

AT THE FORMAL

Modern and ancient rituals collide in this macabre depiction of a high school formal

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY:
ANDREW KAVANAGH

PRODUCED BY:
RAMONA TELECICAN

A VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF ARTS PRODUCTION.



THE ***AT THE FORMAL*** STORY

LONG SYNOPSIS:

Graduating year 12 students in formal attire, their parents and teachers, mill around the grounds and car park of a hall in the twilight. At first glance, it looks like the normal proceedings of a school formal. Parents get photos with their children, clusters of 18 year olds chat excitedly and one boy is hoisted on the shoulders of his friends. But as time goes on, the observation of uncanny moments hint that things may not be exactly as they seem.

AT THE FORMAL explores the human need for ceremony by comparing the modern ritual of a school formal with the ancient ritual of human sacrifice and in doing so asks the question: Behind the veil of civil ideals, have we really changed that much?

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

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andrewkavanaghfilms.blogspot.com

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GET INVOLVED WITH THE NEXT PRODUCTION **MEN OF THE EARTH
BEING FILMED IN EARLY JUNE (Contact us for more information).*

"Compelling and cinematic opening with brave and effective music for track support. Slow motion and casting supports the ritualistic themes of primal nature, and a sense of archetype brilliantly illuminates the work. A raw and primitive story told with great sophistication, a festival winner no worries."

Ian Lang; Head Professor / Filmmaker / Executive Producer (VCA FILM & TV, SBS)



AT THE FORMAL BUZZ AND ACCLAIM

Since its premiere screening at the Australian Centre For Moving Image in Melbourne, Australia **AT THE FORMAL** has been received with excitement and enthusiastic curiosity.

AWARDS:

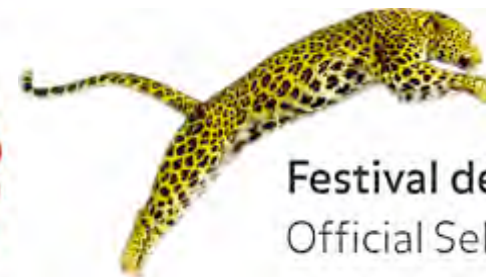
- 2010 VILLAGE ROADSHOW "Best Production"
- 2010 FILM VICTORIA "Best Undergraduate Production"
- 2010 OPEN CHANNEL "Most Daring and Innovative Production"
- 2010 PANAVISION "Best Cinematography"

NOMINATIONS:

- 2011 ACADEMY AWARDS "Best Student Production"
- 2011 CILECT "Best Production"
- 2010 VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS "Best Achievement in Directing"
"Best Achievement in Sound"
- PREMIER AWARDS "Best Potential for Theatrical Distribution"

REVIEWS:

- 2010 SCREEN HUB "VCA: end of a tumultuous year as school senses chance to expand again"
- 2010 THE AGE "Tough times yield a bumper crop of VCA filmmakers"
- 2010 FILM INK MAGAZINE "2010 VCA Film & Television Award-winning Graduates"



Festival del film Locarno
Official Selection



"Intense and unsettling. In what appears to be a single continuous shot, it depicts the downward spiral of a school formal from a seemingly innocent and harmless prank to a baroque orgy of depravity and ritualistic violence. It is a dark fable about manhood, initiation and gender-based social conditioning"
Paul Kalina; Film Critic (THE AGE)

AT THE FORMAL PRODUCTION CREDITS + DETAILS

AT THE FORMAL is a Victorian College of the Arts Production, filmed on location in Melbourne, Australia.

PRODUCTION CREW:

WRITER / DIRECTOR:
ANDREW KAVANAGH

CINEMATOGRAPHER:
KAI SMYTHE

STEADYCAM OPERATOR:
LOUIS PULI

ART DIRECTOR:
JACQUELINE DOWLING

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR:
SIMONE CURRY

PRODUCER:
RAMONA TELECICAN

PRODUCTION MANAGER:
TOM BICKNELL

KEY CAST:

HEADMASTER:
DAVID MACRAE

HEADMISTRESS:
PAULINE STREATFEILD

SCHOOL BOY:
ANTHONY LITTLECHILD

SLEAZY TEACHER:
JEREMY KEWELLY

**Full credits available on request.*

DURATION:
7 minutes 45 seconds

FORMAT:
Super 16mm

SCREENING FORMAT:
Digi Betacam

"Genuinely audacious film...It takes a lot of courage to think completely out of the square and follow that vision. In this film, that choice has really paid off because it totally stands out as being made by a new unique singular voice in cinema"
Stuart Mc Donald; Australian Film and Television Director (STRANDED, RUSH, SUMMER HEIGHTS HIGH)



AT THE FORMAL DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

In 2008 Andrew was accepted into the Victorian College of the Arts; School of Film and Television where he would spend the next three years living, breathing and of course making films. He would also become the recipient of the VCA's "2008 Friend's of the VCA" award, and a nominee of Kodak International's 2010 "Best Cinematographer Award". Driven by a need to find his own voice, Andrew began experimenting with and questioning his craft, becoming interested in the use of unusual formal devices to tell his stories. Nowhere are these tendencies more clearly observed than in his highly successful graduating film **AT THE FORMAL**; which employs slow motion, abstract sound scapes and long choreographed shots to tell the story of a high school formal in decline.

2011 sees Andrew completing his VCA Honours degree and in pre production for **AT THE FORMAL**'s follow up film **MEN OF THE EARTH** to be shot in early June. The film takes us behind the stop sign of a roadwork's site to observe an unusual and unexpected funeral ceremony. Here, Andrew continues his exploration of ceremony and ritual in yet another surprising and unpredictable narrative. Andrew has been described by Australian Film and Television Director Stuart McDonald (STRANDED, RUSH, SUMMER HEIGHTS HIGH) as a "unique singular voice in cinema" and is a rising talent to watch out for in the independent film industry.



WRITER. DIRECTOR. EDITOR.

	CV:
AT THE FORMAL	2010
(Co-Director) RENTED SPACE TV PILOT	2010
CONCUBINE	2009
DETLEV'S INFIDELITY	2009
DEAR UMBILICAL CORD	2008
THIS IS NOT MY FILM	2008

CINEMATOGRAPHER.

CIVILIZED SOUP	2008
BOY'S WEEKEND	2009
JETTY	2009
THE ANSWER	2009
SARAH	2009
PARRA BELLUM	2009
A SHORT HISTORY OF MIME	2008
I'M THROUGH WITH YOU SUE	2008

COMPOSER.

TWO UP	2008
AT THE FORMAL	2010
BUFO	2010
KWIK FIX	2010
THE TIKI HOUR	2010
THE ANSWER	2010
SARAH	2009
BLOOD OF THE EAGLE	2009
DETLEV'S INFIDELITY	2009
CONCUBINE	2009
HOLDING SHADOWS	2009
POLE DEFENCE	2009
THE USUALS	2008



“A very strong and complete short film... All departments from scriptwriter through to sound mixer have achieved a level of excellence in creating a striking film with an incredibly strong ambience...a piece of confident, assured and bold filmmaking of which the director should feel very proud. AT THE FORMAL shows a writer and director with a clear and uncompromising vision.”
Juliet Porter; Australian Film Writer/Director (BREATHE, FOXTEL PRODUCTIONS)

AT THE FORMAL PRODUCER'S PROFILE

Hiring, firing, checklists and financiers. Permits, contracts, schedules and meetings. And sometimes the acquisition of goats. Solid, resonating creative ideas, need Ramona's executive abilities before they form into experiences.

Ramona Telecican has been producing a variety of cultural shows and events (film and theatre productions to exhibition and product launches) for the last eight years. Education credentials include a Diploma in Fine Art Sculpture and Performance Art, a Certificate IV in Small Business Management and a Certificate V in Arts Administration. Specifically catered to the Fashion, Film and Event industries, Ramona Telecican embraces accountability and consolidation of concept, organisation and promotion strategies to make sure a creative assignment advances to full capacity.

Also a professional Fashion and Object Stylist, and an avid Installation Artist in her spare time, Ramona keeps her love of aesthetics and creative consultancy well nurtured. Having exhibited, curated, managed and produced all of her own work as well as other assignments, Ramona's framework for Creative Production is built from comprehensive and ever-evolving management and liaison strategies. Most recently, Ramona was involved with the third series of Foxtel's *Project Runway* and having produced **AT THE FORMAL**, is currently in pre-production for her second collaboration project with Andrew Kavanagh, **MEN OF THE EARTH**.

To discuss being involved in Ramona and Andrew's next film project **MEN OF THE EARTH**, or for the appointment of their services, please contact Ramona by phone +61 (0) 423 909 634 or by email ramona@telecican.com

CLIENTS

FOXTEL	2011
JAMES VARNISH	2011
KANGAN INSTITUTE OF TAFE	2010
LIMEDROP	2010
JOLET	2010
ARDOCH FOUNDATION	2010
RMIT	2009
SOLUTION RED	2009
DENDY CINEMA	2008

RECENT PRODUCTIONS:

INSTITUTE OF MODERN ART	to 2006
MAGICAL MERCHANDISING	2006
METRO THEATRE	2004
PROJECT RUNWAY SERIES 3	2011
L'OREAL MELBOURNE FASHION FESTIVAL	2011
KANGAN RUNWAY PARADE	2010
UP & COMERS FASHION SHOW	2010
RMIT GRADUATE PORTFOLIOS	2009
DOCKLANDS CORPORATE FUNDRAISERS	2009
SEASONAL OPENING NIGHTS, DIRECTOR Q&A SESSIONS	2008
AND EXCLUSIVE SCREENING AND FILM FESTIVAL EVENTS	to 2006
MONTHLY EXHIBITION LAUNCHES	2006
EXCLUSIVE PRODUCT LAUNCHES	2011
RETAIL LAUNCH FUNCTIONS	to 2006
PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS	Current
THEATRE PRODUCTION 'SMALL DREAMS'	2004

A man in a dark suit is seen from the side, focused on pouring drinks from several dark bottles into a long row of glasses on a table. The table is covered with a light-colored cloth and is set with various beverages, including champagne flutes and colorful cocktails. In the background, a large white sheet is draped over an object, and the setting appears to be outdoors at night.

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