

A FILM BY RENÉE MARIE PETROPOULOS

TANGLES AND KNOTS

A JARS PRODUCTIONS & PAPERMOOSE PRODUCTION. Starring LEEANNA WALSMAN ODESSA YOUNG
MITZI RUHLMANN TOBY WALLACE GOVINDA ROSER-FINCH BRYN CHAPMAN PARISH Casting By STEVIE RAY, CGA
Cinematographer LOE WHITE, ACS Production Designer DIVA ABRAHAMIAN Costumes By LUCIA ARIAS-MARTINEZ
Sound Design ELI COHN Associate Producer MELINA MARAKI Co-Produced by KRISTIN FROST
Produced by JANET BROWN & YINGNA LU Written & Directed by RENÉE MARIE PETROPOULOS

TANGLES AND KNOTS Press Kit

Contact

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Jars Productions

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Paper Moose

<https://www.facebook.com/tanglesandknotsfilm/>





Technical Information

Title: Tangles and Knots

Runtime: 16 Min 20 Sec

Country of Production: Australia

Production Company: Jars Productions
Paper Moose

Shoot Format: Arri Amira

Aspect Ratio: 1:1:85

Sound: 5.1

Language: English

Screening Format: Colour 2D DCP 2K

Completed: July 2017



Logline

[26 Words]

A unique, intimate bond between mother and daughter becomes threatened when the mother helps her teenage daughter throw a party to impress new, more popular friends.

Synopsis

[72 Words]

Set in the height of summer in Sydney, Australia, 'Tangles and Knots' follows a unique, intimate relationship between a mother and her teenage daughter. They act more like girlfriends together than parent and child. This relationship becomes threatened when the mother helps her daughter throw a house party to impress new, more popular friends. As their relationship unravels throughout the night, a much more sinister threat emerges that will jeopardise their bond forever.



Director's Statement

Renée Marie Petropoulos

TANGLES AND KNOTS is a project shaped by themes that have consistently marked my work: female sexuality, aging and the fluidity of family roles. But beyond these themes, the film is extremely personal: drawing primarily from my own unconventional relationship with my mother. Just like Michelle and Laura, we acted more like girlfriends than mother and child. We would share everything and anything together. From clothing, to sex advice, to friends, it was both freeing and invasive simultaneously.

As a writer, this relationship is the core of the film: it is a toxic dependency between Mother and Daughter that is uncomfortable, intimate but also poignant. I wanted to convey this unique bond in all its complexity. It is a kaleidoscope of emotions that is constantly in flux: from deep affection to seething hatred, from pride to jealousy, from adoration to shame.

With this intricate bond at the core of the film, I could excavate more profound themes and ideas. As Michelle and Laura's relationship unravels throughout the night, the ultimate result of the tumultuous evening is much more sinister: raising questions about female sexuality, male privilege and the universal threat of sexual violence felt by all women. It is a threat that can emerge from any unintended gesture: the sharing a cigarette, touching another's arm, a compliment, a glance. These gestures should not be open invitations.

Ultimately, I have always been drawn to female-driven stories, particularly writing characters that are complicated and flawed: they are selfish, impulsive and ultimately human. As a Director, I strive for an uncomfortable intimacy with all of my characters that feels truthful and not overly stylized, especially when dealing with such tender subject matter as sexual assault. Through camera work that is uncomfortably close the viewer is confronted with every minuscule behaviour of the characters but also their proximity to others: their place trapped within the group, their place outside of it.

With an accumulation of small, painful moments in TANGLES AND KNOTS, I hope to lead the audience to dive deeper and deeper with these characters until they reach the point of no return.



Producer's Statement

Janet Brown

TANGLES AND KNOTS was the result of the talented and compassionate writing from writer/director Renée Marie Petropoulos. I was excited to work with Renée knowing with her direction we could develop a strong, nuanced female story from her script and not just another typical coming of age story.

It was vital from the start that the team assembled would share in the creative vision for the project. We were fortunate to work with an immensely talented, predominantly female creative team to help tell this important female story.

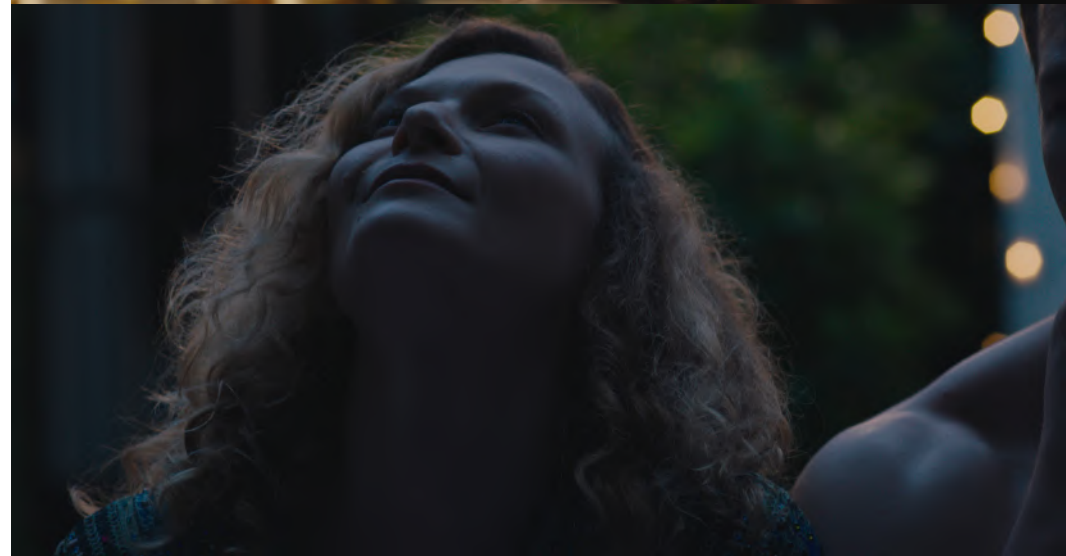
With a powerful, all-female producing team from around the globe, we set to work quite quickly. From the beginning we worked with a small budget and ran a successful Indiegogo campaign to raise part of our funding: raising 10K out of our original 15K goal with the help of donors from both Australia and the United States.

Ultimately, our proud, little Aussie film got its real start when we confirmed our two leads. Working with McGregor Casting, we were able to confirm Leeanna Walsman and Odessa Young as Michelle and Laura. Working with the pair was an absolute dream: both gave their all in their performances and their prominence in the industry helped us secure other high-profile creatives for the project including the supremely talented Australian Cinematographer, Zoë White, who has just completed shooting the second season of HBO's 'The Handmaid's Tale'.

Collaboration is a crucial part of this industry and was the very foundation of this film. We continued this ethos into post production, utilising an array of young, emerging Female and Australian hip hop artists to populate the background of the party.

Ultimately, the film speaks to women on a universal level: no matter what age, sexual assault and behaviours of sexual micro-aggression are a common experience. Today, it is even more clear how prevalent this story is. With the emerging Hollywood sexual assault allegations and growing #MeToo movement, we knew it was important to bring this story to audiences.

Despite all of this, 2017 was a huge win for female-driven stories in cinema and we hope to continue this trend as we begin our festival run this year .





Our Production

TANGLES AND KNOTS was shot with a predominantly female crew. All key creative roles throughout production were filled by an entourage of extremely talented women.

This includes our writer/director, all five producers, our cinematographer, 1st assistant director, the entire art department including our production designer, costume designer, make-up artists as well as our editors and colourist.

Working with passionate, female creatives was paramount for this film and having this gendered crew helped to create a safe, nurturing environment for our cast to explore such sensitive and emotional material.

We were extremely fortunate to work with such an outstanding, supportive cast and crew and as a director, I will continue to strive for gender equality behind the scenes of all upcoming projects.





Writer & Director

Renée Marie Petropoulos

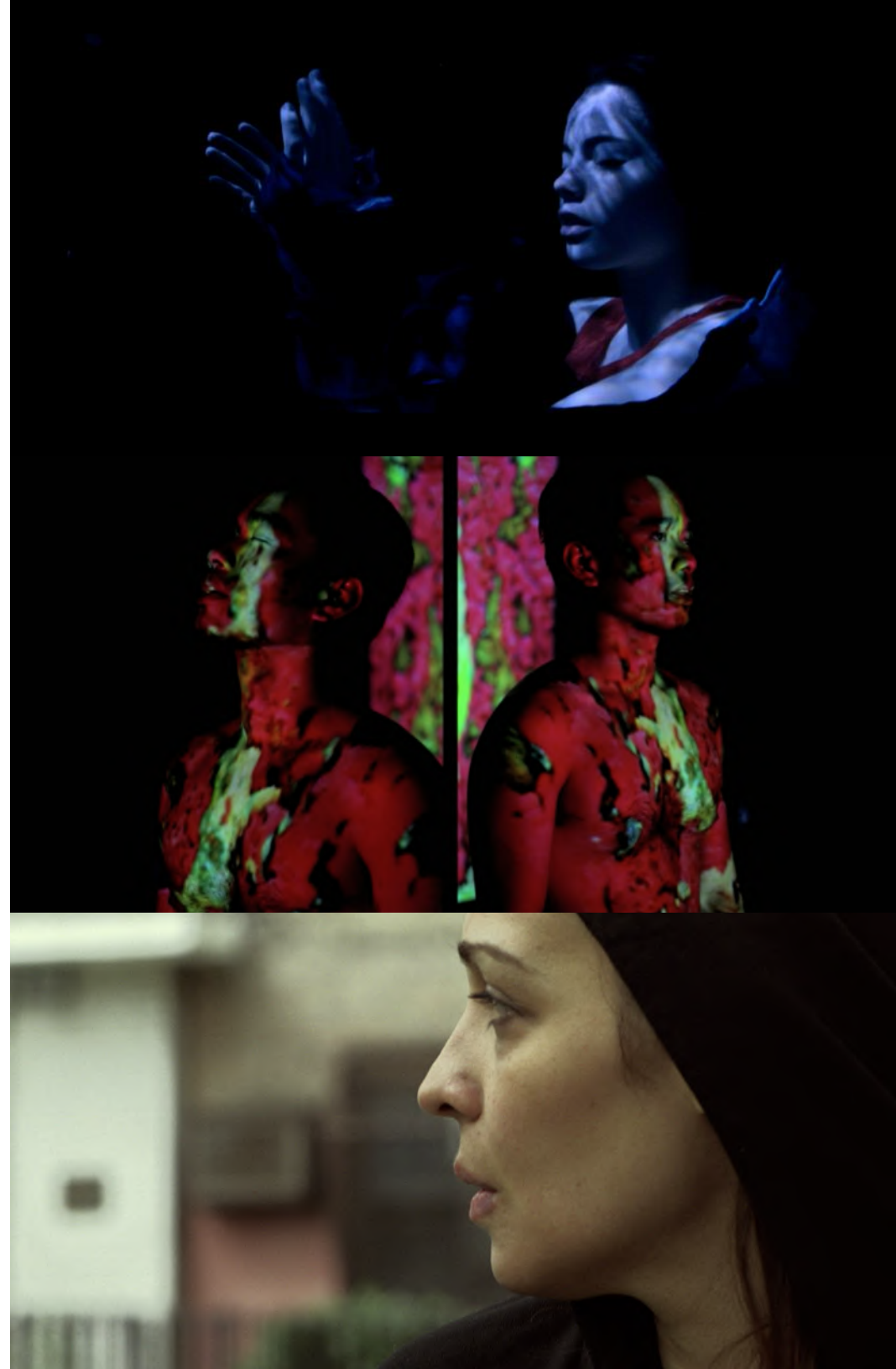
Renée Marie Petropoulos is an award-winning filmmaker from Sydney, Australia. Her short films have received both local and international acclaim.

While completing her MFA in filmmaking at Columbia University, her final thesis film, 'Tangles and Knots' (2017), premiered at Berlinale 2018 Generation 14Plus competition, followed by screenings at the SXSW 2018, Palm Springs International Shortfest 2018, Melbourne International Film Festival 2018, Athens International Film Festival 2018 and many more festivals worldwide.

The short received the Liberty Global International Student Filmmaker Award at the 41st Denver Film Festival 2018, it was also nominated for the AACTA Award for Best Short Fiction Film 2018 and has been recently awarded the Canon Award for Best Direction in an Australian film at Flickerfest 2019.

Prior to her studies at Columbia, Renée's very first short film, 'Beneath the Waves' (2011), received acclaim with screenings and at the Los Angeles New Wave Film Festival, Sydney Underground Film Festival, World of Women (WOW) Film Festival and multiple awards at the UTS Golden Eye awards, 2012. Renée also directed the short documentary, 'Do you See me?' which explores racial abuse suffered by Asian men within the Sydney LGBTIQ community. The project screened via SBS online, 2011.

Renée is currently in development on a variety of long form projects, with a particular focus on female-driven stories.





Producer

Janet Brown

Janet is a Sydney-based Producer who has worked on a diverse range of both live action and animated short films along with commercial projects. After receiving her Diploma of Business Accounting, Janet decided to pursue her artistic passions, completing a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) along with courses at AFTRS and Metro Screen.

Along with working on multiple short film projects, Janet has been heavily involved in the For Films Sake Film Festival (Previously WOW Festival) and committee roles for WIFT NSW.

Recently opening the doors to her Production house JARS Productions Pty Ltd, Janet is eager to push the boundaries of the cinematic medium.



Producer

Yingna Lu

In 2016, she became a SPA Ones to Watch Producer. She has Vimeo Staff picked music video clips for RUFUS (Tonight) and SBCR (The Grid).

She line produced Bollywood inspired short, Departure Lounge which was voted 'Best Comedy' in the 2015 AACTA Social Shorts. Since 2014, she has been creating funded shows for ABC1, Presto TV and Foxtel.

In 2015, Yingna's comedy web series, Wingman, was named Outstanding Comedy at the LA Webfest, Huffington Post called it a 'brilliant comedy web series', and SBS Comedy announced it 'one of the best web series to come out of Australia this year'. Wingman has reached over 500k views.

She is one the three recipients for the 2016 Generator Emerging Filmmakers Fund grant for 15 min short film, Bodies (2017). She is also one of the producers for an Australian multi-media festival, We're All Going to Die which launched in 2017.



Co-Producer

Kristin Frost

Kristin is a New York City-based producer and writer, originally from Virginia. She is a 2016 graduate of Columbia University's M.F.A. Creative Producing program where she produced a number of award-winning short films including 'Stay Awake', which premiered at the 2015 Berlinale, won the 2015 Slamdance Jury Award, and was nominated for a 2016 BAFTA U.S. Student Film Award, as well as 'Sundae', which premiered at the 53rd New York Film Festival in 2015 and was hailed as a 'Critic's Pick' of the Shorts Program. In May 2015, Frost was also awarded the 2015 HBO Young Producers Award for 'Search Party', which premiered in August 2016 at the NBC Universal Short Film Festival. In 2017, she associate-produced an international feature documentary, and she was location manager on Rodrigo Bellot's independent feature based on his award-winning play of the same name, Tu Me Manques. Frost is currently in post-production on Hilary Brougher's fourth feature film, South Mountain, which she produced in Summer 2017.



Casting Director

Stevie Ray, CGA

Stevie has worked in casting for the past 11 years with McGregor Casting. He has worked across all performance platforms – theatre, TV commercials, TV and web series, short and feature films. Some examples of his web and TV series work include the popular ABC series The Moodys, Here Come The Habibs for Channel 9, The Let Down for ABC and the AACTA nominated and multi-award winning web series High Life. His short film work includes the AACTA nominated film Flat Daddy and more recently the AACTA winning and Oscar nominated film The Eleven O'Clock.

He has been as associate on a number of feature films including the AACTA nominated film Wish You Were Here, The Rover and San Andreas. He has been casting director on the feature films Bad Girl, Single Rider, 6 Days and won a Casting Guild of Australia award for Best Casting in a Feature Film for Down Under. His TV commercial work contains many campaigns over the years for many major brands too numerous to mention, though his work on the Qantas 'Feels Like Home' campaign garnered him a Casting Guild of Australia award for Best Casting in a TVC.



Cinematographer

Zoë White, ACS

Zoë completed a BFA in Cinematography at North Carolina School of the Arts and an MA in Cinematography at the Australian Film Television & Radio School, and trained alongside mentors including Vilmos Zsigmond ASC, Newton Thomas Sigel ASC, Laszlo Kovacs ASC and James Chressanthis ASC. She received the Golden Tripod from the Australian Cinematography Society for her work on Exit Music's 'The Night', represented the United States at the Budapest Cinematography Masterclass and won the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Cinematography Internship. She just completed her second feature, 'In The Radiant City' on location in Louisville, Kentucky. She has shot music videos for Sigur Ros, Phantogram, The National and Jessica Mauboy, and worked with clients including Google, Sony, McDonald's and the Barack Obama Foundation. Dividing her time between New York and Sydney, Zoë strives for innovative and effective storytelling and is excited for what's to come.



Production Designer

Diva Abrahamian

Diva Abrahamian is a spirited and creative designer with a strong passion for narratives and forging detailed character driven story worlds. Her interest in Production Design began with her studies in Media Arts and Production at The University of Technology Sydney. Her final major work 'Entropy' won Best in Production Design at the 13th Golden Eye Awards, gaining her an internship with acclaimed Australian Production Designer Melinda Doring.

Diva continued to further pursue her love affair with all things design by completing the Graduate Diploma of Production Design at AFTRS in 2014. This cemented her zeal for film aesthetics and cinematic storytelling with a particular focus on props. She has since gone on to work on a number of feature films and television shows including Pacific Rim Uprising, Unbroken, Rake, Deep Water, Secret Daughter and many more. She has also designed a range of short films and music videos, collaborating with strong like-minded creatives.



Leeanna Walsman

Leeanna Walsman is an Australian actress, best known for her role as Zam Wesell in *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones* (2002), for playing Carly Bishop in the Australian film *Looking for Alibrandi* (2000), for her role as Erica Davidson in the Australian television series *Wentworth*, and for her starring role in the mini-series *Jessica*.

Walsman also starred in *Home and Away: An Eye for an Eye* (2015), which aired on subscription channel Presto. In 2005 she was nominated for the Logie Award for Most Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series for her work on *Jessica*. She has also been nominated for two AFI Awards and an IF Award.



Odessa Young

Odessa Young started acting at the age of 11. She acted in television series such as *Wonderland* and *Tricky Business* before making the transition into feature film work.

In 2015, she co-starred in the film *The Daughter* with Geoffrey Rush and Sam Neill. Also in 2015, she acted alongside Radha Mitchell in *Looking for Grace*, where she played the titular role. Later that year, she was dubbed “Australia’s brightest rising star” by *Elle Magazine*. For her role in *The Daughter*, Young attracted considerable critical acclaim and won Best Actress in a Leading Role at the 2016 AACTA Awards. Her performance in *The Daughter* also earned her an award for Best Actress from the Australian Film Critics Association.

In 2017, Young starred as Genevieve in the web series *High Life*; for her performance, she won an IAWTV Award for Best Lead Actress – Drama.

Festival Screenings

Columbia University Film Festival 2017
New York, USA | May 2017 | World Premiere

68th Berlinale: Generation 14Plus Competition 2018
Berlin, Germany | January 2018 | European Premiere

SXSW 2018: Narrative Shorts Program
Austin, USA | March 2018

Sydney Film Festival 2018
Australian Premiere | June 2018

Palm Springs International Shortfest 2018
Palm Springs, USA | June 2018

Melbourne International Film Festival 2018
Victorian Premiere | August 2018

AACTA Shorts Fest 2018 | Australia | August 2018

Pluk De Nacht - Open Air Film Festival
Utrecht & Amsterdam 2018 | August 2018

Athens International Film Festival 2018
Greek Premiere | September 2018

Greek Australian Short Film Festival
25th Greek Film Festival Australia | October 2018

Adelaide Film Festival 2018
Adelaide, Australia | October 2018

41st Denver Film Festival 2018
Denver, USA | November 2018



Festival Screenings

17th Cinemaforum International Film Festival 2018
Warsaw, Poland | November 2018

25th London Short Film Festival 2019
UK Premiere | January 2019

Flickerfest 2019
Best Australian Short Film Competition | January 2019

Awards

Winner of the Canon Award for Best Director
in an Australian Short Film, Flickerfest 2019

Winner of the Liberty Global Best International Student
Filmmaker Award , 41st Denver Film Festival 2018

Nominated for the AACTA Award for
Best Short Fiction Film 2018

Special Mention, Event Cinemas Australian
Short Screenplay Award, Sydney Film Festival 2018

Winner of the Best National Film, Greek Australian
Short Film Festival, 25th Greek Film Festival Australia 2018

Selected for Best of 'Student Selects' & 'Faculty Selects'
Best of Program , Columbia University Film Festival 2017

Received the 'Audience Choice Award' for Program E
Columbia University Film Festival 2017



CREDITS

Writer/Director: Renée Marie Petropoulos
Producers: Janet Brown
Yingna Lu
Co-Producer: Kristin Frost
Associate Producer: Melina Maraki
Executive Producer: Alexandra Petropoulos

Cinematographer: Zoë White, ACS
Production Designer: Diva Abrahamian
Casting Director: Stevie Ray, CGA
Sound Designer: Eli Cohn
Colourist: Kath Raisch
Editors: Renée Marie Petropoulos
Chelsea Taylor

Lead Cast: Leeanna Walsman
Odessa Young
Supporting Cast: Mitzi Ruhlmann
Toby Wallace
Govinda Röser-Finch
Bryn Chapman Parish

Party Extras: Daniella Antunes
Helenna Barone-Peters
Liam Baildon
Mia Bowd
Eduard Geyl
Wombat Grylls
Alexandra Jackson
Tom Jackson
Selena Mantikos
Hugh McPherson
Agnes Oredsson
Lachlan Parry
Nicholas Perry
Aimee Patmore
Rian Reynolds
Eezu Tan
Jake Van Wegen

Unit Production Manager: Yingna Lu
1st Assistant Director: Stefanie Foerster
Locations Manager: Alexandra Petropoulos

1st AC / Focus Puller: Sian Bates
2nd AC / DIT: Matt Bedford
Gaffer: Richard Hawkins
Grip / Swing: Brendan Cain

Sound Recordist: Pete Delahunty

Art Director: Ella Morgan
Props / Buyer: Elsie Moulton
Wardrobe Assistant: Amber Theron

Hair & Make-up: Candice Hickson
HMU Assistant: Monique Bringoff

Casting by: McGregor Casting
Casting Associate: Gemma Mestroni

Stunt Co-Ordinator: Tony Lynch
Stunt Assistant: Olga Miller
Life Guard: Jane Condon

Animal Wrangler: Taylor Riches
Insect Wrangler: Diva Abrahamian

Continuity: Oliver Levi-Malouf
Stef Smith

Stills Photographer: Paul Langley
Production Assistants: Giorgia Petropoulos
Katie Baker

CREDITS

Post Production Supervisors: Melina Maraki
Eric Schuman

Assistant Editors: Walter Ratcliffe
Kate Phillips
Shayon Maitra

Re-Recording Mixer: Eli Cohn
Dialogue Mix: Ben Chesneau
FX Editor: Maya Peart
ADR Recordist: Sasha Zastavnikovic

Music By: ABRA
Baauer
Ivan Ooze
Tkay Maidza
Tommy Genesis

Colour by: Company 3
Colourist: Kath Raisch

Poster Design: Courtney Brookes

Camera & Grip Provided by: Cinoptix
Catering Provided by: Chargrill Charlie's Woollahra
Pasta Pantry Woollahra

Additional Post Services by: The Gingerbread Man
Red Dot Sound

Special Thanks to: Columbia University
Photoplay Films
Kambala Old Girls Union
Fishburners Sydney
The Kyriakou Family
The Brown Family

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