut.



**Producer: Bridget Pickering** is a film-maker and producer. Among other projects, she was a co-producer on the 2004 Oscar nominated film *Hotel Rwanda*. Bridget has been working in television, media and film for over twenty years and has produced some of the highest rated shows on South African television including *U Gugu no Andile*, *Monna wa Minno*, *Usindiso*, *Dreamworld*, *End Game* and *Sticks and Stones*.



**Cinematographer: Justus de Jaeger** began creating images at an early age, selling his paintings in the neighbourhood as a young boy.

His love for creating pictures lead him to become a Cinematographer and has since left his footprint in the local film industry with numerous Feature Films, Commercials and other short form productions.

Having trained on 35mm film he carries a strong work ethic, and discipline over to all the formats and productions he works on today. After nearly twelve years of local and international experience, Justus still loves every day spent behind the camera, and this love for images is visible in his work. This site showcases some of his more recent projects.



Renate Schultz is an experienced Art Director with fifteen year of experience. Here is a brief summary of productions she has work on:

**ONDER DRAAI DIE DUIWEL ROND (TV series)** HOD and Props mistress for Sonneblom Studio

**GAZ'LAM 2 (TV series)** HOD and Set decorator for Ochre media

**GAZ'LAM 3 (TV series)** HOD .Set decorator for Ochre media

**GAZ'LAM 4 (TV series)** HOD.Set decorator for Ochre media

**SOKKA KINGS (reality tv series)** HOD Set decorator for Rapid blue production

**ZERO TOLERANCE 3&4 (TV series)** HOD. Set decorator for Ochre media

**Soul buddies 5 (TV series)** HOD Set decorator for Bomb shelter

**THE WRONG MAN** Art Director for BBC

# Grew



**Costume Designer: Pierre Vienings** has many years experience in a variety of different environments. He has worked extensively on television series and feature films, music videos, commercials, stage shows and many other forms of media. Pierre worked at for Philo Films and more recently at Peakviewing Transatlantic.

His international experience includes; *Beauty and the Beast*, *Hoodlum and Son*, *Pets*, *Berserker Hells Warrior*, *Hooded Angels*; *Red Tide*; *Africa* and many others. Pierre is considered to be one of the top Costume Designers in the industry and his portfolio is extensive and incredibly impressive.

His dynamic diversity and creativity are clearly apparent and his vast experience an asset to any production



**Music Composer: Zethu Mashika** has scored 5 Features Films called *Zama* (2012), *Skyf* (2011), *Hear Me Move* (2014), *Last Ones Out* (2015) and *The Chemo Club* (2016).

I've Produced music for the commercials of brands such as MTN Zambia, Vodacom, KFC, White Star, IEC, SANBS as well as Title sequences for various TV Shows. African Movie Academy Award Nomination (2016),

SAFTA Nomination (2013 & 2016) - Best Original Music (FILM). Awarded Best Original Score - Kalasha International Film Festival, 48 Hour Film Project (2012 & 2013).



**Editor: CA Aswagan** has worked on numerous productions including:

**Ballade vir 'n Enkeling (colorist)** / (on-line editor)

**Fatherland(Documentary)** (colorist)/ (on-line editor)

**Hear Me Move(colorist)**/(on-line editor)

**The Foreign Minister** (Documentary) (colorist) / (on-line editor)

**Ten year Tightrope:** *Rebels with a Cause* (Documentary) (colorist) / (on-line editor)



**Fireworx Media (Pty) Ltd** is an integrated production and distribution company producing original content for multiple platforms and providing distribution to African films seeking global audiences. Fireworx Media is proud to be one of the most awarded production companies in South Africa and has earned a reputation for producing quality content whose work reflects powerful stories about a rapidly changing world.

Their television programmes have been broadcast by Arte, Al Jazeera, Sundance Channel, BBC, PBS, ZDF, NHK, MNET, SABC, amongst others. Our films have been funded by private equity, institutional funders and broadcasters.

These include the Industrial Development Bank (IDC) the National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF), ITVS, the Sundance Documentary fund, Fonds Sud, The SA Department of Trade and Industry, Spier Films, the IDFA Bertha Fund, the Hot Docs Blue Ice Fund, the Hubert Bals Fund, Sonke Gender Justice Network, World Vision, NORAD, Open Society and others.

# Cast and Crew

Lulu  
BRÜMILDA VAN RENSBURG

Faith  
LILLIAN DUBE

Gerhard  
TOBIE CRONJE

Sivu  
REA RANGAKA

Grant Roberts  
CHRIS CHAMELEON

Ruby  
SHOKI MOKGAPA

Tessa  
MELLIANI MARTIN

She  
GLORIA CHABANE

Clerk  
LIONEL NEWTON

Lineo  
MANAKA RANAKA

Palesa  
LERATO MARABE

Kujo  
PEACE NZIRAWA

TJ  
WANDILE MOLEBATSI

Danny  
DAVID ARNOLD JOHNSON

William  
DAWID MINNAAR

Doctor  
ASHISH GANGAPERSAD

Hawker  
SANA MCHUNU

Cop  
KAGISO LEDIGA

Katlego  
NALEDI RANAKA

Nurse  
QUANITA ADAMS

Female Reporter  
ANLIE HATTING

Female Customer  
STEPHANIE BAARTMAN-BUTHELEZI

Pensioner  
DAVID CRICHTON

Woman  
NOSISI NGAKANE

Tiny  
WIKUS VAN DE MERWE

Zulu Security Guard  
LEBOHANG JACOB MASIMOLA

Side Kick  
MARNITZ VAN DEVENTER

Taxi Man  
AMOS MATHEBULA

Gallery Pretty Girl  
MBALI LANGA

Extras  
BRIGHT MNGOMEZULU  
LUCKY MAKGOBANE  
RHULANI KHOA  
NKULULEKO BENECIA  
PAULIN KOFFI KPADE

Producer  
BRIDGET PICKERING

Head of Production  
TAMMY LEWIS-HOUGHTING

Line Producer  
JANE RADEMEYER

Production Manager  
MARICIA PIETERSE

Associate Producer  
TENDAYI NYEKE

Production Co-ordinator  
NEO MASEKWAMENG

Trainee PA  
LUCKY MAKGOBANE

Production Driver  
CHOSHI MASEKWAMENG

Production Accountant  
THULANI NGCWABE

Post Production Accountant  
IAN INOS

Director  
THANDI BREWER

Directing Consultant  
MYRTO MAKRIDES

1st Assistant Director  
DAVID TUMAHOLE

2nd Assistant Director  
HARRY KHUMALO

Trainee Assistant Director  
COLLEN MAGONGWA

# Cast and Crew

Script Supervisor / Continuity  
LUFUNO NEKHABAMBE

Script Editor  
MARGARET GOLDSMID

Casting  
NOLWAZI SHANGE  
NEO MASEKWANENG  
CHRISTA SCHAMBERGER

Director of Photography  
JUSTUS DE JAGER

Focus Puller  
DRIKUS VAN DER MERWE

DIT  
MARCEL KLOPPER

Camera Assistant / VT  
ZAMANI TSHABALALA

Sound Recordist  
JOSEPH DLAMINI

Sound Assistant / Boom  
PERRY DLAMINI

Additional Sound  
MZUKISI MTSHISELO

Key Grip  
GERRIT VAN ZYL

Grip Assistant  
JONATHAN SCOTT

Key Grip (daily)  
TYLER GELDENHUYS

Grip Assistant (daily)  
SHANNON POWELL  
WD DU PLESSIS

Gaffer  
BRENT WEBB

Best Boy / Spark  
BRENT SAULS

Gennie Operator  
QUINTON (GLOBES) SANDERS

Best Boy (daily)  
ANDREW MATLOU

Spark (daily)  
HILTON ENGELHOF  
JAN DU TOIT

Gennie Operator (daily)  
DAVID THELETSANE

Production Designer  
RENATE SCHULZ

Props Master  
CALLUM HILL

Dresser / Driver  
COLIN MAKHUBELA

Stand-By  
SIPHO RADEBE

Art Department (dailies)  
THOMAS MAKGALAMEDI  
SIYABONGA NGWENYA  
BERNARD MAKHUBELA  
ELIJAH MAKHUBELA  
SIFISO JEBESE  
PITSO TONG

Make Up / Hair  
CHARLIE RUNGE

Make Up / Hair Assistance  
ANIKA PRETORIUS

SFX Make Up Artist (daily)  
MARY-SUE MORRIS

Costume Designer  
PIERRE VIENINGS

Wardrobe Mistress  
ZANDI MOKWENA

Wardrobe Assistant  
JESSICA JONES

Wardrobe Trainee  
CODY CAPRARI

Locations  
RENATE SCHULTZ

Unit Manager  
THAMI SHABANGU

Unit Assistant  
MBUSO SHABANGU

On Set Photographers

LISA SKINNER  
JANE RADEMEYER  
CHARMAINE CARROL

Post Production Facility  
FIX POST PRODUCTION

Post Production Producer  
C.A. VAN ASWEGEN

Editor  
C.A. VAN ASWEGEN

Assistant Editor  
MARCEL KLOPPER

Online Editor & Colourist  
C.A. VAN ASWEGEN

Visual Effects Production Studio  
WONDERMERK & BLACK GOSLING

Creative Director  
WONDERMERK & BLACK GOSLING

Concept Design  
COLIN O'MARA DAVIS  
LIAM LONGLAND  
NIKITA NIELSEN

Post Supervisors  
JESSICA YOUNG  
LARNEY DE SWARDT

# Cast and Crew

CG Lead GERHARD DE JAGER	Final Mix PETER CORNELL	Medical Support LIFE MED AMBULANCE SERVICES	BRENT MYBURG
2D Artist TIM JARDIM	Music Composed and Created by ZETHU MASHIKA	Security FRONT FRIGHT SECURITY SERVICES	Tailsup ALFIE (KILLER THE DOG) NICOLA IRENE THOMPSON
3D Artist GERHARD DE JAGER	Additional Vocals SHABZI MADALLION	Vega Artwork Courtesy of STUDENTS FROM VEGA SCHOOL & THE DESIGN SCHOOL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA	Student Extras Supplied by CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS KAREN GALLINETTI
Compositors COLIN O'MARA DAVIS GERHARD DE JAGER TIM JARDIM	Score Mixed and Mastered by MHLONIPHENI NTSANGASE	For Fireworx Media	Golden Oldies Extras Supplied by NAZARETH HOUSE
VFX Editors COLIN O'MARA DAVIS GERHARD DE JAGER TIM JARDIM	Score Recorded at CONTROL AND COMMAND STUDIOS	Executive Producers BRIDGET PICKERING NEIL BRANDT DAN JAWITZ	Old Johannesburg Sun Hotel PAULIN KOFFI KPADE
Animatic Editors JESSICA YOUNG LINDI GOOSEN	Caterer SIYAZAKHA CATERING	For MNET	Vega Randburg VANESSA ZANIERI
Final Cinema Master REFINERY POST PRODUCTION	Title Design BLACK GOSLING	Producers JAN DU PLESSIS ANNEKE VILLET RICKY HUMAN	Faith's Flat ANDRÉ GOOSEN
Digital Post Production Supervisor CHARMAINE LAUTRE	EPK MICHAEL MOAGI MATSIE	Special Thanks	Lulu's Flat DANIEL VAN DER MERWE
Mastering & QC JOHN BRINK	Auditors TANCHI CONSULTING	Panalux JAMES BARTH	Wits Medical Oncology DAWN & LINDA VAN NIEKERK
Sound Post Production HUMDRUM AT REFINERY	Completion Bond HOLLARD FILM GUARANTORS	THALIA GARDINER REGAN CESROE	Garhard's House MARTIN EDGE
Sound Design PETER CORNELL	Insurance CGM INSURANCE COMPANY	Value Rentals CHARITY MASHILA MALISSA VERE RUSSELL	Fourthwall Books OLIVER BARTSTOW
ADR & Dialogue Editor PETER CORNELL	Legal IRISH MACLEOD WEBBER WENTZEL FLUXMANS INC. OF ROSEBANK, JOHANNESBURG	Tempest RICHARD NIMB	Anti Establishment PAUL SHAFER & ALVARO PLACIDO
			The Wardrobe Studio



"Master Jack"

D. Marks

Performed by FOUR JACKS AND A JILL  
Courtesy of GALLO RECORD COMPANY  
Published by SONY ATV MUSIC PUBLISHING

"The Boy Is Doin' It"

Written by HUGH MASEKELA, O.J EKEMODE,  
STANLEY TODD KWESI, PAPA FRANKIE TODD, YAW OPAKU,  
ADELAJA GBOYEGA AND ODINGA "GUY" WARREN.

Performed by HUGH MASEKELA

Courtesy of SEMOPA ENTERTAINMENT LTD  
Lisenced courtesy of UNIVERSAL MUSIC (pty) Ltd  
ISRC CODE USPR37507021

"Asinamali"

P & C SAKIFO RECORDS  
A/C : Boitumello Molekane &  
Tiago Corroiera Paulo



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Please note that the following links have not gone live but we plan to be on the following



[The\\_Chemo\\_Club\\_Film](#)



[@chemoclubfilm](#)



[@chemoclubfilm](#)



[The Chemo Club](#)



[www.vimeo.com/thechemoclubfilm](http://www.vimeo.com/thechemoclubfilm)



[www.youtube.com/thechemoclubfilm](http://www.youtube.com/thechemoclubfilm)



**WIKIPEDIA**  
*The Free Encyclopedia*

[The Chemo Club Film](#)



# A Q&A with Director, Thandi Brewer

## 1. What was your inspiration for making this film?

My mother – Fiona Fraser – an amazingly resilient spirit, with great humour and courage. She always inspired me (and infuriated me sometimes when she went celtic). I wanted to write something that she would have loved to play. She was the inspiration for Lulu. And Faith was inspired by all the extraordinary women I meet on a daily basis who just get on with looking after their families, putting their own dreams to one side while they enable others. This is probably going to get soppy but the friendship between Faith and Lulu is based on the friendships I have with some remarkable women. It's a conglomeration of the support, love and friendship women give each other. And I like genre films. I wanted to do a female take on a genre with older actors.

## 2. What was the process of getting the film off the ground and made?

I was lucky enough to get funding from the NFVF, and with the support of my fantastic script editor Margeret Goldshmidt and the Head of

Development of the NFVF at the time Clarence Hamilton, the writing process was actually a delight. We all had a lot of fun. Raising the money to make the film was a lot harder. It took five years. The NFVF came on board, and then there was the almost miraculous partnership with Mnet through Jan (Surname) and Anneke Villet which made it all come together. Bridget was amazing in making the whole thing happen. She's a fantastic producer and collaborator and this film would never have been made without her.

## 3. How long was the shoot? Where did the shoot take place?

5 weeks – and some of the happiest weeks at that. An amazing cast and crew. Everyone collaborated and we had a lot of fun which I hope percolates through the film. We shot in and around Johannesburg. Mainly downtown CBD, with excursions into Yeoville for Lulus House

## 4. What is your favourite scene in the film?

Uh if I told you that I'd be giving away the plot. But I have a lot of favourites. Sivu

dancing with Ruby. Lulu teaching Sivu to dance. The fight scene. Gerhard's heart attack moment. And the Photobook sequences were enormous fun to shoot. Chris Chameleon (who I have a HUGE crush on) paid the nicest compliment when he told me he hadn't had so much fun on a set on the day we shot the photobook sequence with him.

## 5. What was the most difficult scene to shoot?

The opening scene tracking down the Trusted building. It was an epic construction for our grips who took it on like heroes as did the camera crew and then Lulu convincing Faith to do the heist. It was long, and hot, and mirrors.... WHY did I have to choose a mirrored building for our main location?

## 6. Did Tessa and She exist before?

The characters of Tessa and She were part of the Photobooks of the 70s. So yes they did exist. But no they weren't real. They were played by photobook actors. It was quite a journey getting the rights to use them, and again Bridget was amazing and relentless in her

pursuit of the rights.

## 7. Describe the casting process and why these stars?

The casting process was long. It took about 2 and a half years. And intensive. We saw hundreds of people – all of them great talents, but not quite right for the mix we were looking for. We had to get the right combination of actors and get the mix right. And we only found Rea who plays Sivu literally 3 weeks before we shot which was nerve-wrecking but his performance is so worth it. The cast is sublime. It was an honour to work with such great professionals – who also all happened to be very nice people. As I've said a very happy shoot.

## 8. What do you think the essence of the film is?

Friendship, life and laughter. Oh, and a lot of swearing.

# Anecdotes

## Thoughts from Brümilda van Rensburg:

We worked very hard – early call times in the middle of winter but our hearts were warm giving our very best.

The sharp wit of our director Thandie outwitted by Ma Lillian cherried by Tobies dry sense of humor and topped by the reward of our producer Bridget's most beautiful laugh in the world

We had fun and went **VORENTOE**

The day we tried to get the doggies back into the van not even the dog whisperers could get it right – took forever

Then I was picked up by a giant of a man and thrown out of a building asking for my money – and he crushed my ribbebeen - eish so there were no hugs coming my way

Getting my mouth round the swearing was something because I'm not used to it

Pierre with he's amazing wardrobe was so kind as to cheat a vest under our clothes so we could survive the frost

The vintage car I had to drive brought back so many memories for my dad had the same car imported way back then – I was petrified to drive and crash it as it has happened on a set before because of shoes too big

## Ma Lillian became like a sesi to me and will love her always

Shooting in Jozi centre town was an eye opener for me – haven't been there like in 5 years - all them taxis was quite scary sometimes – luckily we were picked up

The same goes for Hillbrow

What a learning curve it was all in all

The vibe on set the lovely food the fantastic crew and fellow actors – a privilege indeed.

## An anecdote from Rea Rangaka (Sivu)

I just remember the time where Thandi made me walk like John Travolta to get psyched for a scene. I thought she was taking the mickey out because in truth it took me some time to grow into the character, especially his dress code



and demeanor. But I had that trust you know. She'd really stroke my 'cool guy ego'. So I did the walk... Now I'm just ITCHING to see the final cut... Itching.

# Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New South African Comedy-Heist Feature Film to be Released in Early 2017

Johannesburg, South Africa - 1 November 2016

The Chemo Club, a new South African comedy heist feature film about two 70 something pensioners who take on a fraudulent Pensions Boss in a daring heist is due for release in early 2017.

In a first of its kind in South African filmmaking, The Chemo Club is a brilliant and innovative film which follows strong willed Lulu (Brümilda van Rensburg) and humble Faith (Lillian Dube) as they embark on a heist to recover their stolen funds from a corrupt retirement pensions boss (Chris Chameleon). As former 1970s comic book heroes, they channel their alter egos of the 1970's, enlisting the help of their former colleague, Gerhard (Tobie Cronje) and a younger media student and comic book enthusiast, Sivu (Rea Rangaka) to complete their heist and return to their glory days.

The film was written and directed by Thandi Brewer (Society, The Story of an African Farm) who describes it as a story about "friendship, life and laughter". Inspired by her mother and many other resilient women who have battled cancer, she was inspired to write a genre film with strong female older leads.

The film will be released in early 2017 and will be showing in cinemas across the country. There will also be a number of free public screenings in various places in the country ahead of the release of the film.

For more information:

[www.thechemoclub.co.za](http://www.thechemoclub.co.za)

**Facebook:** @thechemoclub.co.za

**Twitter:** @TheChemoClub

Electronic Press Kit, Images and Interviews available upon request.

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