



HORSEPOWER

DIRECTED BY **JESSICA LONDON** PRODUCED BY **MAHMUDUL RAZ & JESSICA LONDON**
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY **MAHMUDUL RAZ** EDITED BY **DAVID VINCENT SMITH**
A **RAZ STUDIOS** PRODUCTION





SYNOPSIS

Ian, a young farrier haunted by lifelong battles with his mental health, discovers a profound sanctuary in the gentle presence of his horses, embarking on a transformative journey of self-discovery and healing.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As the director of HORSEPOWER, I set out to explore the profound connection between humans and horses, particularly in the context of men's mental health. Through the lens of Ian, a young farrier battling his mental health, we witness the transformative power of this bond.

HORSEPOWER is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the healing potential found in unexpected places. Through Ian's retreat with his horses, we see how his relationship with them becomes a source of strength, offering him a sanctuary where he can find peace and purpose.

I embarked on this journey with a heartfelt belief in the transformative power of storytelling. I aimed to create a film where audiences could witness Ian's journey and reflect on their own experiences with mental health. By shining a light on Ian's struggles and triumphs, I hope to foster empathy, understanding, and conversation around men's mental health—an often overlooked and stigmatised topic.

As a filmmaker who has struggled with postnatal depression and experienced the weight of silence that many individuals face, I felt a deep empathy for Ian and his journey. Like postnatal depression, men's mental health conditions are stigmatised, poorly understood, and misrepresented. This shared struggle has driven me to continue this crucial conversation, to challenge stigma, and to pave the way for understanding and support.

At its core, "HORSEPOWER" celebrates resilience, connection, and the healing power of working with horses. It's a reminder that, even in our darkest moments, there is always hope and the possibility of finding solace in unexpected places.

I am immensely proud of the team that brought this documentary to life and grateful for Ian's courage in sharing his story. I hope this film serves as a beacon of light for anyone struggling and inspires conversations that lead to greater awareness and support for men's mental health.



ABOUT

JESSICA LONDON

WRITER / DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

Jessica London is a multifaceted filmmaker with a passion for visual storytelling, currently based in Western Australia. With a bachelor's degree in journalism and a background in cinema, advertising, and business management, she has honed her skills as a creative producer with two of Colombia's most prominent film media companies, 64A Films and RCN.

Embracing the role of an emerging director, Jessica seizes every opportunity to explore and expand her creativity. Her recent directing highlights include splinter directing the Screenwest-funded feature *HE AIN'T HEAVY*, producing, splinter directing, and editing *LIES WITHIN US*, her feature-length project *THE WEIGHT OF SILENCE* recently received development funding from Screenwest.

Recent highlights in her directorial work include *HORSEPOWER*, a short documentary currently in its festival run, and *E-MUM*, which explores the intersection of human emotion and artificial intelligence, starring the talented Australian Actress Emma Jackson. Additionally, *THE JOURNEY WITHIN*, a short documentary about her spiritual quest with Ayahuasca in Colombia, is in post-production.

Known for crafting visually striking and emotionally resonant content, Jessica excels in creating immersive cinematic experiences and leading collaborative teams, always committed to cinematic excellence.



ABOUT

MAHMUDUL RAZ

PRODUCER / CINEMATOGRAPHER

Raz is an entrepreneur, dedicated producer, cinematographer and all-around filmmaker who exhibits a true love for the art of motion pictures. For over 14 years, Raz played a vital role in developing WA Screen Academy's production and post-production workflows as the Technical Director. He also taught Cinematography for over 7 years and brought international experience and advanced knowledge from continued coursework.

Raz has a rich background in overseeing hundreds of film and video productions, and his talent as a cinematographer has earned him multiple awards. He has notably served as the director of photography for SBS's *TRIBUNAL* and *IGGY & ACE*. Furthermore, Raz has demonstrated his skills as an executive producer for the City of Vincent project in collaboration with the Revelation Film Festival.



ABOUT

DAVID VINCENT SMITH

EDITOR

David Vincent Smith is an award-winning Western Australian writer, director and editor. His latest proof-of-concept short film *I'M NOT HURTING YOU* which he wrote, directed and edited, premiered at the Sydney Film Festival and went on to screen at numerous local and international film festivals including Flickerfest and Austin Film Festival. The feature script, *HE AIN'T HEAVY* was awarded West Coast Visions production funding, and the team worked alongside script editor Lynne Vincent McCarthy (*THE NIGHTINGALE*, *RELIC*) on the script. They completed production in 2023 and will be released in the second half of 2024.

David has over fifteen years of editing experience, across feature films, documentaries, short docs, short films, music videos and TVCs.

In 2013, David received directing training from acclaimed tutor Judith Weston in Los Angeles, whose students include Best Picture Oscar winner Steve McQueen (*12 YEARS A SLAVE*) and Alejandro González Iñárritu, director of *THE REVENANT* and *BIRDMAN*.





production credits

PRODUCED BY Mahmudul Raz
Jessica London

DIRECTED BY Jessica London

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY Mahmudul Raz

EDITED BY David Vincent Smith

SOUND DESIGN BY Jacob Waxman

CAMERA ASSISTANT Gareth Weston

SPECIAL THANKS

Ian Stirling, Grace Goodhew & Cassie Stirling-Goodhew

TO THE HORSES

Bella, Donny, Flow, Jazz, Envis



tech specifications

DURATION: 5 minutes and 58 seconds

GENRE: Short Documentary

COMPLETED: July 1st 2023

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Australia

ASPECT RATIO: 2:35

RESOLUTION: 2048 X 858

FRAME RATE: 25FPS

AUDIO: Stereo



A person wearing a dark cowboy hat and a dark long-sleeved shirt is standing in a field, reaching up to touch the neck of a dark horse. The scene is backlit by a bright sunset, creating a golden glow around the person and the horse. In the background, there are silhouettes of trees and a fence. The overall mood is peaceful and rustic.

horsepower

Press Contact

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