

A FILM BY LUCY SUESS

PACK RAT



BY ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION A WUNDERHOUSE PRODUCTION A LUCY SUESS FILM
DEEDEE COMET CALEB CAMERON-LEE NICO MOY MAKEA UPU MATTY ROCKEL BEN OLLIVER "PACK RAT"
EDITED BY STU TURNER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JACQUI WRALL AND DEBORAH BRIDER PRODUCED BY GARAGELAND WRITTEN BY LUCY SUESS DIRECTED BY GLENN BLOOMFIELD EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RYAN ALEXANDER LLOYD
PRODUCED BY JOHNNY LYON WRITTEN BY LUCY SUESS
PACKRAT.FILM

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In Association with the NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION

LOGLINE

In rural New Zealand, a fifteen-year-old girl fights to keep her place among the pack of boys she has grown up with.



SYNOPSIS

In rural New Zealand, fifteen-year-old Baby Teeth spends the day with her friends—the pack of rough-and-tumble boys she has grown up with. But today is not like the rest. When Baby Teeth unknowingly triggers a power game with the pack’s insecure alpha, Louie, his lighthearted dares soon grow in tension and danger. Determined to keep her place among the pack, Baby Teeth pushes past Louie’s pressures and meets each of his challenges. But with every win, Baby Teeth feels more lost. Frustrated, she fires her own test at Louie—a dangerous act that reveals everyone’s strengths, weaknesses, and loyalties. With newfound clarity and bravery, Baby Teeth draws the strength to choose herself. As the sun rises, a new path is revealed. Baby Teeth walks away from the pack and into herself.

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Pack Rat is a deeply intimate film inspired by my adolescence growing up in the rural Far North of Aotearoa New Zealand. Like the protagonist, I was very close to a group of boys, yet I was also kept slightly on the outside of their pack. From this position, I found loneliness and love, pressure and freedom. *Pack Rat* is a nostalgic and cathartic love/hate letter to this time in my life—a beautifully messy, awkward, insecure age of discovery and negotiation.

Honouring the authenticity and intimacy of *Pack Rat*'s story was a guiding principle in our approach. While all aspects of production were essential to achieving this, casting, cinematography and sound design played a crucial role.

Our casting process was extensive with over 400 submissions, self-tapes, auditions, recalls, workshops and chemistry tests. While we saw many talented young actors, we were also looking for teens who connected with the text and each other. After several months, we cast an ensemble of eight first-time actors ranging from 13 to 18 years old. DeeDee Comet (Baby Teeth) was the youngest actor on set at only 13. Once cast, it was vital each actor felt ownership of their character and was completely comfortable with the material. In addition to scene work, we explored silent takes, ad-libbing, saying the lines in our own words, playing games in character and relating our personal experiences to our script work. We also spent a lot of time hanging out together to build closer relationships.

To support our first-time actors and the feeling of authenticity, we adopted a nimble shooting style that favoured shoulder mount, minimal setups and takes. We wanted to keep the shoot fresh and energised and allow our cast to move as freely as possible without being too confined by marks. To push the intimacy and emotional resonance of *Pack Rat*'s story, we favoured shots that held closely on Baby Teeth and her perspective, creating an immersive and personal point of view. Through sound design, we worked to strengthen the audience's emotional understanding and connection to Baby Teeth by employing emotive soundscapes, crescendos and loud/quiet/loud dynamics to modulate pace and emphasise important moments of inner tension.

Through this approach of authenticity and intimacy, we hope our audience will recognise themselves in Baby Teeth. While told through a coming-of-age narrative, finding the clarity and courage to choose yourself can be a challenge at any age. I hope *Pack Rat* speaks to a broad audience by exploring these universal dynamics of power, belonging, and the growing pains of self-acceptance.



STILLS



KEY CREW + CAST

WRITER/DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Lucy Suess

BABY TEETH

DeeDee Comet

PRODUCER

Johnny Lyon

LOUIE

Caleb Cameron-Lee

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Ryan Alexander Lloyd

HOLDEN

Nico Moy

CASTING DIRECTOR

Stu Turner, Catch Casting

CHOPS

Makea Upu

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Glenn Blomfield

DYL

Matty Rockel

WARDROBE

Jacqui Whall

CURT

Ben Olliver

SOUND RECORDISTS

Gabriel Muller + Sofiane Tib

NAT

Gema Whitford-Joynt

POST PRODUCTION

Park Road Post Production

MISSA

Emily Patterson



Lucy Suess is an award-winning New Zealand-American filmmaker based in New York City.

With New Zealand Film Commission funding and support, Lucy has produced two shorts and is developing her feature.

Lucy's short films, Shadow Cut and Pack Rat, have screened at over 35 festivals, including Toronto International Film Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival, Atlanta Film Festival, New Orleans Film Festival, and Tallinn Black Nights, earning awards in directing, screenwriting, cinematography, and acting. Her films have been taught at universities and high schools across Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.

Lucy's debut feature film, Needles Inn, is currently in development with the New Zealand Film Commission. Needles Inn was mentored by Dame Gaylene Preston as part of the New Zealand Film Commission's inaugural Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko Mentorship Programme and was selected for Melbourne International Film Festival's 2025 Accelerator Lab.

In 2026 Lucy will return to Aotearoa to complete production on her 16mm experimental-narrative short film, Netherdale.

FESTIVALS + AWARDS

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL*

ACCELERATOR LAB

Australia / 2025

ATLANTA FILM FESTIVAL*

USA / 2025

ODENSE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL*

Denmark / 2025

RIVERUN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL*

RISING STAR AWARD - WINNER

BEST NARRATIVE SHORT - NOMINEE

USA / 2025

DEADCENTER FILM FESTIVAL*

USA / 2025

NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL

USA / 2025

THE FUTURE OF FILM IS FEMALE

USA / 2025

HOF INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Germany / 2025

MINI MOVIE MARATHON

USA / 2025

AUSTRALIAN CINEMATOGRAPHERS SOCIETY

GOLD, SHORT FILM - WINNER

Australia / 2024

1.4 AWARDS

FLYING HIGH, SHORT FILM

United Kingdom / 2026

SHOW ME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL*

BEST SCREENPLAY - WINNER

New Zealand / 2024

DALLAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL*

USA / 2025

FESTIVAL CURTA CINEMA*

RIO DE JANEIRO INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Brazil / 2025

THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL*

JURY'S CHOICE AWARD, 1st PRIZE - WINNER

USA / 2026

SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL*

USA / 2025

NEWFILMMAKERS LOS ANGELES

USA / 2026

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

United Kingdom / 2025

DOWN UNDER FILM FESTIVAL

Denmark / 2025

BASEMNT

USA / 2026

NEW ZEALAND CINEMATOGRAPHERS SOCIETY

BRONZE, SHORT FILM - WINNER

New Zealand / 2025

*Oscar®-qualifying film festival

ONLINE FEATURES

1.4 MAGAZINE

FILM SHORTAGE

GIRLS IN FILM

NOBUDGE

S P E C I F I C A T I O N S

PRODUCTION COMPANY

WunderHouse

GENRE

Narrative - Drama

COMPLETION DATE

April 2024

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

New Zealand

LANGUAGE

English

SHOOTING FORMAT

4K Digital

SCREENING FORMAT

DCP & ProRes 422 HQ

CONTACT

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IMDb

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt27547040>

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

The New Zealand Film Commission

DURATION

17 Minutes 55 Seconds

PREMIERE DATE

October 2024

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION

New Zealand

SUBTITLES & CAPTIONS

Available in English

ASPECT RATIO

1.85:1

SOUND FORMAT

5.1 & Stereo

WEBSITE

www.lucysuess.com/packrat

LETTERBOXD

<https://letterboxd.com/film/pack-rat>

