



ATHOL



Hannah Marie
Nicole Gulasekharam
Lucas Pittaway

Directed by Mark Lasky-Davison • Produced by Thomas Farnill

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LOGLINE

After an argument that leaves Athol dead, his wife and sister are left to rebuild their relationship and confront the guilt that plagues them.

SYNOPSIS

An oil painter named Billy, lives with her husband Athol and sister-in-law Marta in the Victorian countryside. After a fierce argument between the artistic couple leads to Athol's untimely death Billy and Marta are left to rebuild their relationship and confront the guilt that plagues them.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Title:	Athol
Running length:	18:45
Shooting format:	Digital 2k
Exhibition format:	DCP/mov/mp4
Aspect ratio:	16:9
Sound:	Stereo
Country of production:	Australia
Year:	2020
Language:	English
Subtitles:	No
Online video:	https://vimeo.com/503998086 (Password: AtholMLD)
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DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Mark Lasky-Davison



I am a 2020 graduate (Bachelor of Fine Arts – Honours) from the Victorian College of the Arts school of Film and Television. My films have been screened at festivals in Australia and overseas, including St Kilda Film Festival and London Australian Film Festival.

I am currently working on a script for my first feature film which will be shot in a slow cinema style and is set in the Victorian Countryside around several natural locations in the Murrindindi Shire. I also play drums for a Metal band named Dalliance; we are currently working on our third EP which will be accompanied by a series of music videos I am creating.

I believe movies are a fantastic tool for exploring the 'human condition' and furthering our self-awareness by relating to on-screen characters. They allow us to discuss deep topics with friends and family by giving everyone a common ground from which to spring ideas.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

After the 2019-2020 Australian Black Summer bushfires and a separate experience of loss, I decided to explore how grief affects the connection between two individuals. I also wanted to examine how personality, artistic practice and nature affect the healing process. Sisters-in-law Billy and Marta deal with the death of Athol in different ways; putting them in conflict fueled by their sense of guilt over his death.

Whilst writing the film I was in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the sense of time slowing piqued my interest in slow cinema. This ended up being the subject of my thesis and the slow cinema techniques I identified in my thesis were applied to this film. Slow cinema places an emphasis on the smaller details in storytelling and explores these through long takes, mise-en-scene and ambiguity, rather than the use of detailed exposition.

With the generous assistance of the Harry Hains Memorial Film Bursary, I was able to set the film in a beautiful rural locale and this enabled me to use natural textures such as wind, rain and fire as elements that reflect and enhance Billy and Marta's journey through separation and ultimate reconciliation.

CAST BIOGRAPHY

Hannah Marie - *Billy*



Hannah Marie graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Theatre Studies) from the University of New England in 2011. She has also trained at the Actors Centre Australia, 16th Street Actors Studio and TheatreLab. In 2015 she participated in a Mike Leigh (method of character-based improvisation) workshop led by Robert Marchand. Recent short film credits include *July & August* and *The Final Chapter*.

Nicole Gulasekharam - *Marta*



Fiddler on the Roof and the lead role of Annie in *Annie* at the Regent Theatre, Melbourne.

Nicole has been working professionally from a very young age. Her main cast roles to date include Series 1 to 4 of the Disney comedy *As the Bell Rings* and the miniseries *Small Time Gangster*. She appeared in Nadia Tass' feature film *Matching Jack* and has had guest roles in *Barracuda*, *Bed of Roses*, *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*, *Wentworth*, *Blue Heelers*, *Neighbours*, *Lowdown* and *Rush*. Nicole has worked on several short films and was the Best Actor winner in the Show Me Shorts Film Festival in 2011. She has trained in several forms of dance, singing, piano and violin. Her professional stage credits include

Lucas Pittaway - *Athol*



Lucas Pittaway was catapulted into acting with his first professional lead role in Justin Kurzel's multi-award winning 2011 film, *Snowtown*. More recently he studied acting full time and appeared in a multitude of productions including *The Faceless Man*, *Spine*, and *Showboy*. His raw and realistic portrayal of emotional characters sees him continually cast in challenging and fulfilling roles. Amongst consistently working on professional and artistic projects Lucas pursues sporting passions in cycling and rock-climbing.

CREW BIOGRAPHY

Thomas Farnill - *Producer/1st Assistant Director*



Thomas discovered a love for filmmaking while making comedy skits with friends at school. Since then, he has directed and produced numerous short films and music videos. In 2019 Thomas graduated from the Film and Television course at VCA, he has since worked as a music video editor and in 2020 wrote his own comedy series and various short films.

Patrick Whelan - *Director of Photography*



Patrick is an up-and-coming filmmaker based in Melbourne. Having started out making narrative short films, Patrick has taken an increased interest in documentary filmmaking and will be undertaking a Masters of Documentary at the VCA starting in 2021. His films deal with the surreal nature of everyday life, and he hopes to continue this outlook in his documentaries. Along with directing, Patrick also enjoys working as a 1st Assistant Director and a Director of Photography.

FILM STILLS





BEHIND THE SCENES



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are your cinematic influences?

Andrei Tarkovsky, Bela Tarr and Kelly Reichardt are my three biggest influences and inspirations. Each have such honest film making styles. Their shots are long and thoughtful, avoiding clichés and over-exposition in favor of mood and interesting character moments.

I aim to be as truthful to my stories as they are, to create films that are thoughtful and to one day, inspire an audience the way Tarkovsky, Tarr and Reichardt have inspired me.

If you had to do it over again, what would you do differently?

Not have a global pandemic halfway through pre-production lol!

How much money did it cost?

I managed to make the film for about \$2500 total! Mostly spent on the gorgeous locations and feeding my cast and crew. (They say an army marches on its stomach – the same can be said of film crews!)

ONLINE CONTACTS

Official Website: www.buridansbridge.com

Vimeo: www.vimeo.com/user40682124

Instagram: www.instagram.com/drummer_mark

Letterboxd: www.letterboxd.com/Drummermark

Star Now: www.starnow.com.au/profile/?m_id=4320959&mode=pv

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FESTIVAL SCREENINGS/AWARDS

Watch this space!