

RAMSEY SMITH

CHRISTIAN HEATH

BEACH COPS

A FILM BY LAURA FLAKOWSKI



LOGLINE

A small mistake sees no-nonsense German police officer Schmidt transferred to Australia, where he meets his new, no-hope colleague Toba. His worst nightmare takes a turn when crime unfolds and the two officers need to prove worthy of their badges and of their partnership.



SYNOPSIS

When German police officer Martin Schmidt signs up with the special forces unit in Austria, he is ready for the big adventure. Unfortunately for Schmidt, the adventure leads him to *Australia*, and right into its easy-breezy beach culture.

With his new partner Michael Toba, a happy-go-lucky guy who is on probation for accidentally shooting the Police Commissioner during firearms training, Schmidt's nightmare seems complete. Yet when Schmidt and Toba stumble over crime, the situation takes a turn as they get their chance to prove worthy of their police badges, and of their partnership.

THE STORY

A background image showing two police officers in dark uniforms standing on a beach. They are facing each other and appear to be in conversation. The officer on the left is holding a small object, possibly a drink. The background is a bright, slightly overexposed beach scene with the ocean and a cloudy sky.

Constable Martin Schmidt is tall, blonde, stoic, and very German. His career in the German police force is about to take off as he embarks on training with the special forces unit in Austria.

Unfortunately for Schmidt, a small mistake leads him to *Australia* instead, where he finds himself in the heart of easygoing beach culture, and partnered with his slightly overweight, clumsy, happy-go-lucky colleague Michael Toba, who is on probation for accidentally shooting the Police Commissioner in the leg during firearms training.

Schmidt's worst nightmare is unfolding as there is nothing to do except administering parking tickets and picking up after litterers - removing him further from his dreams of being a respected and hardened special forces officer. Instead, he is now paired with a soft and jolly colleague who eats ice cream for breakfast!

Probationary Constable Michael Toba, on the other hand, likes to enjoy life. He is proudly gay to his friends and family, with the exception of his parents. Slipped video footage of Toba performing as a drag queen caused his mother to faint. Coupled with his beach patrol probation, gaining their acceptance seems to be out of his reach.

Unexpectedly, the mismatched pair stumbles upon a crime, or rather crime stumbles upon them. A long-wanted thief collides with Schmidt - and the chase begins. Schmidt and Toba go on a journey of up- and downhill criss-crosses, spilled ice cream, and dogs that save the day.

It is the beginning of the respect they have both been longing for, and of a fond partnership between Constable Schmidt and Constable Toba - the Beach Cops.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



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Schmidt – a name that says it all. German. Punctual. Efficient. No-nonsense. Ironed shirt. - Who doesn't need a Schmidt?

Looking at my own personal experience as a German in Australia, I thought it was time to introduce this character in a concept pilot episode of a TV series. And what better way to do so than to contrast him with an Australian character who is the very opposite of Schmidt – Toba? Cultural differences offer themselves so beautifully to a light-hearted comedy, and here is one with a bit of action involved. A melange of 21 Jump Street, Hot Fuzz, Rush Hour, and Brooklyn 99, it was important to me to keep the tone of this film light and colourful.

Character-driven, the almost comic-like style of this film supports notions of personal conflict and friendship through pacing, motivated camera angles and movements. The challenge I see in comedy is to choose the right amount of the right kind of comedy for the story in order for the characters to develop and the story to unfold. I am hoping that this piece achieved just that.

I see this film as an opportunity to film in Sydney's beautiful beach side locations, and to cast specific comedic actors that will fit stereotypes and storyline.

I also see potential for this project to be a proof of concept film that will add to a pitch bible for a proposed continuous or short TV series of ten episodes of 30-45 minutes each. Targeted at young adults, male and female, the multicultural background of the characters opens up to a varied audience. Episode-specific subplots (small crimes) also give the option to introduce a multitude of additional characters and topics.

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DIRECTOR, Laura Flakowski

Laura is a filmmaker & creative producer based in Sydney, Australia. She grew up at the northern beaches of Germany, and decided to leave the serene landscape after finishing high school to explore the world.

After completing her Bachelor of Arts at the Utrecht University (NL) and her Master of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of New South Wales (AUS), Laura decided to turn to filmmaking.

She completed a documentary filmmaking course at Sydney University, and holds a Diploma of Screen and Media at Sydney Film School (SFS).

Her short film 'Beach Cops' premiered at the SFS Festival in 2020.

Laura has worked on a multitude of short films and commercial works, and is looking to expand her directorial horizons onto long form films.

Laura is also an illustrator, graphic designer, and photographer, and is hoping to combine diverse forms of art in her films to support the stories she will tell.

Next to her native language German, Laura speaks English, Danish, Dutch, and French.







RAMSEY SMITH as *Michael Toba*

Ramsey is an Australian actor from Forster, NSW, who lives in Sydney. His acting experience includes various lead roles in short films and commercial work, and he is looking to expand his knowledge and experience in the film industry with acting work in drama, comedy and other genres.

CHRISTIAN HEATH as *Martin Schmidt*

Christian is an award winning British-Australian actor and presenter of Danish heritage. He helped create the web and TV series, Flat Whites (2011), and wrote his own televised series, Subclass 417. Known for his recurring character on Neighbours, his professional credits include theatre, TV, film, presenting and voice over, and Christian is a founding member of Mockingbird Theatre in Melbourne. He has trained at RADA, The William Esper Studio, as well as various other studios in Australia, and has received 4 International Best Actor awards, the Ian Potter Foundation Grant and was in the Official Selection in the 2014 Cannes Court Métrage Film Festival.



FRANK POULOS as *Police Commissioner*

Frank is an Australian actor of Hellene heritage. His acting work encompasses a multitude of lead and supporting roles in short films, commercial work as well as feature length films. With his resonant and husky voice, Frank is a well-spoken voice over actor presenting in commercials, animations, and short and long form TV and film.



STEPHEN BELEKAS as *Phantom*

Stephen is a Greek-Australian actor from Sydney, who has starred in multiple short films as a featured extra and supporting character. He has completed training at Screenwise Acting School in Sydney, and has extensive experience and training in martial arts. Stephen is looking to further his acting career starting in short and long form films of all genres.

ASH ANG as *Constable Brown*

Ash is a Australian-Malaysian actor born and raised in Sydney. He graduated with a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Sydney, and also holds a Bachelor of Exercise Physiology from the University of New South Wales before moving into film and acting. He has completed various classes and advanced acting courses at Screenwise Acting School in Sydney and professional acting workshops. His professional acting credits include commercial work, short films and TV series.



LUCY ROSS as *Constable Taylor*

Lucy is an Australian actress, singer, and presenter. She lives in Sydney, Australia, and graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) as a Music Theatre Graduate in 2017. Her acting experience includes various short films, theatre performances, dance and music work. She has extensive training in singing and dancing, and can perform strong voice over work in diverse English accents.





PRODUCER, Brittany Fossey

Brittany is an independent filmmaker from Sydney who has worked on 11 short films.

She recently graduated from Sydney Film School with a Diploma of Screen and Media. As a female filmmaker, she is interested in making films about women, which explore their relationships and roles in society. Before studying film, she completed a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) at the University of Sydney. Her knowledge and interest in psychology strongly informs the films she makes. Her film "Breakup Concerto in C" premiered at the Sydney Film School Festival in 2020.



CINEMATOGRAPHER, Reswin Bahas

Reswin is a Sydney-based independent filmmaker who has been a part of over 15 short films and 3 documentaries.

Prior to filmmaking, Reswin completed a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at the National Institute of Technology in Calicut, India. After quitting his engineering career, Reswin started his film career providing content for social media influencers.

Driven by his passion for cinematography, he takes pride in providing effective creative solutions on film sets. He is also an experienced editor, having worked in projects since his teenage years. He has worked across the world in countries such as Iceland, Dubai and India. He recently graduated from Sydney Film School and is actively involved in the media industry.

He is fluent in English, Arabic, Hindi and Malayalam.





CREDITS

WRITER / DIRECTOR / EDITOR / DESIGNER - Laura Flakowski

PRODUCER - Brittany Fossey & Laura Flakowski

CINEMATOGRAPHER - Reswin Bahas

ORIGINAL MUSIC - Produced at The Juilliard School

by Tristan Lane Clarke, Nick Marsella, and Connor Rowe

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Jessie Claude

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER - Ash Ang

CAMERA ASSISTANTS - Sean Muir & Blake Muir

GRIP - Lauren Elmes

GAFFER - Christian Redy

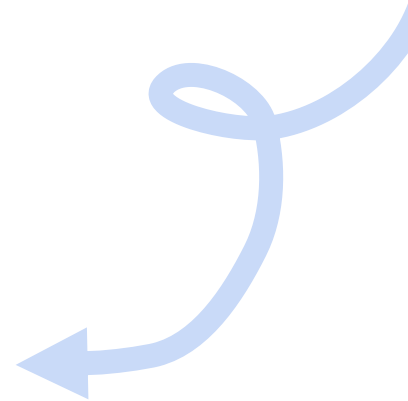
SOUND RECORDIST - Raffaele Federico

HAIR & MAKE UP - Stella Hansen

RUNNER - Allan Mgaieth

SOUND MIXER - Liam Moses

COLOURIST - Jarryd Hall, CSI



CAST

PROBATIONARY CONSTABLE MICHAEL TOBA - Ramsey Smith

CONSTABLE MARTIN SCHMIDT - Christian Heath

PHANTOM - Stephen Belekas

POLICE COMMISSIONER - Frank Poulos

CONSTABLE BROWN - Ash Ang

CONSTABLE TAYLOR - Lucy Ross

WOMAN ON THE BEACH - Malina Kelderman

MOTHER - Pamela Ang

NIECE - Isabella Yao

FATHER - Michael Frost

DOGS - Beedle & Squirrel

MAN EATING - Reswin Bahas

LIPSTICK WOMAN - Laura Flakowski

MAN SHOWERING - Blake Muir





SPECIFICATIONS



Title: Beach Cops

Running Time: 11:04 mins

Shooting Format: Sony PMW-F5 1080p

Screening Format: DCP / High Res Quicktime

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Sound: Stereo

Country of Production: Australia

Year: 2021

Language: English

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