

MEDIA RELEASE | Film Length: 06 minutes



WHACKY COMEDY SHOWS THE STRUGGLES OF BEING A RENTER IN SYDNEY

Australian Film Television and Radio School presents...

PAST TENANT

Logline: *A Sydneysider must kick out their roommate who refuses to pay their rent. The only problem is their roommate is a ghost.*

“Reading PAST TENANT felt like a sitcom that had been twisted, much like the British sitcoms of the 2000’s like BLACK BOOKS, or the New Zealand mockumentary WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS. Kate’s script inspired me to highlight the everyday stress and struggle that Sydney renters have to deal with just to keep a roof over their heads. The comedy and the ghost gives us a shared catharsis. We can all laugh together as we see our everyday issues being acknowledged by a ghost with a sheet over their head!” – Ricky Townsend, Director

Director: Ricky Townsend

Writer: Kat Bubalo

Producer: Oliver Moir

Stars *HOME AND AWAY* regular **Courtney Ally Miller**, along with **Matthew Cheetham** and **Melissa Brownlow**.

Writer | Kate Bubalo

Kate Bubalo is a writer based in the land of the Gadigal people. She has written, performed in and directed various productions that have taken place at Sydney Comedy Festival and Sydney Comedy Fringe Festival. She has also written for a production that has taken place at Sydney Fringe.

Kate uses humour to address difficult stories to tell. She mainly interacts with female and/or queer centred stories, which is shaped by her own lived experience. As a child of the internet, Kate often interrogates in her work our preconceptions about how the internet has shaped our world and culture. Her extensive background in writing and performing comedy has fed into all of her work and is a driving force for getting to the authentic heart of the stories she is trying to tell.

Kate is focused on themes of connection, communication and empathy, especially during an era of algorithmically enforced social circles. Kate comes from a long line of storytellers and liars. She has also never broken a bone, is 100 years old and has been making gnocchi from scratch for 12 years. She finds writing endings to be the hardest part of writing.

Director | Ricky Townsend

Ricky Townsend is a New Zealand Pākehā filmmaker from Ōtautahi/Christchurch and based in Sydney, Australia. As an autistic filmmaker, Ricky is passionate about championing neurodivergent stories. He is also passionate about continuing the tradition of genre movies that New Zealand filmmakers have showcased such as Peter Jackson's early slashers and Geoff Murphy's films. He has written and directed several grassroots productions and commissioned shorts including heartfelt comedy 'Wilbert Wire' (Funded by Day One Shorts) and an independent feature sci-fi 'The Bostrom Scenario'.

His films have been selected in international festivals including SCI-FI LONDON (UK), Boston Science Fiction Film Festival (US), Galaticat (Spain), Phoenix Film Festival (US) and the Top of the South Film Festival (NZ).

Ricky is currently a Master student at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) specializing in Film Directing. Last year, he had won the AFTRS Alumni and Industry Scholarship which made it possible for him to pursue his research and post-graduate education at the school.

PAST TENANT features some of the very best work from emerging Australian and New Zealand filmmakers. It's a short featuring an all-Australian cast, Australian and New Zealand crew and a Sydneysider writer from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). We invite you to join us and have a laugh.

PAST TENANT was produced with the assistance of the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) with support from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).

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AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

SOME FLATMATES JUST DON'T GO AWAY

EVEN **BEYOND** THE GRAVE

WRITTEN BY KATE BUBALO

DIRECTED BY RICKY TOWNSEND

PRODUCED BY OLIVER MOIR

Past Tenant

COURTNEY ALLY MILLER

MATTHEW CHEETHAM

MELISSA BROWNLOW

AUSTRALIAN FILM TELEVISION AND RADIO SCHOOL PRESENTS

A RICKY TOWNSEND SHORT FILM COURTNEY ALLY MILLER - MATTHEW CHEETHAM - MELISSA BROWNLOW

"PAST TENANT" MUSIC BY JORDE HEYS EDITOR LUKE DALY PRODUCTION DESIGNER ELENA HALE

CINEMATOGRAPHER VIP INSYXIENGMAI WRITTEN BY KATE BUBALO PRODUCED BY OLIVER MOIR

DIRECTED BY RICKY TOWNSEND