



Mr. Savant

a Ricky Townsend short film

INTERFRAME PICTURES PRESENTS
A RICKY TOWNSEND SHORT FILM "MR. SAVANT" LILLIAN FATA, HAYDON DICKIE,
NATALIE DREDGE, QUINN KUEPPERS AND FREDDY WILSON AS MR. SAVANT
PRODUCED BY RICKY TOWNSEND AND OLIVER JENKS
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RICKY TOWNSEND

PRESS KIT



MR. SAVANT

LOGLINE

Restless patients in a doctor's waiting room talk about an autistic man behind his back. Mr. Savant must find a way to stand up for himself.

SYNOPSIS

Stanley Savant is a young man with Autism and is sharing a Doctor's waiting room with a loud-mouthed right winger, a vomiting teenager and an anti-vax mother. They are talking about Stanley behind his back. Stanley Savant must find a way to stand up for himself.

REVIEW

The judges at the **2019 Outlook for Someday Challenge** described **Mr. Savant** as:

- ❖ *"A thoughtfully put together film, with great editing, good lighting, and thoughtful, believable dialogue. The simplicity of the plot and the dialogue means there is heavy reliance on the editing, which was well executed. The use of the clicking as a sound convention was used perfectly. The acting was great [...] 'Mr. Savant' was phenomenal..."*
- ❖ **Mr. Savant** was one of 10 winning films in the **2019 Outlook for Someday Challenge**.

LINK: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/film/117586436/someday-challenge-2019-mr-savant>

Ricky Townsend - WRITER/DIRECTOR



STATEMENT ABOUT THE FILM

I was diagnosed with Autism at a very young age and so naturally being under the spectrum has had a major impact on my life and to me as a person. I wanted to return to this personal topic in a manner which doesn't merely dissolve into self-pity.

I knew that I wanted to look into how the attitudes against neuro-diversity have been sustained over time despite how much our understanding of the topic has developed. It ended up making sense for me to make a cathartic work, a film that uses comedy to express the absurdity of this conservative attitude and to give the audience the satisfaction of out-witting it.

BIOGRAPHY

Ricky Townsend is a young filmmaker from Christchurch, New Zealand. Ricky is a fine arts student, specialising in film, at the Ilam School of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury. He is also pursuing an arts degree in Philosophy.

Ricky was diagnosed within the Autism Spectrum Disorder at a very young age. Because of this, Ricky has found filmmaking helps him understand other people and be understood in ways he could never achieve before.

Ricky Townsend's early work won the Overall Secondary Student Award for the 2016 'New Zealand Young Filmmakers Competition' and the Secondary School Runner Up Award for the 2016 'FocusOnAbility Short Film Festival'. Ricky also directed the comedic 'How To Bus' social etiquette video with Metro Canterbury which currently has more than 260 thousand views on Facebook.

Ricky has had his recent short films 'Tremble' and 'TRUTH.exe' selected for the 2019 Sydney Indie Film Festival, the 45th Boston Science Fiction Film Festival, the Miami International Science Fiction Film Festival, the SciFi Film Festival, in Australia, and the Changing Face International Film Festival.

'TRUTH.exe' won Best Student Film at the Miami International Science Fiction Film festival and 'Tremble' was nominated for Best True Story at the Sydney Indie Film Festival.

Oliver Jenks – PRODUCER



Oliver's interests lie in the world of Business and that of the Arts. His collaborations with long-time friend Ricky Townsend have combined his skills in both these fields. Their first project was a creative marketing video short for Environment Canterbury Council (ECAN), colloquially known as 'How to Bus', which currently has over 260,000 views on Facebook. He has also acted as producer of Richard's other film projects, helping manage actors, source resources, liaise with third parties with matters such as health/safety, and logistics.

Oliver's entrepreneurial ventures have also brought him success. At the age of 18, he launched his first ecommerce store, a niche hobbyist store with an annual turnover of over \$60,000, which grew to hold a majority market share within the niche industry. This business was recently sold in order to assist Oliver in focusing on his Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Finance and strategy/entrepreneurship with Certificate in Arts.

CAST

Lillian Fata – YOUNG WOMAN



Lillian is currently studying Law and Criminal Justice at the University of Canterbury. She has been heavily involved in the performing arts from a young age. She was a part of numerous music and drama groups throughout high school.

Lillian was recently a member of the Court Theatre Youth Company for the past two years (2018/2019). She held the lead role in their production of 'Boudica', directed by Dan Bain. Although studying, Lillian continues to remain involved within the performing arts scene.

Haydon Dickie – THE MAN



Haydon has been a lover of theatre and film for as long as he can remember. Throughout high school he was heavily involved in the theatre scene including several appearances in the Sheila Winn Shakespeare Festival, 48 hour film festival and theatre sports competitions. After graduating high school in 2017, Haydon took a year away from performing. He then re-emerged at the end of 2018 when he joined the Court Theatre Youth Company and has since performed in their productions of 'Boudica', 'Brainstorm' and 'The Quarantine Diaries'.

Haydon has also been a frequent collaborator with Ricky Townsend. Staring in and working behind the scenes on his award winning short film 'TRUTH.exe' and various other projects.

Freddy Wilson – STANLEY SAVANT



Freddy is currently studying towards a double degree in law and commerce. He got into drama early in primary school, and took an interest in film projects and acting in high school. While studying, Freddy also helps out on film projects on the side.

Mr Savant is a film that resonated with him because of his experience with having Autism. He believes that the film could help dispel some rumours about Autism.

Natalie Dredge – THE MOTHER



Natalie started drama at 12, starting with the NZ Speech Board and Trinity before moving on to attending drama classes at Original Scripts. She then went on to do get a diploma at the Hagley Theatre Company.

Quinn Kueppers – GEORGE



Quinn is 18, recently graduated from high school and wishes to pursue a career in the arts, either in design, fashion or acting. He has been acting his whole life, from the nativity play at 6 years old through to major roles in high school productions, and many acting classes with local theatres, such as the Court Youth Company. Quinn has many hobbies and passions, including painting, singing, drag and surfing.

PRODUCTION IMAGES





BEHIND THE SCENES IMAGES



