

**Salty Films Presents**

**JUST ANOTHER DAY IN**

# **RAT PARADISE**

**Written and Directed by Kristo Hakola-Parry**

**Starring Ken Welsh & the voice of Mikee Goodman from 'Disco Elysium'**

## **MEDIA KIT**

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# LOGLINE

Nils has just been fired from his lifelong job, but when a talking dead rat offers him a trip to utopia, it's an offer he can't refuse.

# SYNOPSIS

Nils (*Ken Welsh, Target Fascination*) has been fired from the job he has worked in his whole life. Leaving the office for the last time he ducks into an alley to compose himself. Nils spots a dead rat on the ground and he stares at it with a feeling of understanding. The dead rat (*Mikee Goodman, Disco Elysium*) then starts talking to Nils, and seems to know a lot about him. The rat entices Nils and offers him, in exchange for his help, a trip to Rat Paradise.



# DIRECTORS STATEMENT



## IF YOU'RE ENJOYING MAKING THE FILM THEN PEOPLE WILL ENJOY WATCHING IT

Is my personal philosophy. I've said it before but hey, I'll say it again. Rat Paradise came from the desire to simply make more of my own movies - as well as a slight existential crisis from finishing university and going into the 'real world'. After a whole life of structure and classes, suddenly we were urged to "do whatever we wanted". Well, what was it that I wanted? Seeing friends go into full time jobs and knowing that they will most likely be working full time until they retire in a way terrified me. These thoughts as well as a recent playthrough of the game Disco Elysium (which is what the rat voice is based off), led me to write the initial ideas for Rat Paradise.

The film was a lot of fun to plan and shoot - despite the classic race against time with the sun on the first day in the alley. By some miracle we managed to get around notorious council regulations and set up proper traffic control without spending my life savings. I'm glad I decided to make this film a bit more experimental and I'm proud of how it turned out. I don't want to 'explain' the film - I like people coming up with their own thoughts of what the film is 'about' - so, send me a message if you have a theory! It was a pleasure to create Rat Paradise so I hope my philosophy holds true - and I can't wait to get back on the tools for the next one.



# CAST



## KEN WELSH

### AS NILS

Growing up in Australia's Outback it never crossed Ken's mind that one day he would end up at Cannes, and yet a couple of years ago there he was. What started as a few scenes in Dominic and Andrew Pelosi's film Target Fascination; a movie about a murderer trying to reconcile with the family of his victim, grew into the role of mediator for the reconciliation – a role that meant Ken's character did much of the plots "heavy lifting". Ken's work has included extensive experience in film, television and theatre; ranging from Shakespeare, Moliere, Chekov and Murder by Design on stage, to a broad spectrum of film and television roles. Starting in Aussie Soaps like Sons & Daughters, Country Practice and Home & Away, Ken's work has recently included roles in features and television including Risen, Spiritual Paranoia, Deadly Women and The Story of Nadia.

He loves working with both established teams and new directors cutting their teeth. To "give back to the industry" Ken makes a point of playing characters in 3 or 4 student films each year, scattered amongst his higher profile pro-gigs. He believes that an actor should never stop learning, and as such has worked with some of Australia's top voice, movement and improv coaches, as well as a variety of short courses in overseas centers of excellence such as RADA and AMAW.

Ken's passion for authenticity in performance is matched by his boundless enthusiasm to take risks and push the performance envelope. He is equally happy playing light comedy and family friendly characters, as he is exploring the many facets of the dark side.



# CAST



## MIKEE GOODMAN

### VOICE OF THE RAT

Mikee Goodman is best known as vocalist of progressive metal band SikTh, who have headlined various festivals and even gotten a Rolling Stone front cover. In 2012 he co-wrote an album with Primal Rock Rebellion featuring himself and Iron Maiden guitarist Adrian Smith.

In 2016 Mikee was asked to audition for the video game Disco Elysium. Impressed with the recording and production of these voices ZA/UM Studio asked him to cast 6 voices and produce them. This went on to become the full game and over 70 voices.

Mikee then directed, engineered and casted Disco Elysium which went on to win 3 BAFTA Awards, 4 Game Awards, Game of the year on Mac and other accolades.

Mikee was nominated for performance of the year by IGN in 2019 for Ancient Reptilian Brain and Lymbic System in Disco Elysium. Following his work on the game, he started his own agency called Charactoon Voices and has gone on to do much more voice acting.



# CREW BIOS



## KRISTO HAKOLA-PARRY

### WRITER/DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EDITOR

Kristo is a writer, director and editor from Sydney. He loves a good yarn, almost as much as he loves a good value chicken parmigiana. Kristo has been making things with Tom and Sammy since they were 15 and have since started Salty Films, striving to get better and better in their craft. Kristo has written and directed other short films such as 'Kiss the Cook' and 'Life on the Friday', as well as making music videos for bands including Coconut Cream and LORA. Kristo hopes to keep making films that he cares about and step his way into writing and directing a feature in the coming years.



## TOM MACDONALD

### DOP

Tom is a camera boy through and through. The majority of the time you see him, there will be a camera of some description pointed at your face. Experienced in professional and narrative work with production company Salty Films, Tom has a passion for telling stories and getting a good image. Tom loves the outdoors and the mountain, and has shot snowboard films such as Magdalena 1 and 2. He has also shot for brands such as 4 Pines, Fractal and Sobah; has been DoP on many short films since 2020 and can be often found packing his car and driving well out of Sydney to get some good content. With a love for all things creative, he hopes to be involved with adventure and great story moving forward.



## SAMMY CRAWFORD-SMITH

### PRODUCER, FIRST ASSISTANT

### DIRECTOR, EDITOR

Sammy has been mucking around with cameras and making films ever since he discovered the photo booth app on his family iMac. He has a passion for telling stories not only to his friends at the pub but also with a camera, and loves pointing the story in new directions in the edit room. Sammy has written and directed the short film 'The Great Escape of Deadeye Doyle' and has edited and worked on many others. Sammy is keen to explore every facet of filmmaking and along the way, gobble up as much experience as he can.



# FAQ



## HOW DID YOU CONTACT MIKEE GOODMAN ORIGINALLY?

Idea for script came after playing Disco Elysium. Originally I thought I'd give the voice a crack myself - semi mimicking one of the voices in the game. However, I discovered he owned a voice over business called Charactoon and I thought lets have a stab in the dark and see how much he would charge me and if he actually would do it. Low and behold, he actually emailed me back and we managed to do the voice over which was so awesome.

## WHERE DID YOU FIND A SEWER TO SHOOT IN?

I was scouring Sydney for a good sewer looking location that didn't require parkour skills and breaking many laws - eventually there was an old storm water drain attached to a dog park not in use near my own house which was perfect.

## WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST FILMING CHALLENGE?

The biggest challenge was definitely the alley. Firstly, the council beaurocracy was hard because we blocked the street and needed traffic control. By some miracle on of my friends parents works in traffic control and we managed to get them to do it. Secondly however, on the actual shoot day the light in the alley faded much quicker than we anticipated which led to a stressful rush to finish the shots and eventually - the result of the final shots being in the dark.

## WHAT IS THE FILM 'ABOUT'?

I'd say there's a couple of themes at play and a few interpretations - however, I will leave that up to you to decide on and I'm excited as already I have heard many interesting ways of looking at it that I hadn't thought of.

## HOW LONG DID THE PROJECT TAKE?

The project took about 3 months of pre-production, 2 shoot days and about 4 months of post production.



# FAQ



## WHAT ELSE DOES SALTY FILMS DO?

Salty Films makes all kinds of stuff from short films like this to snowboard movies, to documentaries. We also do ad work and branded videos and the money funds us to live and do passion projects.

## WHY DID YOU DECIDE ON A MICRO-SHORT?

I wanted to follow the KISS formula - keep it simple stupid. I thought if we can do a 4 page script well, it's better than doing a 15 page script and botching it.

## WHAT MEDIA INFLUENCED THE FILM?

Disco Elysium was definitely a big influence, especially on the rat. However, I'd say I also have drawn on the Matrix from its colours and idea of a change in the mundane office life. In that regard fight club was also a reference but I also take inspiration in the comedy elements from Taika Waititi and Martin McDonagh.

## IF YOU HAD A RAT WHAT WOULD YOU NAME IT?

Ahh, a VERY frequently asked question... I think I would name my rat Winston or Alfred or Judith - something old and regal to give it an air of dignity and decorum.

## HOW LONG IS A PIECE OF STRING?

Another great question - I'd have to say that it depends on how brave you are.



# SPECIFICATIONS



<b>RUN TIME</b>	<b>4:36</b>
<b>RELEASE YEAR</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>ASPECT RATIO</b>	<b>2:1</b>
<b>PRODUCTION COMPANY</b>	<b>SALTY FILMS</b>
<b>TYPE OF PRODUCTION</b>	<b>LIVE ACTION</b>
<b>RESOLUTION</b>	<b>4096 X 2048</b>
<b>FRAME RATE</b>	<b>25 FPS</b>
<b>SOUND</b>	<b>STEREO</b>
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>

## STILLS AND BTS PHOTOS

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u71fL0SOZDPgK9z9x12tp2Ay6kak0NGZ?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u71fL0SOZDPgK9z9x12tp2Ay6kak0NGZ?usp=share_link)



# CREDITS



## CREW:

WRITER/DIRECTOR & PRODUCER - KRISTO HAKOLA-PARRY

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - TOM MACDONALD

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER - SAMMY CRAWFORD-SMITH

SOUND RECORDIST AND SCORE - RUBEN DEEGAN

PRODUCTION DESIGN - TAHLIA MAGISTRALE, MICHAEL RESTIFO & SKYE WILLIAMS

COSTUME - SKYE WILLIAMS

GRIP - CHRIS WOOD

BEHIND THE SCENES VIDEO/PHOTO - CONOR REYNOLDS

EDITORS - KRISTO HAKOLA-PARRY & SAMMY CRAWFORD-SMITH

COLORIST - TOM MACDONALD

RUNNER & CONTINUITY - EMILY DERLIN

RUNNER - APRIL-ROSE DESALEGN

TRAFFIC CONTROL - KATIE LINDSAY

## CAST:

NILS - KEN WELSH

VOICE OF THE RAT - MIKEE GOODMAN

STREET CLEANER - BUG PATRICK

RUNNING WOMAN - SKYE WILLIAMS

