

UNDERCURRENT: THE FADE



You get so good at being someone else, you forget who you were.

Based on a True Story
Directed by Stephen Lance
Written by Jason Somerville



PROOF OF CONCEPT

Establishing the DNA of White Lies

LOGLINE

After a young police officer with a rare psychological profile is recruited to go deep undercover in the 1990s Brisbane drug trade, his talent for deception becomes the very thing that erases the man he used to be.

A young undercover officer, Jack, is given a new identity: Michael Bates, small-time dealer with ambitions. His assignment is simple on paper; pose as the gay boyfriend of Rita, a transgender informant with deep connections to Brisbane's 1995 drug scene and work his way up the supply chain.

A psychological crime thriller about identity erosion. Not the operation but the person inside it.

UNDERCURRENT: THE FADE is a proof of concept for the feature film UNDERCURRENT, demonstrating the psychological engine of the story: a man who becomes so good at the lie that he loses himself inside it.



FROM THE INSIDE

Sharing DNA with *The Stranger* (2022), *Undercurrent* is an inside account of an undercover operation, based on actual events from 1990s Brisbane.

Written by someone who spent fourteen years in the Queensland Police Service, including two years deep undercover in the drug trade, this is not a reconstruction. It is a firsthand account of what it feels like to live inside the role and what happens when that role starts to work.

The shift is not operational, it is psychological. The danger is not exposure, it is preference. This is where the addiction starts.

THE FEATURE

A PSYCHOLOGICAL DESCENT

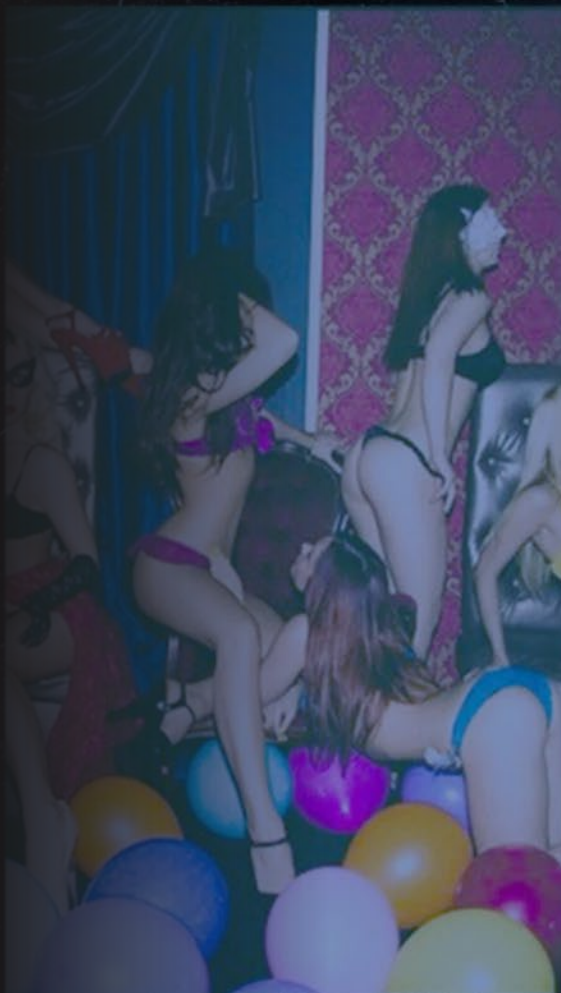
Jack Sullivan is a unicorn. He has a rare psychological profile: a high capacity for empathy mixed with an ability to compartmentalise that borders on the sociopathic.

He doesn't just lie; he becomes the lie.

He creates Michael Bates. Michael is more than a role; he earns the trust that Jack, as a police officer, never could. But being Michael is addictive. Jack finds it easier to be Michael.

This isn't the story of a man losing his mind. It's the story of a man stepping further into a skin that fits, professionally and personally. There comes a point where Jack isn't just pretending to be Michael.

He prefers being Michael.





THE WORLD & TEAM

AUSTRALIAN NOIR: BRISBANE 1995

Set in a city rebuilding itself after the Fitzgerald Inquiry, the world is grounded and unromantic: housing estates, suburban homes, car parks, and the neon of 1990's Fortitude Valley.

THE TEAM

STEPHEN LANCE (DIRECTOR): Feature filmmaker (My Mistress, The Second) with a strong visual command of performance and controlled tension.

JASON SOMERVILLE (WRITER / PRODUCER): Fourteen years in the QPS, including deep undercover work in the drug trade. This is a story told from lived experience.

TRACTION

Existing audience through the podcast "Whisper in the Shadows" (45,000+ downloads).

Nonfiction book "Undercurrent" releasing 2026.

Concept reviewed by Hoodlum, with ongoing industry engagement.