



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION

buffalo films & bridle path films & screen australia
present

yardbird

directed by michael spiccia
produced by jessica mitchell
written & executive produced by julius avery

duration: 13mins
contact: info@buffalofilms.com.au
www.buffalofilms.com.au



synopsis

*A young girl who lives in a remote wrecking yard takes
on the local bullies when they travel out to torment her father*

title yardbird
year of production 2012
duration 13:30" mins
country of production australia
genre drama
shoot gauge 35mm
finish gauge DCP
ratio 2:35 (scope)
optical sound format dolby digital
language english

principal cast

ruby	mitzi ruhlmann
jed	wade briggs
ben	luke elliot
mitch	james malcher
sam	matt callan

principal crew

director	michael spiccia
writer	julius avery
producer	jessica mitchell
executive produced by	julius avery
executive producer	matt long
cinematographer	adam arkapaw
editor	jack hutchings
production designer	joseph kiely
casting by	fiona dann
costume designer	polly smyth
sound design	will ward
composer	elliott wheeler



director's statement

Making *Yardbird* provided me with an opportunity to explore various themes I was aware of and affected by in my youth. How certain relationships and events shape our view moving forward in life, not only with the people we love but the new ones that enter. Having a story I really wanted to tell, brought my attention to writer/director Julius Avery (who won Cannes Jury Prize for his film *Jerrycan* in 2008). I was drawn to Julius (apart from growing up in the same state) being aware of his sensibilities regarding these themes, knew he would share my understanding. We shared similar stories growing up in WA, which ultimately brought us to collaborate on *Yardbird*. Factors such as bullying, isolation (both geographically and metaphorically) and emotional insecurity, were aspects I wanted to explore in this story. I was attracted to creating a world in which the main character endures an internal dilemma on a variety of levels. Much like myself at that age, Ruby's character is extremely internalised in dealing with her frustrations and conflicts. Her interior state and relationship to her world characterises much of the visual language and the aesthetic decisions I have made for the film.

Michael Spiccia

michael spiccia

Yardbird is the debut short film from Michael Spiccia.

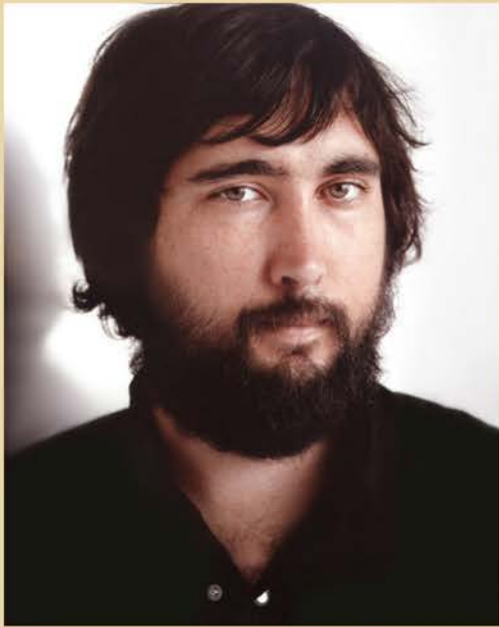
Born in Perth, Western Australia, Michael started drawing and painting from a very young age. Following high-school he went on to study design at the Western Australian School of Art and Design (WASAD), where he cultivated his passion for the visual arts.

Michael spent a year in London working as designer, where he began to immerse himself into the rich setting of London's music video and filmmaking community and a whole new world of potential for visual creative expression.

After his London stint, Michael returned to Australia and set his sights on music videos as a way to hone his directing skills and eventually make the leap into long-form filmmaking.

Michael split his time between Bazmark (where he worked alongside Baz Lurhman and Catherine Martin as a designer), and directing high profile video clips for such bands as: Evermore, Jet, The Black Ryder, Grinspoon and Bob Evans to name a few.

In 2012 Michael produced and completed *Yardbird*, a short film accepted In Competition at the 65th Cannes Film Festival. *Yardbird* was written and executive produced by Cannes-Award winning writer/director and fellow West Australian Julius Avery.



julius avery

Julius Avery is a writer/director, represented by United Talent Agency.

Born in Pemberton Western Australia, Julius is a Masters graduate of the VCA. His short film *Jerrycan* was the Jury Prize winner at the Cannes Film Festival in 2008 and won the Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award for Best Short Film in the same year.

Jerrycan then went on to receive an Honorable Mention at Sundance and the Berlin International Film Festival, enjoying a substantial and prestigious festival run.

Julius also directed the powerful short film *End of Town*, which earned him the Emerging Australian Filmmaker Award at the Melbourne International Film Festival in 2006, and was also awarded an Australian Directors Guild Award in 2007.

More recently Julius executive produced and is the writer of the short film *Yardbird* directed by fellow West Australian Micheal Spiccia, which has just been accepted into 'In Competition' at the 65th Cannes International Film Festival. This marks the first collaborative project under the new Bridle Path Films banner, a directors' collective founded by Julius Avery in 2011.



jessica mitchell

Jessica Mitchell is a Sydney-based creative producer and founder of production company Buffalo Films.

Jessica began her career in London before returning to Melbourne, where she studied philosophy & film at Swinburne University of Technology, as well as collaborating on film projects such as *Shadowplay: The Making of Anton Corbijn*, as associate producer.

In 2012 Jessica produced and completed *Yardbird*, a short film accepted In Competition at the 65th Cannes Film Festival. *Yardbird* was directed by Michael Spiccia and written and executive produced by Cannes-Award winning writer/director Julius Avery (*Jerrycan*) The project was the first production for Buffalo Films, made in collaboration with the Directors' Collective Bridle Path Films, founded by Julius Avery.

Buffalo Films is in development on a variety of projects, forging relationships with some of Australia's most interesting and dynamic filmmakers.

**Buffalo Films and Bridle Path Films
and Screen Australia Present
In association Goodoil Films**

Yardbird

Directed by **Michael Spiccia**
Written by **Julius Avery**
Produced by **Jessica Mitchell**
Executive Produced by **Julius Avery**
Executive Producer **Matt Long**
Cinematographer **Adam Arkapaw**
Editor **Jack Hutchings**
Production Designer **Joeseoph Kiely**
Casting by **Fiona Dann**
Costume Designer **Polly Smyth**
Sound Designer **William Ward**
Composer **Elliott Wheeler**

Production Manager **Victoria Conners-Bell**
1st AD **Damien M Grant**

Stand by Props **Kirsten O'Loughlin**
Art Department **Matthew Hennessy**
Assistants **Cam Smith**

Key Hair & Make-up **Mia'Kate Russel**

1st Assistant Camera **Sky Davies**
Clapper Loader **Kitty May Allwood**
Sound recordist **Steve Bond**
Boom Operator **Chris Bond**
Gaffer **Rory Timoney**
Key Grip **Llew Higgins**
Grip **Paul Rogan**

SFX **Paul Norton at Portfire Studios**
SFX Assistant **Tom Marley**

Stunt Co-ordinator/
Safety Supervisor **Reg Roordink**
Assistant Stunt
Coordinator **Warwick Sadler**

Production Coordinator **Sarah Newman**
Production Assistant **Jacqui Bloustien**
Director's Assistant **Benjamin Brink**
Production Runner **Jared Webster**
Locations Assistant **Adam Wonderzitch**
Animal Wrangler **Luke Hura**
Unit Manager **Karl Demmler**
Nurse **Deidre Haberil**
Catering **Creatable Foods**

Original soundtrack recorded at Turning Studios

Music Producer **Emma Hoy**

**"Shiver" Written and Produced by Elliott Wheeler
Mixed by Evan McHugh at Turning Studios
Featuring vocals by Melodie Nelson**

**"You let me be honest with you"
Written by Barry/Huntley/Young/Young
(Mushroom Music Publishing)
Performed by Eddie Current Supression Ring**

**"Black Friday"
Written by Jamieson/Davern
Performed by Grinspoon
Courtesy of EMI Music & Universal Publishing**

Cast

Ruby **Mitzi Ruhlmann**
Jed **Wade Briggs**
Ben **Luke Elliot**
Mitch **James Malcher**
Sam **Matt Callan**

**Editorial services provided by
The Butchery, Melbourne.**

Post Production Producer **Madison Dawe**
Assistant Editors **Luke Byrne
Greg Cooper**

Sound Re-Recording Stage **Stage One Sound**
Re-recording mixer **Glenn Butler**
Foley Recordist **Blair Slater**
Foley Artist **Mario Vaccaro**

Dialogue Editor **Jared Dwyer**
ADR Facilities **Gas Audio, Melbourne
Spectrum Films**

Editorial Consultant **Luke Doolan**

VFX services provided by FIN DESIGN & EFFECTS

Post Production Producer **Billy Beckett**
CG Supervisors **Stuart White
Steve Oakley**
CG Rigging & Animation **Shane Brouwer**
CG Modelling & Texturing **Tim Streets**
CG Dynamics & FX **Jeremy Fort**
Compositing Supervisor **Nick Ponzoni**
Nuke Compositor **Blake Druery**
Nuke Artist **Maxcence Peillon**

Additional VFX services by Canopy VFX

VFX Supervisor **Travis Hogg**
VFX Producer **Nick Wright**
3D Artists **Adrian Oostergetel
Nicolas Miroglio
Jade Ngo
Carlo Cersosimo
Steven Cheah**

Lead Composer
Particle & Simulation Artist

Additional VFX

Digital Composer **Richard Lambert**
Title & Credits **Andrei Juradowitch**

Additional VFX services by Fuel VFX

Post Production Producer **Sam Daley**
Compositing Supervisor **Dave Morely**

Digital Intermediate **Efilm Australia**

DI Producer **Katherine Heads**
Digital Colourist **Edel Rafferty**
Di Conform **Matt Griffin**
DI Online **Kristian Whitlock**

Camera Equipment provided by **Panavision**
Film Stock provided by **Kodak**
Processing Laboratory **Efilm**
Film insurances provided by **Holland Insurance Brokers
FIUA**

Screen Australia development officer **Christopher Sharp**

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Kodak Motion Picture Film

The Butchery



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