

**PRESS & FESTIVAL KIT 2005**  
**HITCH COCK**

A comedy of **PSYCHO** proportions

Written & Directed by Stuart Vauvert  
Produced by Andrew Arbutnot

# HITCH COCK

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| FILM TITLE        | <b>HITCH COCK</b>   |
| ORIGINAL LANGUAGE | <b>ENGLISH</b>  |
| COMPLETION        | <b>JANUARY 2005</b>   |
| RUNNING TIME      | <b>10 Minutes</b>   |
| GAUGE             | <b>Super 16mm Colour</b>  |
| SCREEN RATIO      | <b>16:9</b>   |
| SCREENING FORMAT  | <b>Digital Beta/SP Beta/DVD/VHS</b>   |
| PUBLICITY STILLS  | <b>via website or by request</b>  |
| WEBSITE           | <b><a href="http://www.escendi.com.au/hitchcock">www.escendi.com.au/hitchcock</a></b> |

## SYNOPSIS

Steve has the perfect 50s lifestyle: a great job, a beautiful apartment, a loving wife, and wonderful friends. However, upon returning home from work one evening, Steve looks through his telescope and accidentally witnesses something which could change his life forever. Unable to forget what he has seen, Steve discovers the effect this has on his psyche is far more than he can deal with as he comes to terms with his dark secret.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

Susan would like to cordially invite you to a dinner party to help celebrate her perfect, married life with her husband Steve. Unfortunately, it may not be as perfect as she thinks as Steve realises he likes the 'COCK au Vin' a little too much. A comedy where not everything is as it seems.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT ABOUT HITCH COCK

HITCH COCK is a highly camp parody of Sir Alfred Hitchcock's 1929 film, *Blackmail*, which was Britain's first talking film. In *Blackmail* the lead actress is haunted by images and sounds of a "knife" after she murders a man in self-defence. HITCH COCK is set in the 1950s situation-comedy style of a seemingly harmonious marriage: where life appears as simple and perfect as the next heterosexual couple. We follow Steve's hallucinations after he witnesses an intimate situation through his telescope while his perfect house wife, Susan, is preparing dinner for their guests, the Ashtons. Throughout the entire evening, Steve is bombarded with sexually-charged metaphors and images which are a constant reminder that he has perhaps unleashed inner feelings he may not be ready to deal with.

## HITCH COCK SCREENINGS 2005

Premiere Event: 12th Mardi Gras Film Festival, Sydney 2005  
Melbourne Queer Film Festival 2005  
London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival 2005

# HITCH COCK

About the Producer

**ANDREW ARBUTHNOT**

Email: [andrew@lalapictures.com](mailto:andrew@lalapictures.com)

Andrew Arbuthnot is an Independent Producer based in Sydney. Starting at 18, Andrew's first project *INYAFACE* a magazine pilot show for teens was funded by the Gaming Machine Benefit Fund. On completion Artist Services optioned *INYAFACE* to be developed into a series. Andrew's first short film *Patsy's Party* was funded by the Brisbane City Council and was one of the first dance films ever produced in Queensland, garnishing Best Independent Film and Best Production Design Awards at the Warner Roadshow Queensland New Filmmakers Awards in 1997. Andrew spent two years in the UK working in distribution for PolyGram Film and in Marketing and Commissioning for Channel 4 Television.

Andrew was taken with the original short story, *Contact*, written by AFI award winner John Lonie and secured funding from the New South Wales Film & Television Office. Since completion in 2002, *Contact* has screened in some 38 international film festivals. It picked up the Highly Commended Panavision Prize at the Sydney Mardi Gras Film Festival 2003.

About the Writer/Director

**STUART VAUVERT**

Contact:

PO BOX 977

NEWTOWN, NSW, 2206

AUSTRALIA

Email: [stuart@escendi.com.au](mailto:stuart@escendi.com.au)

Stuart's original take on life is what makes his films stand out. This is never more apparent than in his first short, *Heather Locklear Chocolate*. Since its release in 2000, this film has become an instant cult classic, winning the Adrian Clarke Development and Audience Awards at My Queer Career, then went on to screen all over the globe, opening the ...Melbourne Queer Film Festival in 2001, and being purchased by SBS TV. This was followed by the controversial short film, *Glory*, which toured through several festivals including My Queer Career, and the Triple J Framebreaks Competition, and found its own unique fan-base.

While not making films of his own, Stuart is also the co-founder of the EYESCREAM Film Festival, a festival and competition based on the darker genres of short film, such as horror, thrillers, and black comedy. Open to all residents of Australia, EYESCREAM attracted over 60 entries, more than

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\$6,000 worth of sponsored prizes, and a judging panel of highly respected industry figures.

## **DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

**GLORY** (2003)

WRITER/DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Selected as a finalist in various Short film festivals:

Triple J FRAMEBREAKS Moonlight Cinema Competition 2003

Mardi Gras Film Festival 2003 Sydney

CELLULOID CASSEROLE MQFF 2003 Melbourne

14th Annual Vancouver Film & Video Festival 2003

**HEATHER LOCKLEAR CHOCOLATE** (2000)

WRITER/DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Winner of various awards including:

2000 Sydney Mardi Gras - Winner of the Adrian Clarke Award and The Audience Award

Golden TAP Awards, Darlinghurst 2000 - 1ST Prize

Metro Screen's Kaleidoscope 2000 - 2ND Prize

**Television Screenings:**

FETCHING SHORTS 'SBS Television' 2000

DV8 'Channel 31' 2003

**Heather Locklear Chocolate has screened at several festivals in**

Australia, Europe and the US, including:

Sydney Mardi Gras Film Festival (February 2000)

New Zealand Outtakes (May 2000)

Queerfest, Brisbane (July 2000)

Outfest Los Angeles Intl. G & L Film Festival (July 2000)

ImageOut: The Rochester Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival (2000)

MixBrazil Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (2000)

San Francisco International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (2000)

MIX: New York Lesbian & Gay Experimental Film/Video Festival (2000)

Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (2001)

OPENING NIGHT - Melbourne Queer Film Festival (April 2001)

Turin Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (2001)

Washington Intl. Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (2001)

Inside Out - Toronto International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (2001)

The Milwaukee Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival (2001)

OPENING NIGHT - The Reel Out Queer Film & Video Festival, Kingston, Ontario (2002)

Shorts in Winter, Bondi Beach (2002)

Comedy Short Film Festival, Melbourne 2004

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## About the Cast

### **MATT SUTHERLAND** Steve

Matthew Sutherland started out as a stand up comedian making the National JJJ Raw Final and going on to perform in international comedy festivals around the world. His laconic delivery and impeccable timing meant even the most cynical has fallen prey to his robust humour.

He has completed the Graduate Acting Course at the Actor Centre Australia and is developing into one this country's most exciting actors. He will be reprising the role as Steve in a stage version, adapted for the Short and Sweet Festival in 2005.

### **FIONA JURD** Susan

Fiona is not only an accomplished dancer, but also a very busy actress. She trained as a dancer for 25 years and worked in *Grease* and *Happy days*, touring Australia and Asia. She then trained as an actor for 2 years at the Actors Centre Australia in the Journey 2002.

2004 has been an incredibly busy year for Fiona, with her appearing on TV shows such as *ALL SAINTS* and *COMEDY INC.*, as well as on advertisements for Radio Rentals and the Sunday Telegraph. She performed in *Acrobats* by Israel Horovitz at Belvoir Downstairs. She is also a national grand champion girl of Physical Culture, a competition held at the Opera House that she won four times! Fiona is also returning for her role as Susan in the play version.

### **VINCENT SIMON** Jean-Pierre

In Sydney, Vincent trained through the Journey 2002 at the Actors Centre, Surry Hills. Both in Paris and in Sydney, Vincent has appeared in a variety of plays and Cabaret shows. In January 2004, Vincent directed *the Line* and *Acrobats* by Israel Horovitz at Downstairs Belvoir as well as a short play, *Spots*, by Steven Hopley, as part of the 2004 Short and Sweet Festival in Newtown; ending up in the final at the Seymour Centre; with Steve Hopley winning Best New Writer. Vincent also went to Hong Kong and Shanghai, where he performed in a burlesque cabaret, *Schnekenudle*.

Vincent is currently adapting a play version of *HITCH COCK* for the 2005 Short and Sweet Festival, where he will be directing, as well as reprising his role as Jean-Pierre. He has directed *Twelfth Night* for the Central Coast Shakespeare Company in January, 2005; and is also involved with the production of *Così fan tutte* by Opera Australia.

# HITCH COCK

## JACQUELINE ARCHER *Mary*

Jacqueline graduated from the Actors Centre in 2002. Her theatre credits include; *Twelfth Night*, *Uncle Vanya*, *True West*, *Dreams in an Empty City*, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, *The Big Funk* (Tap Gallery - Casting Couch Productions) and *Rules of Three* (Bondi Pavilion). Film Credits include *Respect*, *Can It Be?* and *Glitter & Dust*. TV appearances include a cameo for the Republican Campaign *It's Time* and main lead in music video for Kel.

In 2004, Jacqueline starred and co-produced the recent production of Israel Horovitz's *The Line*, shown at the Belvoir Street Downstairs Theatre. Jacqueline is currently studying at The Atlantic Theatre Company in New York.

## CREDITS – IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

### CAST

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 'Steve'       | MATTHEW SUTHERLAND                 |
| 'Susan'       | FIONA JURD                         |
| 'Mary'        | JACKIE ARCHER                      |
| 'Jean-Pierre' | VINCENT SIMON                      |
| Men at window | KERRY DAWSON &<br>MICHAEL DRUMMOND |

### CREW

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1st Assistant Director                   | FIONA VAUVERT   |
| Assistant Director &<br>Graphic Designer | EINAR JOHANSEN  |
| Focus Puller &<br>Clapper Loader         | ANDREW McLEOD   |
| Continuity                               | ISEULT CHAMPION |
| Make Up & Hair                           | KERRY BAKER     |
| Camera & Lighting Assistant              | DIEGO ORTEGA    |

# HITCH COCK

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sound Recordist           | FRANCISCO JAVIER                        |
| Boom Operator             | NICK LOWTHER                            |
| Art Department Seamstress | DITA DUARTE                             |
| Production Assistant      | ELLIOTT MAGEN                           |
| Set Construction          | GREG BECHLY                             |
| Opening Titles & Effects  | ANTONIA FREDMAN                         |
| Online Editor             | IAN DUNCAN                              |
| Telecine & Vision Grader  | DWAINE HYDE                             |
| Sound Design              | ADRIAN BILINSKY &<br>ADRIENNE ALEXANDER |
| Sound Mix                 | BEN GRANT                               |
| Score Composed by         | SCOTT CAMERON                           |
| Editor                    | ANDREW SOO                              |
| Production Designer       | MICHAEL TURNER                          |
| Cinematographer           | OLIVER LAWRENCE                         |
| Produced by               | ANDREW ARBUTHNOT                        |
| Written & Directed by     | STUART VAUVERT                          |

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