



A FILM BY DREAMLANDS FILM & MEDIA

# RARE BLOOD





# RARE BLOOD

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(Feature film)

*Running Time:* 86 minutes  
*Genre:* Psychological thriller  
*Directed By:* Brett Halliday  
*Written by:* Brett Halliday and Gillian O'Donoghue

*Produced by:* Brett Halliday and Gillian O'Donoghue

*Production Design:* Barry Downard and Gillian O'Donoghue  
*Cinematographer:* Devin Carter  
*Edited by:* Devin Carter  
*Sound Mix:* Neil Campbell & Marciano Mojane  
*Original Score:* Anthony Downing



# LOGLINE

A demure wife returns home from a trip abroad all fired up to take her failing marriage in hand. A little too late, as her crazed husband has been hacking into her online accounts and together with his cunning sister, they've hatched a plan to make sure she leaves the farm with nothing.

# SYNOPSIS

A South African film set in a remote area of the Dargle in KwaZulu Natal. Keira (Annie Robinson) arrives home with her daughter, Emma (Ella Grealy) from an overseas trip to find her sister-in-law, Olga (Fiona Ramsay), running the farm in her absence. Unbeknownst to Keira, her crazy, drugged up husband, Panos (Brendan Grealy), and Olga have hatched a plan to get rid of her. Panos has hacked into her online accounts and finds evidence of her having a conversation with a mysterious 'Irishman'.

The isolated Keira has a friendship with Gunther, (Mark Mulder) who is helping Panos with his IT business in exchange for a rent-free cottage on their farm. Keira confides in Gunther and he warns her about Panos' intentions to cut her off financially. Keira has no time to act as she prepares for a business dinner that has been arranged at the house by Olga. The dinner is tense and particularly embarrassing for Keira as her husband demeans her in front of the guests. Panos appears to be having a manic episode and Keira, trying to please, manages to secure the business deal. Olga has made arrangements to stay with her friend, a two hour's drive away, so she can fly to Johannesburg the next day. She asks Gunther to drive her to Connie's house in Ballito to which he reluctantly agrees, concerned to leave Keira alone with the unstable Panos.

As soon as everyone has gone, Panos sets his plan into action. He asks Keira to back up all the work she has done for him and then demands a divorce. Keira is caught off guard and tries to reason with him. Panos, by this stage, is as high as a kite and with no regard for his daughter, he takes out his gun and launches a terrifying tirade on Keira and Emma. Keira calls her ailing father, Patrick (Graham Clarke) who tries to locate Gunther. All hell breaks loose and Keira's only hope is the arrival of Gunther. The film descends into a dystopian nightmare with twists and turns, layers within layers as Keira tries to protect her daughter from a dangerous situation.

# OUR STORY

Gillian had this idea to write a story about a woman that had married into a narcissist family, hence the title, Rare Blood. The family members think it is a privilege to have this particular type of Rare Blood type running through their veins and the antagonist, Panos and his cunning sister, Olga use their heritage as a badge of honour condoning their bad behaviour.

As this topic is not often seen in movies, we felt with our skills we could write it into a rivetting psychological thriller with a surprising twist. We decided that the protagonist, Keira, would be a flawed character. She is worn down by the many years of psychological abuse and struggles to act decisively. Her husband, Panos, the indulgent child that won't grow up, is taking a cocktail of anti-psychotic medicine, cannabis and cocaine to get through the day.

Panos is an IT engineer and Keira helps him with the business but all the finances are under the control of Panos. Keira is systematically cut down and without realising it has become a timid, insecure woman trapped in a crumbling marriage. She thinks like so many woman in this situation that failing to act is better for the child, and she struggles to keep the status quo to her detriment.

When Panos summons Olga to the farm in Keira's absence, we know trouble is on it's way. Panos has hacked into Keira's facebook account and finds evidence of a friendship developing between Keira and a mysterious 'Irishman'. He goes beserk, and the drug taking intensifies. He asks Gunther who is helping him with his work in exchange for a cottage on their property, what he thinks. Gunther puts the ball in his court as he has a friendship with Keira. Olga and Panos in the meantime decide that Keira must be chased off the farm with nothing and together they hatch a plan to get her off the farm. Gunther tries to make them see that Keira deserves her rightful share but they don't see it that way. The plot thickens after the dinner scene when Panos puts his plan into action.

Will Keira stand her ground? Can Keira survive this last attempt to crush her?

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



# THE CAST



## Brendan Grealy as Panos

To find a man to play a deranged, narcissist husband and father who still thinks he is a teenager was tough. Brendan was incredible, he brought another dimension to the character revealing the anguish in Panos as he carries out his tirade. Brendan openly admitted that the role of PANOS was the most demanding he had encountered in a busy 35 years of acting. Brendan starred in the cult South African film *The Angel, the Bicycle, & the Chinaman's Finger* and as his character, Corrie Campbell is always busy at corporate events. He also performed in *White Lion, Jock: A Tale of True Friendship*, and *Running Riot*.



## Annie Robinson as Keira

Annie had all the qualities we wanted in Keira. A middle-age woman and mother who still had a vulnerable quality. Annie's strong performance is backed up with a line of successful international films and South African TV shows. Annie Robinson, who hails from KZN has performed on stage in the UK and on the feature films, *The Power of One* with Morgan Freedman and Daniel Craig, and *The Angel, the Bicycle, and the Chinaman's finger*. TV series include 26 part series, *Andries Plak, Jozi Streets, Generations, 7nd Laan* and *Angel's Song* to name a few. Annie is also known for her voice over in South African TV commercials.



## Mark Mulder as Gunther

We needed a quiet, reserved character for the role of Gunther and Mark was ideal. Mark Mulder, another local from KZN, gives a truly outstanding performance as Gunther. His subtle nuances and allusions point to a psychological canvas that demands scrutiny and dissection. Mark has extensive experience regularly performing in KZN and his cinema experience includes working on *The Ghost and the Darkness* with Val Kilmer and Michael Douglas, *Ali* with Will Smith, and the action movie *American Kickboxer*.



## Fiona Ramsay as Olga, the sister

Olga, the cunning sister was also difficult to find but eventually we nailed it. Fiona Ramsay was perfect as the manipulating, narcissist sister. Fiona is a household name in South Africa, proactive in theatre, film and lecturing at universities. Fiona featured in well known international films such as Maze Runner, Chappie, The Dark Tower, Hotel Rwanda, The Bang-Bang Club, In my Country, Borderline, Country of my Skull, Stander, Red Dust and recently in the high budget TV series, Black Sails. Fiona delivers a knock-out performance where she sets the nail-biting pace with her cunning schemes. Fiona is a voice and accent coach and is well known for her work and contributions to South African and UK theatre and TV.



## Graham Clarke as Patrick, the father

Patrick had to be frail, an ailing man with a heart condition but strong minded as well. Graham was carefully chosen for the part of Patrick. Graham, an iconic figure in South African entertainment with 52 years in showbiz, he has appeared in over 120 movies and starred in plays, musicals, cabaret, and film. He starred in South Africa's first TV series, The Villagers and has been nominated for and won various awards including the Vita Award for Best Comedy Performance in a one man play "The Devil & Billy Markham". In 2015 Graham won Best Actor in a short film "Chip" in the USA. Graham acted in feature films Ali, Mandela & DeKlerk, however what he considers the highlight of his extensive movie career is working on "The Wild Geese" in 1978 with Richard Burton, Roger Moore, Richard Harris and Hardy Kruger.



## Ella Grealy as Emma, the daughter

Ella Grealy, only 13 years old when we filmed, was born into a family of actors. Ella is the daughter of Annie and Brendan so we thought she would be ideal as Emma. Annie and Ella rehearsed for weeks before filming began, so they were both comfortable and natural with each other which translates well in the movie. Ella gave a great performance and was often up at all hours of the night and then would have to be at school in the morning! Ella is at school in KwaZulu Natal at St. Anne's College and performs on stage regularly acting and singing.

# DIRECTOR, Brett Halliday

This is Brett's first feature, though he has directed four short films and a pilot for his project RINGSEND. As a youngster and later as an adult, Brett was involved in performing as a magician and an illusionist in KZN, he also acted and modelled at Model at Terry Scott's Model Management agency. He is a highly graded karate exponent and world champion, who captained and coached both the English and Irish karate teams which won gold and silver respectively.

Brett has studied the works of Robert McKee, Lajos Egri, Syd Fields and many others as well as attending Jack Walzer's method acting, and Dov Seiman's Film Producing workshops in London. He attended the New York Film Academy's intensive hands-on filmmakers course in LA – writing, shooting, and editing four short films. Since then, and while living in Ireland, the UK, and South Africa he has created a network securing soft funding for two of his projects, RINGSEND and THE WAKE through his contacts in Ireland.

RARE BLOOD is a story that needed a voice. "We saw it as a one location thriller and introduced a pace to the story that sets it apart from other thrillers in this genre. We decided to introduce an additional character to the drama in the way of Panos's sister, Olga, who is a scheming individual with a pathological devotion towards her brother. Then I drew in a few twists with Gunther, Panos's long time business colleague who has a secret love for the unsuspecting Keira."

The urgency is created with the father, Patrick, Julie and Gunther who are the only candidates that may save Keira and Emma from the terror. It was a huge challenge to write, especially the siege as it could lag and get boring in one location, trapped in a room, but after many rewrites we were happy with the pace and creative devices that will keep audiences glued to the screen.

Owing to financial restraints we had to film efficiently and creatively, which we achieved with multi-talented cinematographer, Devin Carter and renowned South African photographer, Barry Downard. The colour palette and Art Direction by well known Advertising Creative, Gillian O'Donoghue gave the film layers, mood and tone, which was especially important for a film of this genre.



## PRODUCERS, Brett Halliday & Gillian O'Donoghue

Gillian and Brett are both writers and with their respective careers and contacts were able to secure a top South African cast for the key roles in the script. With limited funds, they also managed to assemble a small and talented crew to film, light and record the sound. After months of negotiations, post production of the film was agreed upon and the film has now been completed. [www.dreamlands.co.za](http://www.dreamlands.co.za)



## SCREENWRITERS, Gillian O'Donoghue & Brett Halliday

Gillian has a background in advertising as a Creative Director. Gillian also started South Africa's first environmental newspaper, "Biosphere" of which she was the Editor. Gillian now works as a designer and part time writer for Lonehill Trading Publications. Gillian co-wrote RARE BLOOD with her partner Brett Halliday, shooting RARE BLOOD in the Dargle Valley of the KZN Midlands over July and August 2016.



## LINE PRODUCER, Wendy Moulton

Every team needs organisation and Wendy has been for the past ten years the right hand to Tanya Visser, managing Tanya's TV show on the Home Channel on DSTV, managing the production, scheduling etc. She was the Production Manager of one of Durban's leading Advertising Agencies, O'Donoghue and Associates. Wendy has compiled the shooting schedule, budget, and coordinated the project's pre-production with a professional gusto proving to be a highly valuable member of an efficient and passionate team!

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



## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY, Barry Downard

Barry worked as an art director before establishing an award-winning fashion and advertising photography career throughout South Africa. Barry is also known for unique "Cow Planet" range of greeting cards, calendars and posters which have been displayed at the prestigious Soho House club in London. His many awards include six "Silver Quill" awards for photographic craft. (SA) a "Loerie" award for photographic craft (SA) winning the Hasselblad International Competition (SA) the "John Dodds Challenge" for digital manipulation (SA), was awarded 4 pages in prestigious Hirt & Carter calendar competition (SA) and won a gold and a silver "RX Club Award" (New York).

[www.barrydownard.com](http://www.barrydownard.com)



## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY, Devin Carter

Devin is a cinematographer from Durban and was our first camera operator. He has worked in the industry for over 12 years. Devin is also experienced in directing, producing, editing and production management. Devin has applied his skills to multiple television commercials, tv series, music videos, documentaries and his passion, film. Devin was the DP for the feature film, Game, which he also edited and colour graded. Devin was recently at TED Talks in Canada, to present an advertisement he produced that was chosen as a top 10 finalist in their Ads Worth Spreading campaign. With determination and discipline, Devin's work ethic ensures a production that epitomizes excellence. [www.devincarter.co.za](http://www.devincarter.co.za)



## POST PRODUCTION, Neil Campbell

Neil Campbell, the CEO of SIYABONGA MEDIA brings a high level of expertise in the capacity of Production Advisor to eliminate squandering valuable production time. Siyabonga Media, which under Neil's auspices sets an internationally acceptable standard for cinema release will be handling the entire on line post production. Siyabonga's involvement ensures that an exceptionally high production value is achieved, as Neil and Siyabonga's moto proudly states: "Picture, Sound, and a touch of Magic"

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



# MARKETING

Being a high quality, micro budget film we have decided to market the film using social media, the press, radio, functions and festivals.

## POSTERS

Our posters will feature on all online media and online streaming platforms.

## TRAILER

Our trailer will be marketed across the online platforms and be present on the online streaming platforms.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_zuhL\\_kioQ&t=13s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_zuhL_kioQ&t=13s)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

We have already started the ball rolling on our social media and will be actively engaging the audience nearer to release date.

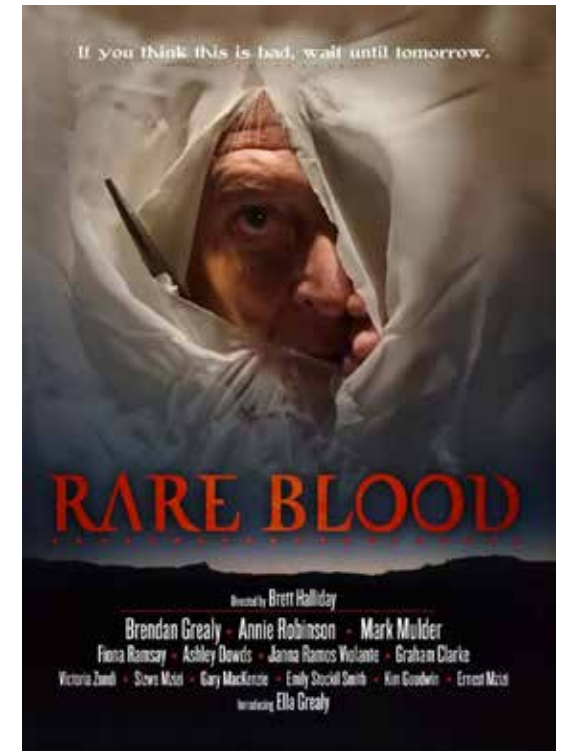
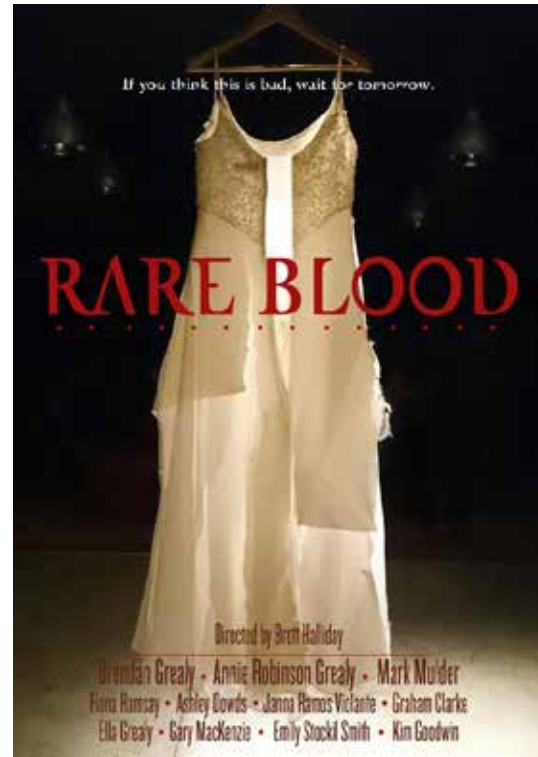


## PRESS

We are holding a premiere to the movie and have invited the press to attend. We are busy negotiating with radio stations to publicise our film once it starts streaming from the various online platforms.

## FESTIVALS

We are in the process of strategically selecting festivals for submission.





# PRAISE

What has been said about Rare Blood by industry professionals after viewing:

"...it had me on the edge of my seat.....you should speak to a distributor unless already done so."

Jane Fry, Film Finances Incorporated RSA.

"...beautifully shot and directed."

Craig Clay-Smith, The Flagship Advertising & Communications Group.

"Nothing as good as this is coming out of Ireland at present."

Noel Duffy, SWV Studios.

"Stunning Visuals"

Robert Benjamin Studio RSA - after seeing the trailer.

"I actually watched the film last night, and thoroughly enjoyed it on a personal level."

Zahrah Isaacs - Cape Town Film Market

"I watched the film last night and was really impressed with your writing and the production quality of the film."

Ronna Wallace - Eastgate Pictures, Los Angeles

"I loved your shots, & the music. The score is great! I really liked how you set up the story in the beginning with the horse riding, drone footage, & song playing over. Beautifully shot. A strong opening.....that twist at the end ..... I didn't see coming, that was great.....Am I right that this is yours and the cinematographers first feature? You have a unique thriller here I think."

Scott Cooper, Actor, Los Angeles

"I love foreign movies - your debut is also foreign, uniquely SA. I loved the setting.....You got great performances out of the actors. I was particularly taken with the young daughter. She played her part so well. A natural. "

Peter Brady, Author.





# CREDITS

*Directed by*

Brett Halliday

*Written by:*

Brett Halliday & Gillian O'Donoghue

*Produced by:*

Brett Halliday & Gillian O'Donoghue

*Line Producer*

Wendy Moulton

*Director of Photography:*

Devin Carter & Barry Downard

*Production Designer:*

Barry Downard & Gillian O'Donoghue

*Editor:*

Devin Carter

*Costume designer:*

Gillian O'Donoghue

*Hair & Makeup:*

Kim Powell

*Original Score by:*

Anthony Downing

*Original Songs by:*

Cheyne Halliday & Tyler Halliday

*Production Sound Recordist:*

Marciano Mojane

*Final Audio and Sound mix*

Neil Campbell & Maciano Mojane

## CAST

*Panos*

Brendan Grealy

*Keira*

Annie Robinson

*Gunther*

Mark Mulder

*Olga*

Fiona Ramsay

*Patrick*

Graham Clarke

*Ella*

Ella Grealy

*Mike*

Ashley Dowds

*Val*

Janna Ramos-Violante

*Julie*

Emily Stockil-Smith

*John*

Kim Goodwin

*Wouter*

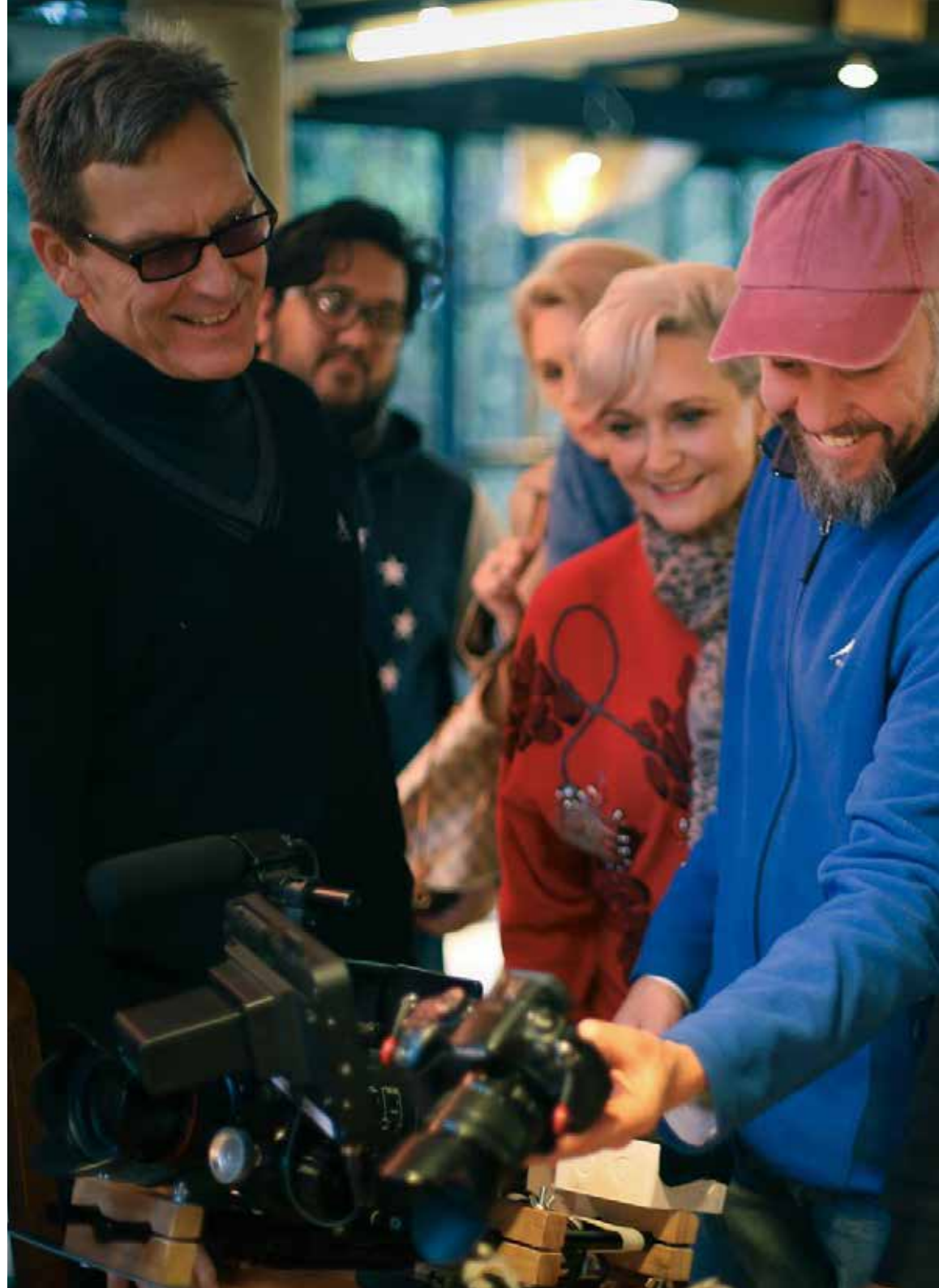
Gary McKenzie

*Vusi*

Sizew Mizizi

*Victoria*

Hlengiwe Zondi



# ADDITIONAL CREDITS

*Set Decorator: WENDY MOULTON*  
*Set Lighting Design: BARRY DOWNARD*  
*Art Director: GILLIAN O'DONOGHUE*  
*Set Artist: MADISON MOULTON*  
*1st Camera Operator: DEVIN CARTER*  
*2nd Camera Operator: LOUIS BOLTON*  
*Robocam Operator: LOUIS BOLTON*  
*1st Assistant "A" Camera: RICHARD HAMBLOCH*  
*Drone camera: DARREN ROUX*  
*2nd Assistant "B" Camera: SIZWE MZIZI*  
*Boom Operator: DARREN JAYNARAYAN*  
*DIT Technician: RICHARD HAMBLOCH*  
*Editor trailer 1: DEVIN CARTER*  
*Editor trailer 2: DARREN JAYNARAYAN*  
*Sound edit trailer 2: ALLAN CONVERY*  
*Additional Editor RICHARD HAMBLOCH*  
*Colour Grade: DEVIN CARTER*  
*On Line Edit: DEVIN CARTER*  
*Gaffer: BARRY DOWNARD*  
*Key Grip: BARRY DOWNARD*  
*Best Boy: RYAN VAN WYK*  
*Grip: SIZWE MZIZI*  
*Runner: ROXY WILSON AND SIZWE MZIZI*  
*Production Assistant: AMY YOUNG*  
*Still Photography: GEOFF REDMAN*  
*Driver and Transport: PETER MAY*  
*Catering Manager: WENDY MOULTON*  
*Catering Assistant: HLENGEWE ZONDI*  
*Armourer: BARRY DOWNARD*  
*Transport Coordinator: PETER MAY*  
*Paramedic 1: LYDIA BOTHA*  
*Paramedic 2: KERRY COWLEY*  
*Voice of Policeman: DEVIN CARTER*  
*Voice of Irishman: PETER MAY*  
*Double for Mr Clarke: PETER MAY*  
*Double for Ella Grealy: ISABELLA VESCHINI*  
*Horse stuntman/double: TOM BATE*  
*Special thanks to:*  
*Ian MacDonald – Value-Fin Pty Ltd, Hillcrest*  
*Paul Knoesen – ER24, Pietermaritzburg*  
*Grant Harding – KM Signs, Pinetown*  
*Computer 1 – Waterfall*  
*Computer Management Services – Westville*  
*Nick and Mandy Crookes – Hillhouse guest house*  
*Tom & Lucinda Bate – Inversanda guest house*  
*Malvina Van Breeden – Nguni Cattle*

FILMED ON LOCATION IN KWAZULU NATAL SOUTH AFRICA.

