



COLD

Making peace with the past is never easy...

A short film by Kirsty Hamilton
Starring Mathew Sunderland

Production Notes

Writer/Director:	Kirsty (KJ) Hamilton
Producer:	Kirsty (KJ) Hamilton
Date of Completion:	August 2018
Film Category:	Short
Production Location:	New Zealand
Shooting Format:	4K
Exhibition Format:	DCP
Aspect Ratio:	235:1
Picture Format:	Color
Sound:	5.1 Surround
Running Time:	10 minutes 34 Seconds
Genre:	Drama
Main Dialogue Language:	English

Publicist, Sales, Point of Contact:

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Log Line:

An estranged brother and sister meet. She wants him to apologize for the past, he wants to leave it behind. Will they find peace?

Synopsis

Alice, 40, Jaden's estranged sister visits her brother, Jaden, 45, at his place of work where he is busy trying to complete a complex project. Alice wants to receive an apology and understand abuse she suffered at his hands in their childhood. Jaden wants to leave it all behind, be forgiven and move on from his own pain. They dig at each other passively aggressively, jog each others memories of terrible events, deny, reveal previously undiscovered truths, dance in a moment of joyful memory, blame, fight, and finally gain a clearer understanding of each other. However a surprising event means it may well be too late to find true reconciliation.



(Still by Tracey Olivier)

Director's Statement

I wrote the first draft of *Cold* when I was studying for my Masters degree in creative writing. I wrote about something that I had not fully believed but wanted to be true; that a person who had committed acts of abuse could have remorse. I know this to be the case for some perpetrators, now, after research and interviews in preparing for putting this on film.

When you have known survivors, or had experience of these things, it's painful to accept that some abusers might have goodness in them; that they could be multi-dimensional human beings. Conversely it means you have to accept people who may, at one time be heroes/protectors could also do great harm. It's heartbreaking to make these discoveries, particularly when you are a child, but at any age.

Illustrating these intrinsic opposites and the circular nature of violence I hope invites audiences to identify, connect with and ultimately, hopefully, understand not one character, but both perpetrator and victim.

I know it's cliché but I do think and have to believe that the more people understand the cyclical nature and consequences of sexual and physical violence, I mean really understand, that there is a chance of changing the minds of those in power to create laws and a society that cares more for all, not just a small percentage of people.

Director/Writer/Producer's Biography - *Kirsty (KJ) Hamilton*

(Andi Crown Photography)



Kirsty was born and raised in New Zealand and is of Maori, Scottish, Irish, English and French descent. She trained as an actress at the New Zealand Drama School and went on to play Grace in Costa Botes feature *Saving Grace* for which she was nominated Best Actress at the New Zealand Television and Film Awards. She worked for a number of years in theater playing Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Valerie in Connor McPherson's - *The Weir*, Mrs Cheavely in *An Ideal Husband* and Rosalind in *As You Like It* directed by acting coach Miranda Harcourt.

In 2007 she was chosen as the Shakespeare Globe Center of New Zealand's International Fellow at Shakespeare's Globe theater in London where she studied under Patsy Rodenburg, Cicely Berry, Jan Haydn Rowels and others. She graduated with an MA in creative writing from the Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University in Wellington in 2012 and earned an Honors Degree in Screen Production from The University of Auckland under the tutelage of Jake Mahaffy (*Free In Deed*) and Schuchi Kothari (*Firaag*).

Cold is her third short film which she has written, produced and directed. Kirsty was chosen by the Directors Guild of New Zealand in 2016 as a participant in the DEGNZ Inaugural Female Film Incubator to help equip up and coming female directors into their first features and was chosen by the New Zealand Film Commission to be take part of their Accelerator program for the Melbourne International Film Festival. It was there she had the opportunity to pitch to agents, distributors, and representatives from around the world including Sundance. She is currently working to engage a producer for her feature directorial debut with her film *Lockhart*.

Matthew Sunderland – Jaden

(Meghan Ellis – Photographer)



Matthew Sunderland (Jaden), is an award winning actor, writer and director. He played the lead role of David Gray in the feature film 'Out of The Blue' based on the Aramoana massacre for which he won the best actor award at the New Zealand Television and Film Awards (2008). A graduate of the New Zealand Drama School Matthew has played roles in nearly twenty features including the A Song for Good, Christmas, Stringer, Woodenhead, Existence, Nature's Way, The Lost City of Z. He is also a very accomplished theater actor having recently performed with the Sydney theater company in their iconic production of The Secret River. In addition to his extensive experience Matthew recently completed a six week course at the Atlantic Theater Company Acting School in New York.

DOP - Chris Matthews

(Tracey Olivier – Photographer)



Chris Matthews has numerous credits as a cinematographer and camera operator in both film, television drama, documentary, commercials and music videos. His credits include Beyond The Darklands, The Power Rangers, The Z Nail Gang, Cul De Sac, Judgement Tavern. He has shot with Arri mini, Sony F5, Alexa Cooke 2 & 4, Cannon C300, Sony F55. He has specialist skills with Movi, gimbals, visual effects, miniature, high speed and green screen. Chris earned a bronze award for the short film, Judgement tavern at the 2016 NZCS awards, a Panavision Award Australia 2004 and won best cinematography for The Black Seeds at the 2003 NZ Music Video Awards. Chris is the Director of High Def Cameras Ltd.

Credits

Production

Written, Produced & Directed by
Executive Producers

KJ Hamilton
Roy Baddiley, Carolyn Beaver, Tomaz Costa

Cast (In Order of Appearance)

Young Alice
Oldest Brother/Luke
Young Jaden
Middle Brother/Cody
Adult Jaden
Jaden's Mother/Mary
Adult Alice

Holly Taylor
Cameron Stables
Flynn Allan
Oliver McCallum
Matthew Sunderland
Margaret Blay
Kirsty Hamilton

Director of Photography
Production Design
Edited By
Music By

Chris Matthews
Jess Stephenson & Kirsty Hamilton
Jeff Hurrell & Andrew Suzuki
Moonglass Composers for Film -
Stephen Wright & Nigel Dunn
Jade Paynter & Mandy Docherty
Kirsty Hamilton
Te Smallman
Dick Reade & Richard Wills
Peter Wellington

Costume Design
Casting
Assistant Casting
Audio Post Production
Colorist

Production Manager
 Production Manager
 First Assistant Director
 First Assistant Camera
 Second Assistant Camera
 Second Assistant Camera
 Second Assistant Camera
 Camera for Additional Pick Up Shots,
 Gaffer & Grip
 Gaffer & Grip
 Gaffer & Grip
 Clapper Loader
 Stills Photographer
 SPFX Make Up
 Sound Recordist
 Sound Recordist
 Sound Recordist
 Sound Recordist
 Assistant Make Up
 Assistant Make Up
 Script Supervisor
 Acting Coach
 Fight Choreography
 Props
 Props
 Catering & Unit
 Production Runner
 Production Runner
 Consultant Morticians

 Locations
 End Credits
 Chaperone's
 Original Poster Design
 Poster Design
 French Translation
 Spanish Translation

Kirsty Hamilton
 Jocelyn Bunch
 Te Smallman
 David Chan
 Kyle Van Tonder
 Mark Papalii
 Marley Papalii
 Jess Charlton (Car Interior)
 Kyle Van Tonder
 Spencer Locke-Bonney
 Hughie Williams Karatiana
 Taine Williams
 Tracey Olivier
 Angela Crumpe
 Hughie Williams Karaitiana
 Gabriel Faatau'uu
 Tipene Halford
 Luke Maddren
 Jess Stephenson
 Maza White
 Elena Watson
 Peter Feeney
 Socrates Fernandes
 Jess Stephenson
 Kirsty Hamilton
 Nichola Gilchrist
 Jade Paynter
 John Rata
 Garth Wright, Brenton Faithfull,
 Aden Mc Onie, Rikki Solomon
 Kirsty Hamilton, Jess Stephenson
 Craig Parkes
 Mandy Docherty, John Allan
 Helen Hayhurst
 Rajneel Singh and Kirsty Hamilton
 Inda Yansane
 Daniel Fernandez

Music Services Provided By



Post Services Provided By



Special Thanks to

Isabel Mary Clark, Rob Hamilton, Fiona Rae, Barbara Hamilton, Roy Hamilton, Cable Rae,
 Jeff Hurrell, Dale Corlett, Suzanne Adamson, Peter Bell, Hughie Williams Karaitiana,
 Janine Knowles, Boianna, Vivianne Schnaas and family, Brenton Faithfull, Faithfull's Funeral
 Services – Red Beach Auckland, Julia Watson, Spookers, Sean Stephens, James Crompton,
 Aliesha Staples, Kylie Cary-Price and Trent Price, Sam Bunkall, Shane Harris, Francis Kewene,
 Alana Spragg, Sam Wang, Mark Da Vanzo, Glenda Wallace, Mustaq Missouri, Tony Ratana,
 John Allan, Taimi Allan, Fiona Mc Callum, Mandy Docherty, Renae Maihi, Parisian Neckwear Co
 Auckland, John Crompton, David Peterson, Miranda Russell, Dan Nathan, Debbie Greenfield.

All those who contributed to my Kickstarter campaign.

Help Lines and Services

Suicide Crisis Helpline	0508 828 865 (NZ)
Youth Line	0800 376 633 (NZ)
Samaritans	0800 726 666 (NZ)
HELP – Auckland	09 623 1700 (NZ)
SAFE network - Auckland	09 377 9898 (NZ)

FAQ'S

Q: What did you learn from making this film?

A: That it's vital to keep in mind the feelings and intention you had in mind when writing the first incarnation of your screenplay. There are so many wonderful artists to communicate with when in production, particularly when you are acting too, so holding dear and articulating the thing that drove you to write that first draft is essential.

Q: How did you get the film funded?

A: My online fund-raising campaign on Kickstarter and all the kind people I know and love who contributed to my campaign. My beautiful mother Isabel passed away in 2015 and from the money she left me, I bought my first car (to get all the pre-production tasks done!) and funded the remainder of the film.

Q: What was it like to work with Matthew Sunderland?

A: Matthew Sunderland is a huge under used talent and I think one of the best actors in New Zealand. He's a consummate professional always willing to dig deep and connect with the truth. Dredging up the hard stuff is something Matthew excels at. I know it's challenging but I knew I could count on him. I'd work with him again in a heartbeat.

Q: What is the New Zealand Film and Television Industry Like for Actors?

A: NZ has a tiny industry outside of what Pete Jackson has created, so it's a very challenging career path to choose. It's tough anywhere. But we don't have a star system so much in NZ, or the massive industry that the US has built. Actresses or actors can do star turns in features here and never be heard from again in terms of career. We have the talent, just not the population, infrastructure or money to generate the finances required to produce the amount of material needed to employ all that talent. I hope like Tomasin McKenzie Harcourt, Cliff Curtis, Anna Paquin and Melanie Lynskey, that through our actors agents, guilds and through our government funding bodies we really start to mentor and connect all the talented actors who want to work more to the get to the US and AUS to help build international careers and in turn help increase the profile and profitability of NZ films.

Q: What is it like being a female writer/director in New Zealand?

A: I'm up and coming so all of my films have been self produced and directed. I know that the ratio of employed female to male directors like everywhere else is very out of balance. Again the female writer/directors here I know are incredibly talented, capable and very qualified, as are the cinematographers. It's just being given the chance to show our skill in the professional arena that needs to be championed.

You direct much fewer films when you spend much of your time writing and producing them too, which I think is tough on the spirit and certainly the pocket. So getting to work as a director in T.V as well as film can be important not only to empower women financially and have that barrier disintegrated but employment experience hopefully, in as many circumstances as we can manifest, deracinate excuses to turn down women lead projects for investment due to lack of experience in the professional arena.

Q: What was the process of making this film like?

A: I did much of the pre-production work myself but once on set I felt immensely privileged to have such an altruistic, hard working, talented team of cast and crew. I feel very at home when directing and on set but this group of people in particular worked incredibly well together and made the whole process of acting and directing simultaneously, very smooth. Chris Matthews my DOP has a very calm, easy and creative way on set, so I found that relationship extremely helpful.

The post production team are all very experienced. Jeff Hurrell my editor who has gone above and beyond, Pete Wellington my colorist, Dick Reade - my post sound expert, and Moonglass Composers, all came on board without reward to help make the film what it is. Everyone who worked on this project made the whole process an incredibly rewarding experience. It was a privilege to work with all involved.

Q: Who are your influences?

A: I love Steve McQueen's work particularly Hunger and 12 Years a Slave, I've yet to see Widows. Jordon Peel's Get Out was fantastic as was Damien Chazelle's Whiplash. I'm inspired by Marianna Palka, Margot Robbie, Mariska Hargitay, Toni Collette, Naomi Watts, Miranda Harcourt, Nikki Caro, Kimberly Peirce, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Jackie Van Beek and Madeleine Sami, Destin Daniel Cretin, Chistine Vachon, Sapphire, Lee Daniels, Sally Field, Marc Turtletaub, family, friends and those who work in the rape and sexual abuse prevention and counselling areas, artists, actors, producers and directors who take risks to tell the truth about events and subjects that are complex and challenging. Also women creating work for other women greatly inspire me.

Q: What's next for you?

A: I have a feature script called Lockhart, with a similar tone to Cold but a drama rather than the mystery/tragedy genre. It deals with rape culture, the roles we create for boys and girls and is interwoven into the story of a sexual abuse survivor's particularly difficult journey and call to action. Again I deal with themes of forgiveness and regret. I'm currently working to find local and international female producer/s to get the film funded, into production and out to audiences.

Links

<http://www.kirstyhamilton.com/press/>

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/201770106/short-film-fundraising-for-'cold'-kirsty-hamilton>

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1342002490/cold>

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0358003/>

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0839146/>

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1286407/>

Production Stills:

