

# A SONG OF GOOD

A new film from Gregory King

**Press Book**

[www.asongofgood.com](http://www.asongofgood.com)



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## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

Director:	Gregory King
Producer:	Mark Foster
Writer:	Gregory King
Production Company:	Robber's Dog Films
Executive Producers:	Leanne Saunders, Paul Swadel & Anthony Timpson

Headstrong Ltd  
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This film was produced by Robber's Dog Films in association with  
Headstrong & the New Zealand Film Commission

Developed within the Screenwriting & Directing Programmes of the Binger Filmlab

HD/Colour/84 Minutes/1080PX23.98

## **OVERVIEW**

A SONG OF GOOD tells the story of Gary Cradle, who, after committing a shocking crime, decides to change his life and become a good person. Making such a decision is one thing, but actually following through becomes a completely different battle.

It is the second feature from writer/director Gregory King, whose distinctive contemporary style was heralded through critically acclaimed shorts, JUNK (01), 'Best Film' NZ Screen Awards 2001, POP (1999) 'Best Digital' Melbourne (00) and his debut feature CHRISTMAS (03), which screened in official selection at Toronto, Edinburgh, Locarno and Melbourne (nominated for FIPRESCI award).

A SONG OF GOOD has the characteristic hallmarks of King's earlier work, a combination of black humour and social commentary that make it unique and provocative. Although the social milieu is tough, there is tenderness and emotion in the story, which is ultimately redemptive.

The cast includes New Zealand's brightest, best, and most experienced actors: Ian Mune (SLEEPING DOGS), Matthew Sunderland (OUT OF THE BLUE), Danielle Cormack (THE PRICE OF MILK; TOPLESS WOMEN TALK ABOUT THEIR LIVES) and newcomer, Gareth Reeves as Gary Cradle ('Best Actor', NZ Screen Awards 2006)

"Apart from holding universal themes of redemption and power the story unfolds in a common urbanised world, a contemporary, social and geographical soulless landscape of suburbs, strip malls, and fast food joints...that spans the globe" say King, "It is a drama that could just as easily be found in many major cities on planet Earth - Sydney, Copenhagen, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Birmingham."

A SONG OF GOOD was shot in Auckland, New Zealand. It was developed at the Maurits Binger Film Institute and was selected for Cinemart 2006. It is produced by Robber's Dog Films, and executive produced by Headstrong in association with the New Zealand Film Commission.

## **TAGLINE**

Deciding to change your life is one thing. Changing it is another.

## **LOGLINE**

After committing a shocking crime, Gary Cradle secretly decides to change his life and become a good person. However deciding is one thing, changing a life is another...

## **SYNOPSIS**

A SONG OF GOOD is the story of 28-year old Gary Cradle's struggle for redemption after committing a horrific crime. During a desperate burglary to pay for drugs, Gary is confronted by a middle-aged woman. Cornered and scared he overpowers the woman and attacks her. Disgusted by this senseless assault, he flees home to where he lives with his retired father Ron.

After locking himself away in his bedroom, Gary decides to turn his life around, get clean and do some good in this world. Standing in his way is a simmering drug and alcohol problem, low self-esteem and a very motley peer group.

When his sister reluctantly asks him to look after his eight-year-old nephew (Lachie) they form a bond, but Gary's attempts to keep Lachie safe in the world appears to be an insuperable battle as his demons draw closer. His struggle to get clean, get a job, avoid his drug addled associates and help his father and sister won't be easy, especially while the woman he raped, lives right next door...

A SONG OF GOOD is a gritty and moving story of a desperate young man with few resources and even fewer options. Determined that things will only get better if he takes control of his life despite the odds against him, Gary discovers that deciding to change a life is one thing. Changing it is another.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

For a time I had been thinking about the idea of someone trying to turn their life around in the exact same place they had suffered and caused suffering.

So we have the theme of redemption.

Another idea I wanted to explore was the notion of transference.

The way power and powerlessness travels through generations, peer groups, strangers. Chains of victimisation, where suffering is transferred to the other, for example - dealer to addict to female stranger. This is of course a simplification as in the larger picture the line is always part of a complicated ever-growing web that does not necessarily behave in such a straightforward vertical way.

Of course there are many other ideas I pondered on and that are part of the weave of the film. For example, the nature of loss and alienation in both the individual and the society.

My hope is that the film is able to engage an audience and in the process open the world up somewhat and move people in a deep and memorable way. The film then being able to work as a platform to provoke thought and discussion around these issues and struggles.

Gregory King, Director

## **LEAD CAST**

### **GARY CRADLE - GARETH REEVES**

At only 27, Gareth is already a highly regarded actor. Awards to date include: Young Playwright to the Year in 1997; Two-time winner of Cast Production of the Year 1999 & 2000 and the Chapman Tripp Best Newcomer Award in 2000. He also won Best Actor in 2006 for his role in the TV series, THE INSIDERS GUIDE TO LOVE.

A graduate of The Hagley Theatre Company and Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School, Gareth's theatre career spans a decade and has seen him play against some of New Zealand's best actors.

### **RON CRADLE - IAN MUNE**

In a career that spans more than three decades, Ian Mune has firmly established himself as an elder statesman of the New Zealand film industry. The actor, director, scriptwriter & dramatist has credits in some of New Zealand's most successful productions from SLEEPING DOGS; CAME A HOT FRIDAY; WHAT BECAME OF THE BROKEN HEARTED? and ONCE WERE WARRIORS.

### **RACHEL CRADLE - DANIELLE CORMACK**

Over the last two decades Danielle has become known as one of New Zealand's most accomplished leading ladies for the big screen. The roles that she has chosen for herself over this time have built her a reputation for tackling challenging & distinctive roles, such as: THE PRICE OF MILK; TOPLESS WOMEN TALK ABOUT THEIR LIVES; CHANNELLING BABY and A GAME WITH NO RULES.

### **DENIS - MATTHEW SUNDERLAND**

Graduating from Toi Whakaari in 1997 Matthew quickly earned himself a reputation for tackling some of the heavier, more challenging roles on offer. His role in OUT OF THE BLUE (2007) as David Gray has seen him win critical acclaim internationally & seen him noted as one of New Zealand's rising cinematic stars.

Other feature credits include; CHRISTMAS (2004); WOODENHEAD (2000); STRENGTH OF WATER (2007). Matthew is the lead in the Cannes selected short film NATURES WAY (2006).

### **HOWIE - JAROD RAWIRI**

Since graduating from Toi Whakaari in 2002, Jarod has been making a reputation for himself on the theatre circuit in New Zealand. He has also had lead roles in short films: TAMA TU (2004); TANGI (2004) and KEROSENE CREEK (2005).

## **SUPPORTING CAST**

### **MRS JUNE ESCKLESON - DARIEN TAKLE**

Darien Takle won Best Digital Feature Performance at the New Zealand Film Awards in 2003 for her role in Greg King's first feature CHRISTMAS, where she won praise for her role as Loma, the downtrodden and long suffering mother and wife.

Darien has been an actress, singer, teacher, director of Theatre, Film and Television for the past 35 years. Her credit roll is impressive and has won her recognition as one of New Zealand's most experienced leading ladies.

### **GLEN - JONATHON HENDRY**

Jonathon is currently Head of Acting at Toi Whakaari/ New Zealand Drama school and has directed productions for Auckland Theatre Company; Silo; Downstage; Circa; Centrepont and Bats Theatre.

He is a graduate of Toi Whakaari (1987-88) and he has played Richard III; Vladimir Lenin; Oscar Wilde; and Richard Prebble in the TV series FALLOUT. He had a lead role in cult horror classic THE IRREFUTABLE TRUTH ABOUT DEMONS (2002).

## **GREGORY KING - BIO**

### **WRITER/DIRECTOR**

Gregory has been making films since 1999 before this he worked as an actor, performance maker, youth-worker and casting director.

His first three shorts as a writer/director have been critically acclaimed and honoured internationally.

Gregory was awarded New Filmmaker of the Year 2002 (Screen Producers and Directors Guild New Zealand).

His first feature project CHRISTMAS (2003), an ultra low budget digital film (30,000 Euros), screened in Official Selection at Locarno, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Melbourne, New Zealand and Toronto International Film Festivals.

He received a Pacific-Maori scholarship to attend the Maurits Binger Film Institute in Amsterdam 2003/04 and graduated from the Directing and Screenwriting Courses.

He currently lives in Berlin with his family.

### **FILMOGRAPHY**

#### **POP (1999) - Short Film**

Official selection: NZ and Melbourne International Film Festivals.

Winner: 'Most Outstanding Achievement in a Video Production' – Melbourne International Film Festival.

#### **"...TEACH YOU A LESSON." (2000) - Short Film**

Official Selection: New Zealand and Melbourne International Film Festivals

**JUNK (2001) - Short Film shot on 35mm**

Loose Unit/ New Zealand Film Commission

Selected for Locarno, Bilbao, Brisbane, New Zealand, Commonwealth International Film Festivals.

Winner: 'Best Short Film' and 'Best Technical Contribution' (Cinematography) to a Short Film, Nokia New Zealand Film Awards 2001.

Runner up: Nescafe Australasian Short Film Awards.

**CHRISTMAS (2003) - Digital Feature Film, 87 minutes**

Severe Features/ Screen Innovation Production Fund/ New Zealand Film Commission

Official Selection: Toronto, Edinburgh, Locarno, Melbourne, Cardiff, Manchester Commonwealth, Senef-Seoul and New Zealand International Film Festivals.

Winner: 'Best Script', 'Best Technical Contribution' (Art Direction), 'Best Performance' and 'Best Digital Feature' in The Digital Film Section of the New Zealand Film Awards (Academy of Film and Television Arts) 2003.

## **MARK FOSTER - BIO**

### **PRODUCER**

Mark Foster has been working in the industry for 15 years. He started of life as an Assistant Editor for Ken Zemkie. Although he enjoyed editing he could never get his head around the new Avid editing system, which lacked all the charm of the flat bed editing system that he had grown to love.

Having failed to embrace the new technology, Foster moved into production (after a short hiatus to finish his degree & have a brain tumour extracted). He soon found himself working as a successful TVC Producer with Silverscreen. In late 2005 Foster left Silverscreen to set-up his own production company Robber's Dog Films which he co-owns with Adam Stevens & Chris Dudman.

In 2001 he produced BEAUTIFUL with Adam Stevens (Director). This short went onto screen at Montreal, Melbourne, New York & was in competition at Sundance & Toronto. In 2003 BEAUTIFUL won Best Short Film at the New Zealand Film Awards. He went on to produce DELORES in 2002, which went into competition at Berlin.

## **VIRGINIA LOANE - BIO**

### **DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Virginia Loane (Ginny) is a director of photography who is fast gaining a reputation for mastering a diverse range of visual styles - working on exquisite high-end commercials, films, music clips and social documentaries.

Ginny's interest lie in projects that offer creative challenges and the opportunity to explore new creative avenues and subject matter. Recognized for her lateral, creative approach Ginny enjoys working closely with directors, supporting them in their professional and personal projects.

Ginny's credits include Greg's first feature CHRISTMAS (2003) and short film, FOG (2006) which was selected for Critics Week 2007

## **ASHLEY TURNER - BIO**

### **PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

Ashley was awarded Best Design at the New Zealand Film Awards 2005 for his work on short film, NO ORDINARY SUN (2003). He is credited as Production Designer on PLANET MAN, winner of Canal+ Best Short in Critics Week, Festival de Cannes 1996.

He was the designer of SNAKESKIN, which won Best NZ Feature Film (2001) at The Nokia NZ Film Awards and recently designed NATURES WAY, which screened In Competition at Cannes Film Festival (2006).

Ashley attended The NZ Film & Television School in 1986 under some of NZ's pre-eminent film creatives.

Ashley began his career in film in 1987 on a period film called ILLUSTRIOUS ENERGY as a set decorator. The film was set in the late 1800's in Central Otago, NZ. This was the first of a number of period films he would go on to design or art direct.

Ashley is well known as being passionate and committed to his field of expertise in film design & art direction.

## **JONATHAN VENZ - BIO**

### **EDITOR**

Jonathan Venz has firmly established himself as a creative story-teller with more than a decades editing experience behind him. He has an ability to tackle complex subject matter & bring an intuitive insightfulness to the table.

Venz edited COCKLE (2004) which won Best Film at Drifting Clouds Festival 2005.

## **Credits for A SONG OF GOOD**

Written and Directed by

Gregory King

Produced by

Mark Foster

Line Producer

Kristian Eek

Director of Photography

Virginia Loane

Casting Director

Mike Dwyer

Production Designer

Ashley Turner

Editor

Jonathan Venz

Executive Producers

Leanne Saunders

Ant Timpson

Paul Swadel

In association with the Digital Feature Film Scheme of the New Zealand Film Commission

Gary Cradle

Ron Cradle

Rachel Cradle

Gareth Reeves

Ian Mune

Danielle Cormack

Laughlin Cradle  
Howie  
Denis  
Mrs June Eskelson  
Taneel  
Malia  
Michelle  
Mother  
Barb  
Big Eagle  
Glen  
Matty  
Mrs Eskelson's Friend  
Big Eagles' Mate  
Barb's Friend  
Policeman #1  
Policeman #2  
Pine Tree (Dog)

Caleb Griffiths  
Jarod Rawiri  
Matthew Sunderland  
Darien Takle  
Ella Marie Smits  
Hannah Ellis  
Hannah Tolich  
Andrea Kelland  
Monique Halhwatsch  
Mark Mitchinson  
Jonathon Hendry  
Karl Drinkwater  
John Watson  
Lee Tuson  
Carol D'Aubeny  
Vasa Tasele  
Mark (Kiyam) Bhatti  
Zeus

#### MR YUMMY'S STAFF

Simon Ellery Patricia Wichman Anna Gogo Zoe Linsel  
Victor Famui Rohaan Chetty Peter Huang Krystal Barnes

#### MR YUMMY CUSTOMERS

Leanne Rogerson Anna Rogerson Sarah Rogerson Hamish Rogerson  
Pater Rogerson Jeffery Gogo Ina Gogo Annie Gogo  
Angela Gogo Jenna Winterton Samantha Winterton Yvonne Simmonds  
Kyle Puleston Michael Humphrey Mat Bauckham Cecile Bridgeford

#### BUS STOP GIRLS

Sharelle Leota Angelina Tsoy Rebekah Lilly Nikisha Patel

#### BUS STOP WOMEN

Margaret Foster Margaret Cribbens

BUS STOP BOYS

Joe Lukies Te Aroha Morehu

RANUI BACKGROUND

Solomona Faatoafe Lisa Faatoafe Harrison Faatoafe Tracy Faatoafe  
Michael Humphrey Mat Bauckham Brian Davies

PARTY PEOPLE

Geraldine Dane David Hornblow Barry (Baz) te Hira  
Kevin Graham Whana (Starfish) Jeannie Mere  
Tere Wanga McGifford Dion Pou Walter Peihopa Lynette Rushton  
Tumoana Ferris Andreza Santos Geraldine Dane Gina Armand Sheree Rhodes  
Ricky Matenga Amanda Trask Melanie Baldwin Kaela Muldoon Marek Sumich  
Mike Padden Angela-Marie Ingersoll Michelle Wilson Michael Humphrey  
James Solomon Ashley J Turner Ruth Wynne

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Seumas Cooney
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR	Kat Phyn
2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Andrew Burfield
CASUAL FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Robyn Grace
CHAPERONE	Cathy Pope
ADDITIONAL CHAPERONE	Ciara Dickens
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	Charlotte Winn
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Michael Humphrey
PRODUCTION RUNNER	Mark Prebble
LOCATION COORDINATOR	Mareena Facoory
LOCATION SCOUT	Bridget Quick
UNIT MANAGER	Mehi Morehu
PRODUCTION ACCOUNTANT	Lisa Tresham
FOCUS PULLER	Ollie Jones

FOCUS PULLER	Ben Rowsell
CAMERA ASSISTANT	Dave Hammond
ADDITIONAL FOCUS PULLER	Simon Roelants
ADDITIONAL FOCUS PULLER	Vanessa Wood
CAMERA TRAINEE	Ole Kristian Alsaker
UNDERWATER CAMERA OP	Armie Armstrong
UNDERWATER ASSISTANT	Peter Crabb
UNDERWATER TRAINEE	Rachel Patching
GAFFER/GRIP	Pablo Stephenson
BEST BOY	Pez Zee
LX/GRIP ASSIST	Sam Sheppard
LX/GRIP ASSIST	Joe Olkkonen
LX/GRIP ASSIST	Mike McCauley
ADDITIONAL LX/GRIP ASSIST	Sam Fordham
ADDITIONAL LX/GRIP ASSIST	David Sargison
LX/GRIP TRAINEE	Chris Coulam
LX/GRIP TRAINEE	Bjorn Burton
MAKE UP SUPERVISOR	Victoria Joe
MAKE UP ASSISTANT	Kylie Howell
MAKE UP ASSISTANT	Natalie Perks
CASUAL MAKEUP ASSISTANT	Melissa Kong
COSTUME DESIGNER	Natalija Kucija
COSTUME ASSISTANT	Cecilie Bridgford
CASUAL COSTUME ASSISTANT	Shona Lee-McDonald
BREAKDOWN ARTIST	Claudia Watson
BUYER/SET DECORATOR	Ruth Wynne
ON SET ART DIRECTOR/STAND BY	James Solomon
DRESSER/BUYER	Jason Burgess
BUYER ASSISTANT	Anna Jordan
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER	Mat Thomson
CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANT	Tim Brown
SET RUNNER/ASSISTANT	Mat Bauckham

ART ASSIST	Lucy Muir
ART ASSIST	Sarah Bailey-Harper
SCENIC PAINTER	Perry Ian DeMille
GRAPHICS TEAM	Ross Goffin
GRAPHICS TEAM (MR YUMMY)	Simon Adams
GRAPHICS TEAM	Brett Oram
MODEL MAKER	Dave Stewart
BLOOD FX	Justin Buckingham
VEHICLE WRANGLER	Mike Tripp
HEAD ANIMAL WRANGLER	Mark Vette
ASSISTANT WRANGLER	Rosie Miles
ASSISTANT WRANGLER	Bex Watts
CASTING DIRECTOR	Mike Dwyer
CATERER	Simon Booth @ MASH
SAFETY	Lifeguard & Safety
SAFETY OFFICER	Chris Griggs
STUNT COORDINATOR	Isaac Hamon
STUNT SUPERVISOR	Stuart Thorp
STUNT RIGGING	Scott Anderson @ Uni-Rig
LAWYER	Matt Emery
SOUND RECORDER	Jeffrey Holdaway
BOOM SWINGER	Charlotte Rose
AUDIO POST FACILITY	Perceptual Engineering
SOUND DESIGN & MUSIC COMPOSITION	Dylan Wood
VOCALISTS	Doug Fresh
	Jude Lucas
	Kenneth Merrick
	Terry Fillipo

ADR

Serena Cotton

ADDITIONAL MUSIC SUPPLIED BY:

Rachel Shearer  
North Head  
(Vineyard 2003)  
*Squall & Heavy Weather*

Rachel Shearer  
Lovely Midget  
(Corpus Hermeticum 200)  
*Clean Pale Sheets*

Bachlorette  
Isolation Loops  
(Electroplate Recordings 2006)  
*Intergalactic Solitude, And The Earth Knew Absence,  
Your Magic Air, Complex History of a Dying Star &  
Subatomic Pop*

HD POST PRODUCTION

Images Post Ltd

BASELIGHT COLOURIST

Paul Lear

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Alan Clinton

Alan Kidd

POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Grant Baker

ONLINE POST PRODUCTION

Perceptual Engineering

VISUAL EFFECTS DIRECTOR

Jon Baxter

FLAME OPERATOR

Mike Robinson

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Stephen McHardy

EPK DIRECTOR

Mary Durham

EPK DOP

Reuben Pollock

STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER

Nikki Barrett

DRAMATURGS

Dagmar Benke

Claire Dobbins

ADDITIONAL STORY ADVICE

Carrie Anne Hampel

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