

Produced in association with The Australian Film Commission
and the Kings Cross Partnership, Free Agent.Com Presents

CROSS LIFE

Genre	Drama
Shoot Format	Digital
Duration	100 minutes
Finance Attached	Australian Film Commission / private investment

Director
Claire McCarthy

Writers
Christopher Strickland
Claire McCarthy
Andre Smith

Producers
Claire McCarthy
and
Anne Robinson
with
Andre Smith

Director Of Photography
Robert Agganis

Editor
Ken Sallows ASE

SYNOPSIS

Ten fragments of life. Three days until Christmas. Cross Life is a tale of ordinary people pained by the desire for love amidst the sensual delights of Sydney's red light district.

DETAILED SYNOPSIS

Trace's plans to be a singer are swamped by debt as she faces the biggest decision of her young life. Bill tries to continue a family legacy by taking his son to the red-light district for his 16th birthday. Zana becomes obsessed with a local child she finds swimming in her pool, whom she believes to be the daughter of a prostitute. Rachel, hardened by the trauma of the emergency ward, forces a homeless couple expecting their first child to desperate measures to secure a place to give birth. Two boys embark on a reckless rampage through Kings Cross when a long planned promise is broken.

These stories overlap and affect each other in surprising ways as the boys appetite for destruction collides with a unified desperation for a better life.

Influenced strongly by social-realism and documentary filmmaking, CROSS LIFE is also a surreal and visceral journey into the hearts and lives of the Kings Cross community. The films story has been gleaned from a year of research and interviews with local Kings Cross characters (in which a micro-documentary was produced; CITY EDGE).

CROSS LIFE dovetails the rich, vastly contrasting and often painfully human stories of the Kings Cross community into the intertwining personal pathways of the films narrative.

Kings Cross is Australia's most famous neighbourhood and one of the nation's most socially liberal and culturally diverse places. CROSS LIFE challenges the misconceptions and attitudes of this rich and diverse arena and grapples with themes of family, identity and freedom.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

CROSS LIFE began as a community arts training program in 2004 to assist young unemployed creatives gain employment in the film industry. The original objective was to supervise a film based training program to assist disadvantaged members of the community by teaching film related modules (editing, basic camera and sound production, interview techniques, research skills, script writing etc) and to better prepare these project participants for ongoing employment in the film industry.

The team produced a short documentary program and then decided to develop these findings into a fiction film drama. Through guidance of writer / director / producer Claire McCarthy and writer / producer Andre Smith, the group developed the program into a feature length script that the team shot at the end of 2005.

The objective was to make a industry standard feature length film that would be characterized by strong stories and a personal commitment from its collaborators.

CROSS LIFE has had strong support from the local Kings Cross business and community, the local government and significantly from film industry professionals and service providers. Many of the actors in the film were participants in the training program and were joined and elevated by professional actors in particular Imogen Annesley, Paul Caesar, Tony Barry and Danielle Rohweder .

Value-in-kind support from the local businesses and residents of the Kings Cross area included props, costumes, design work, parking, catering and office, rehearsal and storage space during production. Sponsorship from the film industry included advice and mentoring, crew assistance during production, and equipment including Panavision Australia and Panavision Lighting Australia who sponsored the production for camera equipment, lenses and lighting, Animal Logic who sponsored tests for a 35mm blow up and Hoyts at Fox Studios who provided the venue for preliminary rough cut screenings. Support from the City of Sydney and the Australian Navy has enabled the production team access to unique locations within the Kings Cross region and avenues for liaison and support from local government.

Since exposure to this process, numerous participants in the program have gained employment in the film industry and have gone on to further study at both tertiary and post graduate levels including production designer Inneke Smit and costume designer Clare Moloney who are both currently studying at the Australian Film TV and Radio School (AFTRS).

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fundamentally, the aim of CROSS LIFE was to make a universal, humanist Australian feature film about the changing face of Sydney's infamous Kings Cross.

Incredibly generous support for the project from Australian Film Industry professionals and service companies, the unique nature of the creative process in developing the films narrative within a training program and by establishing a direct link with the community in which it was born has given CROSS LIFE the potential to be a unique Australian feature film about a particular and colourful part of Sydney.

Each story in CROSS LIFE explores basic struggles – the cycles of birth and death, the rites of passage from childhood to adulthood, the tensions between traditional beliefs and the distractions of the modern world.

Sydney's infamous Kings Cross is the symbolic backdrop for this opera of ordinary people's lives.

CROSS LIFE would not have been made possible without the dedication and support of our wonderful actors, crew, post production team and the Kings Cross community, local council and businesses.

CAST

Imogen Annesley is a well known Australian actor who has appeared in Australian and International films since she was 5 years old. Amongst her screen credits include PLAYING BEATTIE BOW, QUEEN OF THE DAMNED and HOWLING 3: THE MARSUPIALS. Imogen's television credits also include FAMILIES, WATER RATS, BLUE WATER HIGH, FARSCAPE and ABOVE THE LAW.

Paul Caesar is a NIDA graduate and an accomplished theatre and screen actor. He has appeared in a number of Australian films including THE WELL and has solid TV credits including YOUNG LIONS, ALL SAINTS, BLUE SKY and starred opposite Ernie Dingo in acclaimed TV series HEARTLAND. Also a talented writer, Paul is working on a number of screenplays and a TV series.

Tony Barry has been acting in Australian and international film and TV for over 50 years. His roles include SOLO, THE NIGHT WE CALLED IT A DAY, LA SPAGNOLA, MULLET, NED and MANS GOTTA DO and his innumerable TV credits include the acclaimed ABC series THE SILENCE, ALL SAINTS, BLACK JACK, WATER RATS and STINGERS.

Also with actors:

Danielle Rohweder
Elaine Hudson
Mo Amiri
Carl Laurie
Gerard McCarthy
Richard Kennett
Clareissa Holm
Syanne Williams
Kate Musfud

CREW

Claire McCarthy is a Sydney based writer, director, producer and visual artist, and has been making internationally acclaimed short films and documentaries for over a decade. A directing graduate of the Australian Film TV and Radio School (2001), Claire has written, directed and produced a number of documentaries and short films in Australia, India, Germany and Mexico including SKIN (2006), THE FIND (2006), CITY EDGE (2005), STARBABY (2002), PANOPTICON (2001), SQUARE SPACE (2000) and TINSEL (1999). CROSS LIFE is her first feature film and her documentary film SISTERS broadcast on ABC television in Feb 2008. Claire's next feature THE

WAITING CITY is in development through the Australian Film Commission's IndiVision program and release is expected in early 2010.

Anne Robinson has produced numerous short films (*Cherry Orchard*, St Kilda Film Festival) selected for many International film festivals. *WEST* her second feature film premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in early 2007 and will be released in Australia and internationally in mid 2007.

Andre Smith studied performance studies, theatre and media through Sydney University and the University of New South Wales. Having performed in numerous plays, television dramas and commercials, Andre also has been involved in business development and marketing. In this capacity, Andre has been engaged in industries as diverse as agriculture and hospitality. Andre is currently working on a documentary about indigenous spirituality in Australia.

Robert Agganis has been Director of Photography on several feature films including 'Love in the First Degree' (AKA 'Straight to You'), and 'Quincy' (IMAX Super 35), and numerous short films, including 'The Diva', and 'Tinsel'. Robert was Steadicam Operator for feature films 'Matrix III', 'Balmain Boys', 'The Quiet American', 'Predator' 'Three Stooges', 'Bootmen', 'Dating the Enemy', and 'Birthday Girl', and has been Steadicam Operator on music clips for INXS, Jon Stevens, Mark Edwards, and Rose Tattoo. Robert has also worked on numerous commercials for Coca-Cola, Continental Airlines, Yves Saint Laurent, Shiseido Elixir and OPSM.

Ken Sallows ASE is a veteran Australian editor and has cut some of Australia's most acclaimed feature films. His credits include TOM WHITE, GETTING SQUARE, CRACKERJACK, YOLNGU BOY, CHOPPER, DOING TIME FOR PATSY CLINE and PROOF. His current project THE TENDER HOOK is due for release in mid 2008.

CROSS LIFE CREDIT LIST

Director Claire McCarthy
Writers Christopher Strickland, Claire McCarthy, Andre Smith
Producers Claire McCarthy with Anne Robinson & Andre Smith

Director of Photography Robert Agganis
Editor Ken Sallows ASE
Music Michael Yezerki, Claire Morgan
Production Designer Inneke Smit
Costume Designer Clare Maloney
Sound Designer Luke Mynott

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Bill	Tony Barry
Jonas	Gerard McCarthy
Trace	Danielle Rohweder
Phillipa	Georgie Speakman
Rachel	Elaine Hudson
Zana	Imogen Annesley
David	Richard Kennett
Man	Paul Caesar
Woman	Clareissa Holm
Jessie	Kate Musfud
Donald	Mo Amiri
Kane	Carl Laurie
Lois	Syanne Williams
Erickson	Jonothan Elsom
Hulver	George Sais

CREW

Line Producer	Mim Davis
Production Manager	Kylie Lawrance
Pre-production Manager	Stephanie Moxham
AFC Project Manager	Karin Altman
1st Assistant Director	Conor Reid

Gaffer	Diego Pasqualino
Camera Assistant	Morgan Healy
Camera Assistant	Toby Trappel
Camera Assistant	Hugo O'Connor
Camera Assistant	Kurt Poniewierka
Camera Assistant	Joe Bale
Sound Recordist	Piers Burbrook De Vere
Boom Operator	Nick Jones
Art Dept Assistant	Kait Luker
Art Dept Assistant	Michele Gray
Art Dept Assistant	Simeon Forrest
Art Dept Assistant	Rod Cleland
Art Dept Assistant	Johanna Verg
Art Dept Assistant	Rohan Scarr
Set Dresser/Prop Buyer	Jade Cantwell
Set Dresser/Prop Buyer	Paul Finch
Set Dresser/Prop Buyer	Christine Papas
Set Dresser/Prop Buyer	Ali Graham
Set Dresser	Jonathon Perera
Set Dresser	Adela Andelic
Set Dresser	Loren Weber
Set Dresser	Azra Maulkin
Graphics	Richard O'Regan
Construction	Paul Wheatly
Key Makeup/Hair Artist	Sonia Attie
Assistant Makeup/Hair	Shelley Jacobsen
Assistant Makeup/Hair	Jo Haldane
Assistant Makeup/Hair	Jess Regan
Catering	Holiday Inn, Potts Pt
Catering	The Crest Hotel
Catering	Tropicana Cafe
Catering	Zachary's
Catering	Una's
Production Assistant	Stephanie Beggs
Locations	Cassie Kelly
Locations	Wayne Lyons
Unit Assistant	Hugo O'Connor
Stunt Co-ordinator	Leroy Page
Stills Photographer	Bryan Smith
AFC Project Officer	Karen Altman

Offline Edit Facility
Assistant Editor

Magnet Editing
Toby Trappel

THANK YOUs

City of Sydney
Panavision / ACS
Nick Godoy
Kim Bland
Karin Altman
Trish Lake
Jamie Hilton
Josh Mawer
Mark Cleary
Megan Simpson- Huberman
McCarthy Family
Smith Family
Andy Mullens

PRODUCER CONTACT DETAILS

Claire McCarthy
claire.g.mccarthy@gmail.com
0417 445 508

Anne Robinson
annerobinson5@bigpond.com
0407 113 911

Andre Smith
onge75@hotmail.com
0414 705 342

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

www.kingscrossonline.com.au/crosslife