

WILBERT WIRE

Everyone's wired a little differently.

Written and Directed by Ricky Townsend

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

BTS & Production Photos by Kevin Fedde

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DAY ONE
SHORTS

INTERFRAME PICTURES PRESENTS "WILBERT WIRE" WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RICKY TOWNSEND PRODUCED BY ELLA WASWO AND
JOSEPH CHAMSAY STARRING JOSIAH MORGAN, KATHLEEN BURNS AND KIM GARRETT DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN
CHRISTOFFELS COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER LIAM REID EDITED BY RICKY TOWNSEND ART DIRECTOR NICK LOWRY 1ST ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR KAT FORRESTER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CHRIS WIDDUP

InterFrame
PICTURES

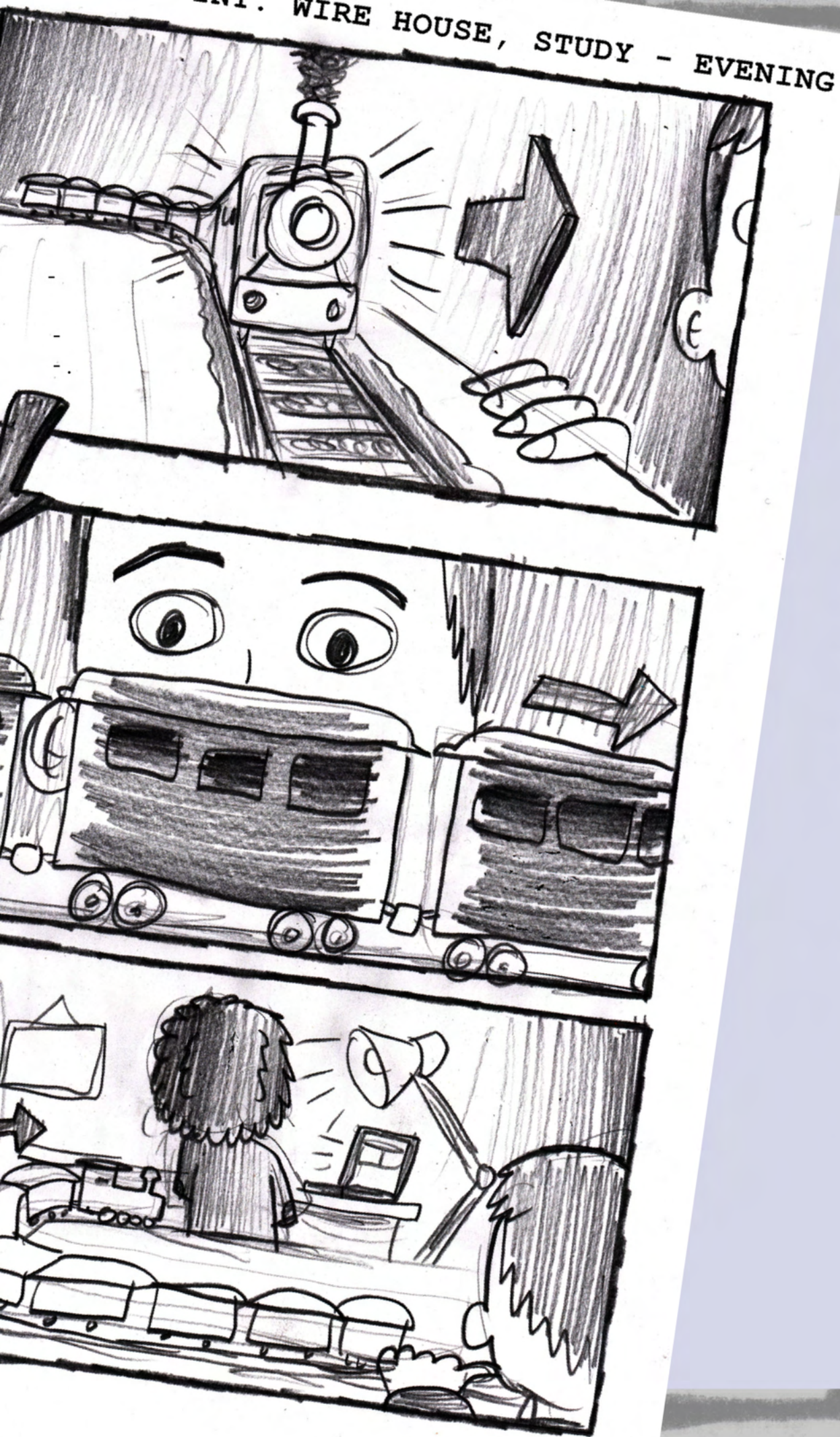


STORY SYNOPSIS

You would expect a robot to be many things, but perhaps not a student at your local art school. Wilbert Wire may look human, but he is wired a little differently. His art teacher Cas tasks him with what she considers the most human thing of all, making art about the emotion of love. Wilbert's mission to create this magnum opus takes him on a quest of slapstick miming, invisible trains, and a very special Mother's Day gift.

Perhaps even the most human emotions of love do not need to be human to be real.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Wilbert Wire is an analogy for my own autistic experience. It's a tiring old trope to say autistic people are like robots, and what is most tiring about it is the trope is rarely even done well.

I wanted to give the 'autistic robot' the redemption it deserves. Wilbert shows us that, yes, he's a robot, but he's also a creative, imaginative and loving character. Wilbert just expresses it in a different way. Wilbert's not wonderful despite being a robot, he's wonderful because he's a robot.

Wilbert Wire is fun - and I think it's wonderful to make an autistic story that is unapologetically fun!

-- Ricky Townsend, writer & director

WHAT EVERYONE ELSE (Mostly us) IS SAYING



Ella Waswo Producer

“Wilbert Wire is a unique script with a unique perspective – and one that a lot of audiences will be grateful to see on their screens. It made me cry when I first read it, and I still feel that same way! It’s also so amazing to be able to tell these stories from Ōtautahi Christchurch, with completely local crew, locations, and resources.”

Joseph Chamsay Co Producer

“I feel like we’re really bringing something new with Wilbert Wire— it’s a fresh take on some very old ideas delivering a lot of fun action and classic tear-jerking moments that I know audiences are going to love. I can’t wait for more people to see this film and think about the people in their lives who resonate with our message.”

Josiah Morgan - Actor (Wilbert Wire)

“Wilbert Wire is a film for everyone. It does that thing that all great art does — uses its specific viewpoint to express a truth. When I first read it, I immediately knew I was keen to be a part of it — Wilbert is the kind of character that as an actor you feel lucky to get to express. In what other job do you get to play with trains both real AND invisible?”

Kat Forrester Assistant-Producer / 1st AD

“Teaching a robot how to feel, and about the human condition... Can it be done!?”

John Chrisstoffels Director of Photography

““It has been a real privilege to work this wildly imaginative and insightful drama. A real testament to the talent, passion and cinematic vision of the entire crew and actors.”

WRITER/ DIRECTOR/ EDITOR

Ricky Townsend
He/Him



Ricky Townsend is a filmmaker from Ōtautahi with a BFA Hons in Film from Ilam School of Fine Arts. Paired with a background in theatre, Ricky works in many areas of production such as directing, writing and editing. As an autistic filmmaker, he uses filmmaking to understand the world and express his feelings to others. Exploring stories through the eyes and thinking of neurodivergent voices is an important part of Ricky's process as an artist and storyteller.

Ricky's recent independent feature film *The Bostrom Scenario* has been screening in genre festivals around the world including the 49th Boston Sci-Fi Film Festival, Phoenix Film Festival, Gen Con Film Festival and Galacticat. His film also won Best Sci-Fi Thriller at the Miami Sci-Fi Film Festival.

Ricky's other short films have screened at Sydney Indie Film Festival and Top of the South Film Festival in Aotearoa.



LEAD PRODUCER
Ella Waswo
She/Her

Ella is an Ōtautahi-based filmmaker and artist with an eclectic range of experience, from running a charity music festival, to managing a tattoo practice – bringing all the skills in admin and accounting that come with.

She discovered her love for filmmaking in 2018 and pursued an Hons BFA majoring in Film, and was President of the Fine Arts Club at UC for two years.

Ella has since worked in a range of industry roles, including Producer for Ricky's Feature Film *The Bostrom Scenario*, 1st AD for Someday Stories short *A Peek Inside the CHCH Internet Troll Agency*, and Content Creation for brands like The Arts Foundation and REnews.



CO-PRODUCER
Joseph Chamsay
He/Him

Joseph is a graduate Producer from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) at The University of Melbourne, majoring in Television and Film. Prior to his studies he has collaborated in over 4 years worth of community television and online productions for networks such as C31 Melbourne and RMITV. His past slate of projects involve everything from comedy news, to dog care videos, to weekly broadcasts recapping the wild world of Australia and New Zealand's wrestling scene.

In 2019 Joseph interned with CNN Philippines to produce branded content before moving to Christchurch where he has since used his project management skills as a Marketing Coordinator for creative projects to promote local and international tourism.



**ASSISTANT PRODUCER /
1ST AD**
Kat Forrester
She/Her

Kat Forrester has cut her teeth as an assistant director in various projects in and around Ōtautahi since 2020. Co-Director of Ōtautahi based Play Space Productions, Kat's capacity as a producer and director was historically stage based, after obtaining her certificate of Performing Arts from Hagley Theatre Co in 2019. Securing a starring role in *The Bostrom Scenario* pt II, she quickly discovered that her interest lay behind the camera in an organisational capacity. She has since gone on to AD four short films in 2023 for One Dollar Genre (a Patreon driven filmmaking enterprise where a short film is created every month in the genre as voted by Patrons), and was OH&S and Shadow 1st AD in the Tamaki Makaurau based short film *The Black Lotus* (currently in pre-production stage for filming a feature length adaptation). Kat is excited to work with Richard and the team in future projects and enjoys the fast-paced intensity and joy only filmmaking can bring.



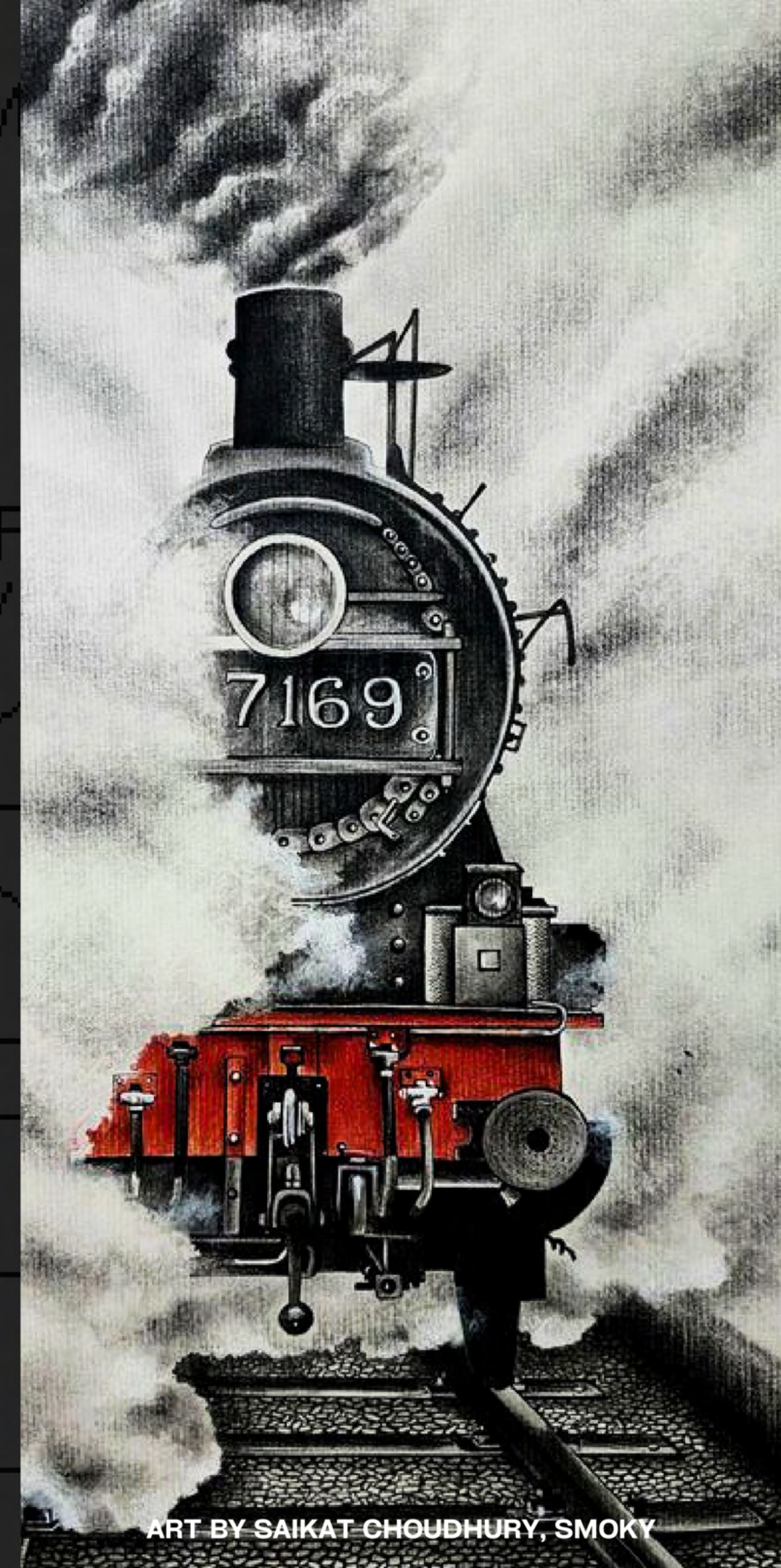
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Dr. John Chrissoffels
He/Him

John has over 30 years' experience as a respected Film Director, Cinematographer, lecturer, and Editor in the New Zealand Film industry. He has been involved with a number of critically acclaimed short films, documentaries, music videos and art works, as well as receiving numerous awards including a 2018 New Zealand Cinematographers Society award for his work on New Zealand thriller *Human Traces* (2017), and a 2013 cinematography prize for *Here be Monsters*, which also won the "Best short film award" at the New Zealand Film and Television Awards.



COMPOSER/SOUND DESIGN
Liam Reid
He/Him

Liam is a prolific composer operating from Wellington Aotearoa for the last 4 years producing a range of award-winning content covering children's theatre, web series, short documentary, short drama and many entries in the VF48hr Film Competition. Notable works include the short documentary "Humans" (Winner Best NZ Short - Doc Edge Festival 2019), "Zero" (Winner Best Comedy - My Rode Reel), and many more.



ART BY SAIKAT CHOUDHURY, SMOKY

STARRING



WILBERT WIRE

Josiah Morgan

He/Him

Josiah Morgan (Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Maniapoto) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Ōtautahi. He has performed on stages and in schools all over Aotearoa in productions such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Top Dog Theatre, Helena), *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (Auckland Pride, The Reader), *White Rabbit*, *Red Rabbit* (JMO Theatrics, Performer) and *Sexwise* (THETA, Timmy). He is also the author of four books, with a fifth forthcoming.

Josiah will be making his international stage debut in a Brisbane production of *Sarah Kane's Cleansed* in November 2024.



CAS THE ART TEACHER

KATHLEEN BURNS

She/Her

Kathleen began her career as a Court Jester in 2003 and still performs *Scared Scriptless*. She is a graduate of the National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art.

She has performed with several theatre companies over her career including the Court Theatre, Circa Theatre and Little Andromeda. Kathleen has starred in several film and TV shows including *Sextortion* (TVNZ), *Working Class*, *Ghost Shark 2*, and the *The Push*.











FULL CREDITS OF THE FILM

Written & Directed by

Ricky Townsend

Produced by

Ella Waswo

Joseph Chamsay

Assistant Producer

Kat Forrester

Cast

Wilbert Wire - Josiah Morgan

Cas the Art Teacher - Kathleen Burns

Ms. Wire - Kim Garrett

Director of Photography

John Chrisstoffels

Composer & Sound Designer

Liam Reid

Edited by

Ricky Townsend

Art Director

Nick Lowry

1st Assistant Director

Kat Forrester

1st Assistant Camera

Jem Anderson-Gardner

2nd Assistant Camera

Jasper Sutcliffe

2nd Unit Director of Photography

Jem Anderson-Gardner

Gaffer

Calum Lyall

Sound Mixer

Ben Delaney

Boom Operators

Rata Jamieson

Ginnie Ferguson

Production Assistant

Shae Cornelius

Script Supervisor

Emily McVicar

New Filmmaker Placement

Mila Burke-Denholm

Stills photographer

Kevin Fedde

VFX Supervisor

Jack McConnell

Voice Talent

Movie Trailer Android - Elijah Moore

Movie Trailer Human - Haydon Dickie

Infomercial Woman - Annette Searle

Infomercial Android - Ricky Townsend

Sci-Fi Movie Actress - Molly Wilkin

Documentary & Trailer Voice - Michael Adams

Infomercial Voice - Ricky Townsend

Mother's Day Ad Voce - Ella Waswo

AI Voice - Joseph Chamsay

Imaginary Woman - Kat Forrester

Imaginary Man - Haydon Dickie

Bob the Senior Student

Roderick Turner

Art Student Extras

Aashma Goldfarb

Anna Schaible-Schur

Bee Rose

Chariya Rong

Christian Lamont

Jovi Harrison-Taylor

Kieran Redmond

Riley Hewett

Rachel Tan

Saige Denovan-Stroud

Special thanks

Art Metro

XCHC

Ian Harding

Annette Searle

The Pests Flat

Martin Sagadin

UC Digital Screen

Haydon Dickie