



THE FEMALE OF ALL ANIMAL  
SPECIES IS MORE DEADLY  
THAN THE MALE

A FILM BY  
**JEAN-BAPTISTE CANAC**

# WENDY & VEE

LE GRAIN VISIBLE PICTURES PRESENTS "WENDY & VEE"  
STARRING JACY LEWIS FREYA CALLAGHAN REBECCA SAUNDERS SMITH WAYNE BASSETT STEVE NATION AND MITCH MARION  
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY ANDREW CONDER ACS SOC COSTUME DESIGN BY ANNIE REILLY ART DIRECTION BY SCOTT CLARK MAKE-UP & HAIR BY KATIE WHITMORE MCNAMARA  
PROPS MASTER WAYNE QUILLIAM PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER TJ NICHOLAS MUSIC BY STEVE TOULMIN SOUND DESIGN BY FOLKLORE SOUND STUDIO  
EDITED BY STUART JAYMES PRODUCED BY JEAN-BAPTISTE CANAC AND VICKY WANLESS  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JEAN-BAPTISTE CANAC

CONTACT: [PRODUCTION@LEGRAINVISIBLE.COM](mailto:PRODUCTION@LEGRAINVISIBLE.COM)  
WEBSITE: [LEGRAINVISIBLE.COM](http://LEGRAINVISIBLE.COM)

TITLE: WENDY & VEE  
GENRES: DARK COMEDY / HORROR

DURATION: 20 MINUTES  
ASPECT RATIO: 2.35:1  
SHOT ON: PANASONIC VARICAM 35, 4K  
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: AUSTRALIA  
YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2022

PRESS  
KIT

# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Short film *WENDY & VEE bites into dark comedy.*

**Brisbane, QLD - 06/08/2022**

CONTACT:

Jean-Baptiste Canac

Le Grain Visible

jean-baptiste@legrainvisible.com

+61 420 433 434

Wendy lives with her teenage daughter Vee and seems to have a thing for choosing the wrong type of partners: the 'rough' ones. After a falling out with the belligerent Gary, her partner, Wendy, helped by her teen daughter, must deal with the unexpectedly dark discoveries she makes at their family house.

Following the plights of the unsuspecting Wendy Metzger and her everyday struggles with trauma, mental illness and domestic violence, Jean-Baptiste Canac, writer and director of *Wendy & Vee*, explores the duality of the human condition as well as the controversy and the fine line that separates a good person doing bad things or a bad person doing good things.

*Wendy & Vee* approaches these ambiguous questions with humour and visual flare, distilling them in layered plots and twists to keep the audience invested in the unravelling chaos of the story. The film was shot in 4K on the Panasonic Varicam 35, kindly provided by Lemac Brisbane, in cinemascope (2.35:1). A portion of the film was shot in 1.85:1 to reflect Wendy's state of mind. The vigilante-lead type of story takes a different turn in this biting short film.

The screenplay, written in 2021 by Jean-Baptiste, won numerous awards & nominations including Best Screenplay at the Los Angeles Film Awards.

He directed the short in 2022, producing alongside Vicky Wanless and an Australian cast and crew. Andrew Conder ASC SOC served as director of photography and actresses Jacy Lewis and Freya Callaghan played the titular characters. Steve Toulmin composed the witty original score for the film and Stuart Jaymes took the reigns for editing and colour grading. The film runs for 19min59sec. minutes.

*Wendy & Vee* was completed in mid-June 2022. It has since already been selected for competition in the prestigious Australian Academy of Cinema and Television (AACTA) Awards, screened in 18 festivals and won 8 awards.

# THE STORY

IS SHE A GOOD PERSON DOING A BAD THING  
OR A BAD PERSON DOING A GOOD THING?

## LOGLINE

A daughter worries about her mother's abusive boyfriend and decides to do something about it.



## SYNOPSIS (Short)

Wendy lives with her new partner Gary. Vee, her teen daughter, disapproves of this relationship as Gary can be rough with her mother.

One day, Vee takes things at hand when an argument between the two adults erupts. It all turns pear-shaped for Wendy and Vee when they make some wild discoveries at their family house as they deal with the aftermath of the quarrel.





# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

| by JEAN-BAPTISTE CANAC



I made the short film "Wendy & Vee" to explore the controversy that can lie between the goodness of doing a bad thing and the badness of doing a good thing.

Revenge, acceptable behaviour, violence, trauma are part of this short film's story and it aims at addressing these ambiguous questions with a trait of humour and absurdity.

Something has grown inside Wendy since her teenager years, something dark she can't control. The mental illness she carries silently is a burden as well as her salvation, her prison and her way to freedom. Duality, paradoxes, the search for peace, amnesty and deliverance. Is Wendy suffering from PTSD, from her struggle to forgive and find inner peace?

We all have various personalities inside us, some come out triggered by different situations, events, internal or external factors. Wendy is a metaphor of the glitter and the dark we hold within, what we chose to remember and what we don't.

Rare are the movies, such as *Delicatessen* (1991), that handle gloriously the difficult and perilous exercise of marrying comedy and dark themes. But when they do succeed, what a feast it becomes.

It is a challenge to venture in such territory and the story of "Wendy & Vee", along with our wonderful Cast & Crew, are all wonderful cogs to deliver this intense story with creativity, fun and wit.



**BLESSED BE THE BROKEN, FOR THEY WILL LET THE LIGHT SHINE THROUGH.**

**- JACQUES AUDIARD**

# CRUNCHY FACTS

production

We prepared the film for 4 months and filmed it over 5 days (3 weekends) in Brisbane and Gold Coast, Australia. Principal photography was shot between Dec 2021 and Jan 2022.

We had a diverse cast and crew with 35% women, LGBTQI and various nationalities (French, Indian, Irish, Australian,...)

art department

We used 274 prop bones for the forensics digging scene/photos (one human body has 206 bones).

There is a skull with a hole cut in the shape of a gingerbread man, that is recovered from Wendy's garden by the forensics. The cut-out piece is actually displayed in the kitchen scenes, above the spice rack, as an odd trophy.

The prison cell scenes are shot in a set, built by our Art Director Scott Clark in his garage, and it barely fitted in (as long as we kept the garage door opened).

editing

We shot a beautiful intro scene with Wendy & Vee by the beach but it fell on the cutting-room floor to keep the film shorter and more paced. That intro scene had a shot of a female praying mantis killing a male mantis (which happens after they mate), as a well suited metaphor.

cookies!

Deb, the mother of Freya (playing Vee), organized for our last shoot day some amazing cookies, each covered with an edible transfer of the short film poster.



# Q&A

## with Jean-Baptiste Canac

### **1. What drove you to bring this story to life?**

The desire to have fun with friends on set and to learn/discover the filmmaking process from A to Z. I thought a dark comedy is a genre that would suit well my friends actors I originally had in mind so I wrote Wendy & Vee over a weekend.

### **2. Why did you decide to make this story a dark comedy?**

I love Delicatessen, 1991 french dark comedy. When well executed, dark comedies can be a very entertaining way to address some difficult topics and trigger reflections in a different way.

### **3. How was your experience as a first-time director?**

It was extraordinary, and it's all thanks to the cast and crew who dared to jump on board. They've been like a family to me, caring, loving, creative, driven, talented, generous... I was blessed to work with the kind and amazing cinematographer Andrew Conder ASC SOC who, despite my lack of experience, trusted me and supported me in bringing this story to life. It was a dream, really. I can't wait to shoot the next film!

### **4. How did you go about producing this film independently?**

We used word of mouth and existing friends/contacts to gather the crew. We ran self tapes and then auditions (260 applicants, 100 self tape and 35 auditions). For finance, we crowdfunded 70% of the film via Indiegogo.

I'm a big prepper so we planned a lot ahead and I storyboarded every shot. Most importantly, I surrounded myself with people way more talented and experienced than myself to bring this project to life. Collaboration is the most enriching and fun part of this whole process!

### **5. What is the most important thing independent filmmakers should remember when creating their own film?**

I'm still very new to this but I'd say do something you're passionate about, because you will spend a large amount of time on it from start to finish. Also, it's all about collaboration, surround yourself with the most friendly and talented people and you'll have a great time doing what you love!

### **6. What do you believe makes a perfect on-set environment?**

Ensuring you have the right collaborators, friendly and caring, on the same wavelength. Also, being over-prepared allowed me to be more fluid on the day, despite everything being so new and sometimes overwhelming.



**7. What roadblocks did you face in the creation of this film?**

We lost our two actors for the roles of Wendy and Gary due to work commitments, a few months before shooting. So I recast them and found the amazing actors Jacy Lewis and Steve Nation, it worked out perfectly.

**8. What films were an inspiration for the creation of Wendy & Vee?**

Delicatessen for the tone. After writing the story, I found other themes shared with TV series like Dexter and feature like Promising Young Woman.

**9. What part of your creative process did you find most enjoyable during Wendy & Vee?**

Every part had its own specific fun, and they were all new to me. Maybe because I'm still in a discovery and wonder phase, I was enamoured of each step of the process. We'll see if that changes over the next projects.

The story was born in seclusion, writing is a lonely duty and I deeply love it.

The Pre-Production was a mix of collaborative explorations in creating the film's identity. I found that process exhilarating.

The shoot was where it all came together, bathed in joy. With every creative soul involved, the outcome got bigger than the sum of its parts.

The Post Production was a beautiful process, working at a slower pace with very talented artists, very generous with their time and skill.

**10. What was your favourite moment from the set of Wendy & Vee?**

Probably the night garden digging and 'packaging' kitchen scenes were the most playful ones. Though, when Freya's (Vee) mother Deb brought us all on set some biscuits with edible printed posters on them, it felt pretty special!

**11. What's your favourite scene/line of dialogue from the film?**

When Jacy (Wendy) says to the detective in the interrogation room: 'That's unexpected!'. The way she delivers that line cracks me up. Jacy is a very talented actor and she brought so much depth to the character of Wendy.

**12. Can you tell us about any projects you have coming up?**

I've got a few shorts in the writing, proof-of-concept for features and a limited TV series. Hopefully we can shoot one this year or early next year!

**13. What do you hope people will be thinking about after seeing Wendy & Vee?**

I hope they'll have a good time watching it, as much as we did making it, and that the audience will sense and reflect on the layers weaving the story, and maybe even want to watch it again!



# CAST AND CREW

# CAST



**Jacy Lewis**  
**is Wendy Metzger**

Jacy is an award winning actor with over 20 years experience in film, television, theatre and live entertainment. Her recent professional film and TV credits include Harrow, The End, The Bureau of Magical Things, Australia Day and Celeste. Jacy is acting at the moment in the acclaimed play "Outback Spectacular" based on the Gold Coast.



**Freya Callaghan**  
**is Vee Metzger**

Freya is an effervescent Irish-Australian actor, singer & dancer since the age of three. She most recently she starred as Young Fiona in Gordon Frosts production of Shrek the Musical and as Young Corsette in the QLD Conservatoriums production of Les Miserable. In the last year Freya has joined with Ego Management to begin a career in the TV and Film Industry where she has been fortunate to work alongside Anna Paquin and Josh Lawson in True Spirit as Young Emily Watson.



**Rebecca Saunders-Smith**  
**is Ingrid Metzger**

Rebecca Saunders-Smith is an Australian actress who returned to acting in 2018. She was previously known for theatre, the TV series 'E Street' and feature film 'Queen City Rocker'. She has since appeared in many short films and a number of indie features. Including the lead roles in award winning horror 'Mum' and thriller 'Eloise'. Most recently appearing in the short 'Wendy & Vee', upcoming feature 'Bloom' and TV series 'Young Rock'.



**Steve Nation**  
**is Gary Foreman**

Steve Nation is an actor and producer, known for The Bureau of Magical Things (2018), Swimming for Gold (2020), The End, Wentworth Prison (2019), The Whistleblower, Harrow, Chiroptera, Home and Away, In Like Flynn, The Butterfly Tree, Hoges, A Turbulent Affair, Sea Patrol... and Neighbours,



**Wayne Bassett**  
**is Detective Hendrick**

Wayne is an award-winning actor. He has appeared in films "The Edge Of The World", "The Sum Of Existence" in "All Saints" and "K9" and in TV ads. He won a Best Actor award for his first lead role in "The McGuffin Of Love" and in "Last Drinks", a short film he co-produced, co-wrote and co-starred in.



**Mitch Marion**  
**is Humphrey Boeri**

Mitchell is an Australian/British filmmaker and performer. His short films, G O'Clock and The Suit Weareth the Man won multiple awards. Mitchell has appeared on Drag Race UK in 2019, and has been featured in music videos for artists like The Irrepressibles, and in Jupiter Ascending.





# CREW



**Jean-Baptiste Canac**  
**Writer / Director / Producer**

Jean-Baptiste Canac is a French-Australian awarded Screenwriter. Born in Paris, he holds a master's degree of Engineering and managed bridges & construction projects around the world.

He's always had a love relationship with storytelling and capturing images with analogue photography since a kid. Jean-Baptiste recently realized that filmmaking was the perfect medium to combine all his creative passions. 2021 was the year where the call to tell stories the 'film-way' took life.

He was very lucky to collaborate with some wonderful and talented film creatives in the making of the dark comedy short film "Wendy & Vee". Jean-Baptiste is now working on some proof of concept short films.



**Vicky Wanless**  
**Producer / Actor**

Vicky Wanless is an actor and filmmaker, from Brisbane, Australia. Her career kicked into gear down in Melbourne acting in various short and feature films. A highlight was playing opposite Australian Idol winner Damien Leith in the film "The Target". Vicky has now moved behind the camera to produce and direct award winning short films, notably "Ripples" and is in post production for her new film "Once Upon A Midnight".

A highlight of last year was working as 3rd AD on "Australian Survivor S7" filmed in Northern QLD.





## **Andrew Conder** **Cinematographer**

Andrew Conder has been creating stunning, award winning images for over 40 years. He won the prestigious "Pater" award for Television excellence in 1988 and his first ACS award in 1991. Since then, he has been awarded a further 30 Cinematography Awards including the coveted ACS "Golden Tripod" in 2008 and Best Cinematography at the 2006 Actionfest, 2016 ASIN Awards and the 2020 AFIN Awards.

Andrew was accredited to the American Society of Camera Operators (SOC) in 2007, and the Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS) in 2008. He has over 30 Feature Film credits including "Pirates of the Caribbean", "Peter Pan", "Scooby Doo", "Fools Gold", "Thirteen Lives" and many more.



## **Stuart Jaymes** **Editor & Color Grader**

Stuart is a talented Editor and Color Grader and as well a Cinematographer and a Producer, based in Melbourne.

He developed a love for filmmaking through his curiosity and fascination for the art of lighting. Stuart brings a compelling and thought-provoking style to everything he shoots, colours and edits. He's been involved with many indie projects including 'Ripples', 'The Other Side of Paradise', 'The Abnorms', 'Little Diva Rising', 'Once Upon a Midnight...'



**Steve Toulmin**  
**Composer**

Steve has composed for over 100 professional theatre productions. He has worked for every major national theatre company alongside the country's most acclaimed theatremakers including Neil Armfield, Simon Phillips, Gale Edwards, Lee Lewis, Declan Greene, Eamon Flack, John Bell and international artists including Steven Soderbergh and Kevin Maher (Choreographer to Madonna, Justin Bieber, Britney Spears, etc). In addition to theatre, he has composed and produced music for pop artists, cabaret and circus productions, and a number of large scale events and national celebrations.



**Thom Kellar**  
**Sound Designer**

Thom and his studio 'Folklore Sound' sound designed and sound mixed 'Wendy & Vee'. Folklore Sound is based in Brisbane, Australia and works with production companies and studios around the world.

Thom has worked in the sound department of numerous big TV and Film productions such as 'Lovecraft Country', Rock Island Mysteries, Hurricane Jonah, Who's That Girl, Loveland, Wyrnwood: Apocalypse, 2067, Dora and the Lost City of Gold, Bluey, Mr Inbetween, Starwars Clone Wars, Godfather of Harlem, The Second, Safe Harbour,... and many more.





# SCREENPLAY AWARDS



# FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS



# CAST CREDITS

Jacy Lewis	Wendy Metzger
Freya Callaghan	Vee Metzger
Rebecca Saunders Smith	Ingrid Metzger
Steve Nation	Gary Foreman
Wayne Bassett	Detective Hendrick
Mitch Marion	Humphrey Boeri
Jeff Campbell	Police Officer 1
Wayne Quilliam	Police Officer 2
Jayson Whiteley	Police Officer 3
Vicky Wanless	Forensics 1
Elijah Sanderson	Forensics 2
Jacques Kermetzis	Forensics 3
Angelo Montano	Staff/Guard 1
Jean-Baptiste Canac	Staff/Guard 2
Pippin	Peroxide

# CREW CREDITS

Directed and Written by	Jean-Baptiste Canac
Produced by	Jean-Baptiste Canac & Vicky Wanless
Director of Photography	Andrew Conder
Editor & Colorist	Stuart Jaymes
Composer	Steve Toulmin
1st AD	Aimee Cheung
Costume Designer	Annie Reilly
MUA	Katie Whitmore McNamara
Props Master	Wayne Quilliam
Props Assistant	Kayla Quilliam
Art Director & Set Builder	Scott Clark
Production Manager	Vicky Wanless
Assistant Producer	Elijah Sanderson
1st Assitant Camera	Jacinta Taylor
2nd Assitant Camera	Daniel Meldrum
Best Boy	Jacques Kemertzis
Gaffer	Tina Eastley
Key Grip	Tin Huyen Pham
Production Sound Mixer	TJ Nicholas
Boom	Ryan Kitzelmann
Sounds Designer	Thom Kellar
Sound Designer	Ben Stewart
Dialog Editor	Sam Lowe
Sound Mixing	Folklore Sound
VFX	Cinibees Studios
Continuity/Script Supervisor	Jess Heath
Script Consultant	Laure De Mare
Marketing Director	Elijah Sanderson
Marketing Director Assistant	Ahynthavy Jeya & Jess Heath
BTS Photography & Video	Virgil Carpentier & Bianca Valentine
Production Assistant	Gabrielle May O'Brien
Runner	Luke Cunningham - Elizabeth Clarke - Owen Douglas - Rhys Callaghan - Nick Grice
Executive Producer	Eli Griffen - Wayne Quilliam - Deborah Callaghan
Executive Producers Assistant	Irena Prikryl - Jeffrey J. Ellen - Phill Woodhouse
Lawyer	Shaun Miller

## SPECIAL THANKS

Alain Canac, Denis Reboul, Joan Rodd  
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Andrew Conder, Wayne Quilliam,  
Jayson Whiteley, Stuart Jaymes  
Alison Douglas, Les Zig,  
Morgan Maguire, Matt Young



FOLKLORE SOUND STUDIO





# TECHNICAL INFO

VIDEO FORMATS: DCP, H.264,...

VIDEO RESOLUTION: 4K

AUDIO FORMATS: DCP 5.1, STEREO,...

SUBTITLES: ENGLISH/FRENCH/SPANISH  
OTHER LANGUAGES AVAIL. ON REQUEST

CAPTIONS: ENGLISH/FRENCH/SPANISH, ON REQUEST

PROD. COMPLETED: JUNE 2022

COUNTRY OF PROD.: AUSTRALIA

# CONTACT

**JEAN-BAPTISTE CANAC**  
**JBCANAC@GMAIL.COM**  
**+61 420 433 434**

THANK YOU, WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE FILM!

