



INDYRED

IMPOSSIBLE

A SHORT FILM BY RICKY TOWNSEND

BASED ON TRUE EVENTS

PRESS KIT
(14min 50. NZ, 2019)

Contact: richardtowntsendnz@gmail.com

TREMBLE

LOGLINE

Through the eyes of Faith, you will experience the terror of the Christchurch, New Zealand earthquakes as the people felt it and see how it haunts them to this day.

ABOUT THE FILM

This short film is dedicated to the people of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Māori myth tells of an unborn god, Rūaumoko. Within the womb of the Earth Mother Papatūānuku, the unborn god kicks. With each push Rūaumoko makes, the ground above shakes.

This is a dramatization of the 2010 Christchurch Earthquake; the forerunner to the infamous 2011 Quake which shattered the Garden City and its people. Through the eyes of Faith, you will experience the quake as the people felt it and see how it haunts them to this day.

The 2011 Quake is a significant part of Christchurch history and New Zealand. It must not be forgotten.

The ground will tremble soon.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I grew up during the pre-quake days of Christchurch and was still very young when the 2011 earthquake hit. Seeing how the earthquakes have changed the city psychologically, physically, creatively and culturally made me realise at a later age just how significant that quake truly was for us, the Christchurch people.

This short film is an amalgamation of different accounts I have heard from multiple people who have experienced the 2010 and 2011 Canterbury quakes.

It was important for me to document the subjective experience of the earthquake; what it was like to actually be there, like a nightmarish collectivist memory.

Ultimately this short film cannot account for the entire experience and trauma that people have gone through during these quakes. Hopefully it will give people who have never experienced a massive earthquake an idea of what it would have been like both physically and emotionally.



RICKY TOWNSEND – Writer/Director/Producer

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**.

Ricky's short film on autism, 'Mr. Savant', is one of 10 winning films in **The Outlook for Someday 2019 Film Challenge**; a nationwide film competition for people under 24 in New Zealand.



OCEAN JONES – Faith

Ocean Jones is currently studying at Hagley Theatre Company. Her past experience includes *Crash Bash*, *Astroman* (The Court Theatre), *Children of the Night* (The Court Youth), *Little Red Riding Wolf*, and *The Love of the Nightingale* (Hagley Theatre Company).

Her hobbies consist of singing, drawing, and writing.



HARRISON SEARANCKE – Producer/Voice of Owen

Harrison Searancke, currently training towards a degree in performing arts at Unitec, has been a frequent collaborator with Ricky over the past 8 years.

Ricky and Harrison began working on *Tremble* during other projects before filming in 2018. This included location scouting, script supervision and casting. During filming, Harrison was tasked with many different roles and supporting Ricky where needed. Harrison was also the voice actor for the role of Owen.



ABDULLAH AL-MULLA – Producer

Abdullah Al-Mulla grew up in Qatar until moving to the UK to pursue his university studies in medical engineering. He became involved in film through the Doha Film Institute, where he has worked on numerous short films since 2013.

He wrote and directed the short film 'Old Airport Road' (2014), which explores the theme of care and 'Yellow Nights' (2015) a 7 minute one shot film. Currently, Al-Mulla completed 'A Journey to from Love', a surreal screenplay on how a person perceives and deals with loss, which received a grant from the Qatari Film Fund and developing an upcoming animation about a soul's journey to mend the ego.



SNOW VALORMAE – Film Composer

Snow Valormae is a Contemporary Guitarist and Composer from Christchurch who graduated with a Music degree from University of Canterbury in 2018. Although she mostly writes and plays technical and instrumental guitar music, Snow also enjoys the challenges and diversities in Composing for Film.



SAMM ABELLA – Painter

Samm Abella created the paintings for the film which, in the story, are the works of Faith.

Samm Abella moved to New Zealand at the age of 6 from the Philippines and is currently studying a Bachelor of Design (Majoring in Visual Communications) at ARA Institute of Canterbury in Christchurch. Apart from graphic design, Samm is also a painter that loves abstract expressionism, minimalism, impressionism, materiality and neo – expressionism. His practice is the traditional art of the Philippines, Kut-Kut. It's simply described as the art of scratching and interweaving of layers, utilizing sgraffito and encaustic techniques. It's considered as the lost art of the Philippines and Samm hopes to one day bring it forward.

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR AND WRITER RICKY TOWNSEND

What was your inspiration for the film?

The 2011 Christchurch New Zealand earthquake was a disaster that affected the city and its people heavily. Many people lost their loved ones and their homes on February 22nd 2011 and it has made the idea of a national earthquake disaster a more believable and fearful scenario for people in New Zealand. It was because of this, I found it quite surprising that there had been so few films that have tried to express the experience of the 2011 disaster and the quakes that lead up to it.

I saw it as an opportunity to put my own two cents on the topic and explore a personal and subjective account of the event.

How did the film get off the ground and what was the process of getting the film made?

The film was produced independently. This meant that I had to find a way to fund the film with my own savings and keep its budget as low as possible for practicality. This was a particular challenge since we had to depict an earthquake in a manner which needed to be violent, extensive and believable. That was one of the many reasons why I decided to set the film during the 2010 earthquake that forewarned 2011. Because the September 4th quake was at night, it allowed us to imply the magnitude of the event instead of needing thousands of dollars to show it. I also saw this as an opportunity to focus the quake sequence on Ocean's performance and see how the event was having an impact emotionally on her character.

How was the earthquake made on a low budget?

The earthquake affect was achieved by a combination of rudimentary practical effects. The camera shaking in a crabbing motion, interactive lighting such as the swinging room light, crew members shaking set pieces off camera and other surprisingly simple methods were utilized during the filming of the quake sequence. It was almost like a form of puppeteering.

Why did you decide to tell the story this way?

Despite the short film technically being a 'disaster film'. I've always found disaster films to be rather disconnecting from the human experience. I found that the elements of the horror genre, particularly the supernatural genre, to be a rather fitting way to tell the story because I found that it humanizes the character by respecting and emphasizing their emotional experience of the event. This was important for me since the event I'm depicting actually happened to many people, including myself, and still haunts many to this day.

Also, I wanted to explore the haunting parallels that can be made between an earthquake story and a ghost tale. By depicting this earthquake like a poltergeist story, for me, it is a testament to how ultimately materialistic things can have the frightening impression of being supernatural and otherworldly.

PRE-RELEASE REVIEW

“IndyRed Short Film Review – Tremble”

<https://www.indyred.com/tremble.html>

PRODUCTION STILLS







PROMOTIONAL IMAGES



CREDITS

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

RICKY TOWNSEND

PRODUCED BY

RICKY TOWNSEND

HARISON SEARANCKE

ABDULLAH AL-MULLA

FAITH PLAYED BY

OCEAN JONES

OWEN VOICED BY

HARRISON SEARANCKE

ANGEL PLAYED BY MACCA

LOITERER ONE PLAYED BY RICKY TOWNSEND

LOITERER TWO PLAYED BY HARRISON SEARANCKE

MUSIC AND GUITAR SOLO BY

SNOW VALORMAE

PAINTINGS BY

SAMM ABELLA

CINEMATOGRAPHY, EDITING AND EFFECTS BY

RICKY TOWNSEND

HEAD CAMERA OPERATOR

RICKY TOWNSEND

HEAD SOUND OPERATOR

JACK SUTTON

HEAD LOG BOOK KEEPER

HARRISON SEARANCKE

SUPPORTING CREW

ABDULLAH AL-MULLA

JOSEPH NOSTER

ADELE MALIS

THANK YOU TO

ANDREW TOWNSEND

JOHN & ANNETTE

JOHN CHRISSTOFFELS

FREDDY WILSON

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

INTERFRAME PICTURES

‘TREMBLE’

A RICKY TOWNSEND SHORT FILM

While this film is based on true events, all characters and names depicted are fictitious. No identification with actual products is intended or should be inferred. No animals were harmed in the making of this film.

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This film is dedicated to the people of CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND



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INTERFRAME PICTURES PRESENTS

A RICKY TOWNSEND SHORT FILM OCEAN JONES "TREMBLE" VOICE OF OWEN HARRISON SEARANCKE

MUSIC BY SNOW VALORMAE PAINTINGS BY SAMM ABELLA EDITED BY RICKY TOWNSEND

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY RICKY TOWNSEND PRODUCED BY RICKY TOWNSEND, HARRISON SEARANCKE AND ABDULLAH AL-MULLA

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RICKY TOWNSEND



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