

FRISKY

Written and Directed by Stevie Goodwin

Press Kit



Production Notes

Director/Writer

Stevie Goodwin

Producers

Daniel Betty, William Murton

Production Company

Dream Big

Completion Date

July 2, 2023

Country

New Zealand

Shooting Format

Digital 35mm, Blackmagic 6k RAW

Aspect Ratio/Format

2.39.1

Film Length

20 minutes and 2 seconds

Contact Details

Daniel Betty

EM: daniel@dreambig.net.nz

PH: 027 263 7694

Stevie Goodwin

EM: stephengoodwin00@gmail.com

PH: 022 186 2125



Cast

Mick

Tyler Clarke

Alex

Alex Dallas

Logline

A reclusive young farmer, and his childhood friend, a transgender city kid, must reform their friendship in order to save the farm from a terrible storm.

Short Synopsis

Mick's solitary farm life is disrupted when a car breaks down near his gate, revealing his childhood friend Beth, now Alex after transitioning.

As they search for Mick's runaway sheep, Frisky, old connections resurface. Despite initial hesitation, Mick appreciates Alex's company after years of isolation.

Encouraged by Alex, Mick attends a bowling club dance night, but anxiety takes hold, leading to a tense encounter.

As a flood threatens Mick's farm, anxiety peaks with Frisky's second disappearance. Contemplating his future on the roadside, Mick reconnects with Alex, and together, they confront challenges, salvaging their friendship and finding solace in the rain.



Long Synopsis

In the routine of his farm life, Mick's solitary existence is interrupted when a car breaks down outside his front gate. Reluctantly he goes to help its owner and to his surprise, Mick discovers the familiar face of his childhood best friend, 'Beth', who has transitioned since childhood and now goes by Alex. As they embark on a quest to find Mick's runaway pet sheep, Frisky, old connections are rekindled. Despite Mick's initial hesitation, he begins to appreciate Alex's company after years of isolation on the farm.

Encouraged by Alex, Mick reluctantly attends a dance night at the local bowling club. However, the evening takes a dark turn as Mick, plagued by anxiety and stress, unleashes his emotions on Alex. Meanwhile, Alex, returning to town after a prolonged absence in Wellington, seeks to reconcile with parents facing a health crisis, only to be rejected by both family and friend.

Returning to the farm, Mick faces impending disaster as a flood threatens his livelihood. Struggling with anxiety, Mick reaches a breaking point, exacerbated by Frisky's second disappearance. At his lowest, contemplating his future on the roadside, Mick once again re-connects with Alex, who has just driven from their parents house having also faced hardship.

Together, Mick and Alex confront the challenges, salvage their friendship, and restore order to the farm. They find Frisky and embrace the rain together.



Director

Statement

Frisky stands for unapologetic, truthful and compassionate queer cinema. It's no-nonsense storytelling has the ability to reach the hearts of any audience and perfectly capture the resilient Aotearoa spirit.

Biography

I am committed to the unapologetic creation of queer cinema that speaks our truths and defies expectations. I am an upcoming director and writer, who excels in bringing creative visions into reality. My directing style strikes a delicate equilibrium, navigating the paths between preserving a defined vision and embracing the collaborative experience, while valuing the diverse perspectives that I believe enrich the filmmaking process. I come from a rural background in Aotearoa. Here I draw inspiration from my contrasting yet harmonious identities connected to queer city life and the countryside. In my spare time, I love to paint, perform in drag, dance and explore the corners of the queer community. But at my core I'm a storyteller. I am interested in people, and their stories. I recently completed the short film 'Frisky' alongside my thesis project titled 'Yass-ifying the Filmmaking Process: A Personal Discovery in Queer Filmmaking.' This work explores new transformative pathways that empower queer voices and promote compassion and equality in the film production environment. This year, I have found a small group of like-minded queer filmmakers and started a small film collective in Wellington, titled 'The New New' where we meet every week to pitch ideas, plan film shoots and make queer films!



Producer

Daniel Betty

Is a producer, actor and director throughout New Zealand and Australia. He graduated with a Bachelor of Performing Arts from Unitec and has a post graduate diploma in secondary teaching from Massey university.

Upon returning to Hawke's Bay Daniel has been at the birth of many great artistic initiatives. He championed community and education in the Hawke's Bay Arts Festival and Toitū Hawke's Bay Arts and Events Centre. He assisted in the establishment of Eastern Screen Alliance and developed Screen Central a collaborative hub for creative people. He sits on the Nga Toi Board the arts council for Hawke's Bay and is passionate about building opportunities for creatives.

Daniel is the Creative Director for Dream Big a production company that works on screen, on stage and on air. They have a social focus and champion creativity as a vehicle for social change.

William Murton

All media carries weight; whether it be through narrative, representation, cinematography, or even something nuanced within the mise-en-scene.

For our Frisky short, we wanted to ensure that production culture was strongly championed so that our project was held up by bold creatives who could contribute to a powerful story.

A born-and-raised urban theatre kid from Ōtautahi, I left the city for Te Whanganui-a-Tara when I was 18 years old to train across the realm of film, eventually finding my footing as a 1st assistant director working on sets to keep the show running.

Wellington was where I was able to truly embrace my queer identity and apply that artistry in my creative works. I'm now working internationally for Wētā FX whilst maintaining a strong passion and interaction in theatre, performing within the Melbourne theatre scene.

Crew

Director/Writer

Stevie Goodwin

Producer

Daniel Betty, William Murton

Cinematographer

Annalisa Fleming

First Assistant Camera

Jessica Soderberg

First Assistant Director

William Murton

Composer

Grace Ashworth-Lawson

Production Assistant

Max Bureau-Oxton

Sound Recordist

Harry Wilkinson

Sound Design

Brynn Olsson, Anika Stonell, Abbie McGarvey





FAQs

Where did the story come from?

This film is inspired by my (Stevie) conflicting identities as a queer individual with a rural farming background. It is about the queer metamorphosis that many young adults experience when provided the opportunity of unrestrained growth. It is also about the struggle of reconciling their past self with who they have become. I grew up around a small town farming culture in Hawkes Bay Aotearoa. I identify as transgender/nonbinary, and have a close relationship with my dad who is an older, rural, pakeha farmer. Through this story I explore this interesting relationship between the two cultures, the good and the ugly. My goal is to authentically depict a queer experience in Aotearoa, illustrating that despite the diverse backgrounds of our two characters, they can still share genuine love and compassion with each other. This film also touches on rural mental health issues in Aotearoa. My father has struggled with anxiety and depression his whole life and has had friends who have fallen victim to these struggles. I've personally grappled with depression, and my father's journey towards addressing his mental health resonates deeply with me. The physical challenges of farming have also inspired me, considering the impact they can have on mental well-being. In the script, the weather serves as a direct reflection of the characters, mirroring Alex and Mick's evolving moods. The impending flood at the film's conclusion represents the emotional deluge that Mick must confront. Interestingly, I wrote the script before the Cyclone Gabrielle floods in 2023. But when the film was screened in Hawkes Bay, its relevance expanded, resonating with those who experienced the floods, capturing the emotional struggles they faced in rebuilding their lives.

What was the biggest challenge you faced making the film?

Navigating the film shoot posed several significant challenges. Initially, the onset of Covid-19 disrupted our production schedule, which was closely followed by the overseas departure of our initial actors which inspired a change of script and search for new actors. The script itself presented hurdles, including outdoor shoots, scenes in local bars, live animals, and road sequences. Despite these obstacles, our team rallied together, leveraging our resources efficiently and putting in the effort. Unpredictable weather was a major challenge, especially with numerous outdoor farm locations. Adapting on the fly, we reorganised the shot list as we were filming, to align with the changing weather. For these moments it was incredibly important our crew had great chemistry to keep the morale high. As a tiny, tight-knit group, we were able to be flexible and move easily between locations if needed. Managing a live animal added its own complexities, demanding quick adaptations similar to our weather-related challenges. Collaborating with Suzie Beet-Watkins at Funky Farm in Hawkes Bay was invaluable for getting our star sheep, 'Ralphie,' to strut his stuff. Embracing a DIY approach to production charged the film set with the spirit of kiwi ingenuity and resilience.

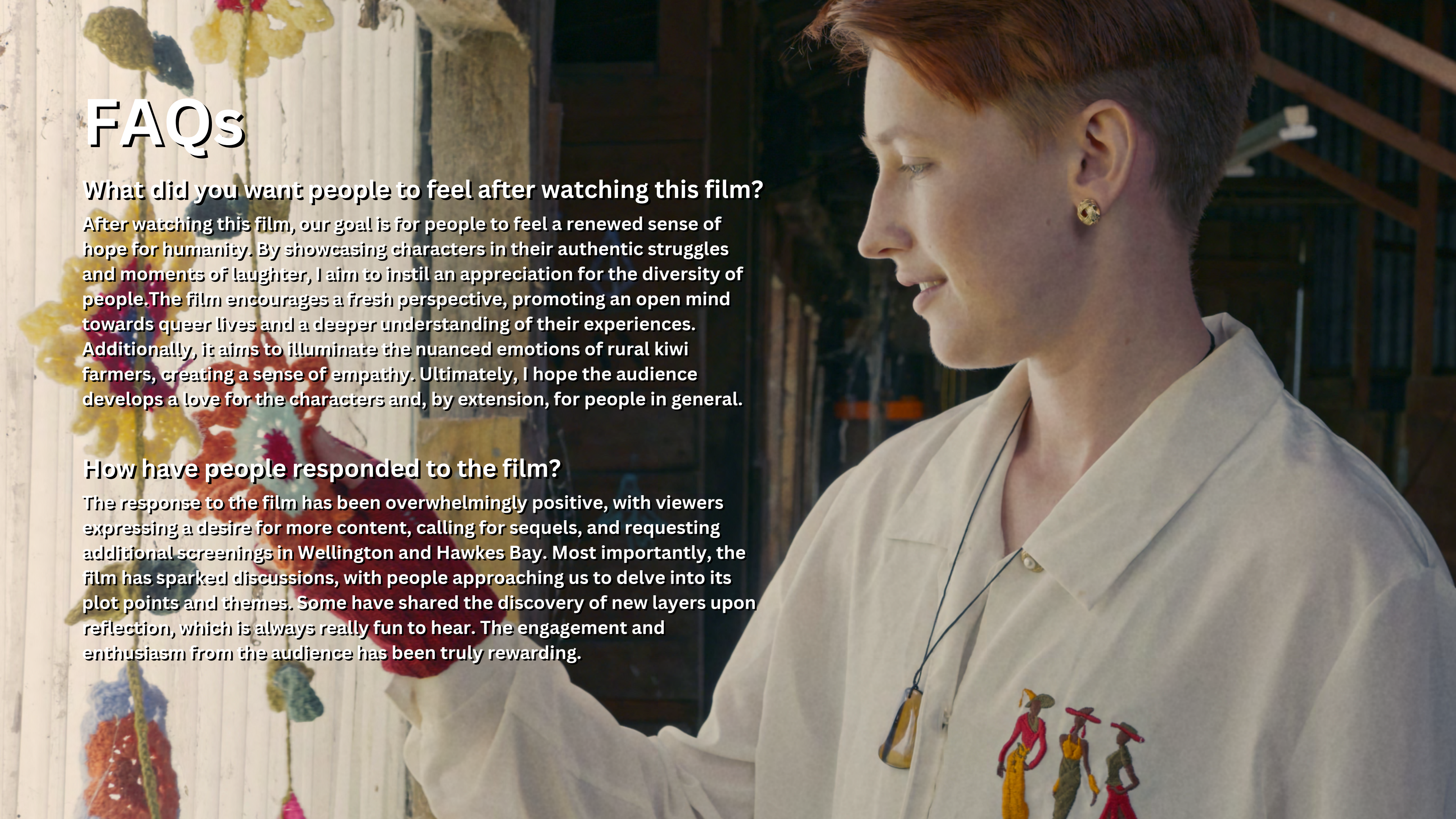
FAQs

What did you want people to feel after watching this film?

After watching this film, our goal is for people to feel a renewed sense of hope for humanity. By showcasing characters in their authentic struggles and moments of laughter, I aim to instil an appreciation for the diversity of people. The film encourages a fresh perspective, promoting an open mind towards queer lives and a deeper understanding of their experiences. Additionally, it aims to illuminate the nuanced emotions of rural kiwi farmers, creating a sense of empathy. Ultimately, I hope the audience develops a love for the characters and, by extension, for people in general.

How have people responded to the film?

The response to the film has been overwhelmingly positive, with viewers expressing a desire for more content, calling for sequels, and requesting additional screenings in Wellington and Hawkes Bay. Most importantly, the film has sparked discussions, with people approaching us to delve into its plot points and themes. Some have shared the discovery of new layers upon reflection, which is always really fun to hear. The engagement and enthusiasm from the audience has been truly rewarding.



A man with a full brown beard and a wide-brimmed tan hat is shown in profile, looking towards the left. He is wearing a blue polo shirt. In the background, a person in a white shirt and dark pants is blurred, holding a red object. The setting is outdoors with trees and a bright sky.

Quick Links

[Frisky Trailer](#)

[Poster](#)

[Photos](#)

