

Picture Perfect



written, directed and produced
by Rie Natalenko
from an original concept by Xenia Natalenko

Starring:
Xenia Natalenko and Bree Baldwin

Music:
Lance Lenehan

Director of Photography and Editor:
Taras Natalenko

SP Beta

Running time: 7 mins ©2002
email <natalenko@hotmail.net.au>

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Logline:

A young girl falls for a photographer, but will their relationship be the picture of happiness?

Synopsis:

Lisa and Bianca are school friends. Bianca is hurt when Lisa falls for Carol, the attractive photographer who moves into the flat downstairs. Lisa becomes totally enamoured when Carol takes some photos of her for the local photographic exhibition. When the photos are not well recieved, Carol turns to Pam, hurting Lisa's feelings. But all is not lost, and Lisa learns that old friends are the best.

Production Information:

The original concept for this was Xenia Natalenko's. Xenia incorporated a similar story into a play she wrote in 2000. Rie thought the idea was worth developing, and from that came this short film. The challenge for Rie was to write it without dialogue, to tell the story in image and music. She approached Lance Lenehan, who agreed to compose and record the music. Taras Natalenko acted as both Director of Photography and Editor and it was this creative team that was able to interpret the vision. Xenia Natalenko and Bree Baldwin were cast as Lisa and Carol, with Helen McLean and Lynette Pembridge as Pam and Bianca. With the enthusiastic help of Nancye, Luke, Lynette and Ben, the generosity of several excellent photographers who lent their pictures, and the Illawarra Performance Writers' Group who created the photographic exhibition, the whole no-budget project was able to come together.

Cast

Xenia Natalenko (Lisa, the young girl)



Xenia (17) has been acting and writing since childhood. Her first TV role (apart from some commercials that she would rather not mention) was in *Home and Away* in 1995, where she played Maja, a Bosnian refugee.

She has acted in several films and short films including *To The Other Shore* (1995), *The Father* (1998), *The Last Secret* (2000) and has had guest roles on *Wildside* and *Fallen Angels* as well as performing in community theatre productions.

She has twice won the Sydney Theatre Company's "Young Playwright of the Year" award and her play *Facing the Truth* has been performed in two theatre seasons. She has just finished year 12 at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts and is hoping to go to University in 2002.

Bree Baldwin (Carol, the photographer)



Bree Baldwin (17) studied drama for five years with Janet Shaw at the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre. She has performed many times in community theatre and has been in several short films including *Indulgence* and *The Cope Program*. She is currently studying Drama at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts.



Helen McLean (Pam, the woman)

Helen McLean studied acting at the University of Wollongong, the University of Miami and UCLA. She has worked for many years with Theatre South, and with community theatre in Wollongong and Sydney. She has starred in a number of short films including the award winning *Bulli*. Most recently she has played Caterina in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the title role in *Evita*.

Lynette Pembridge (Bianca, the young friend)



Lynette has performed in community theatre for many years, and for the last six years has trained with Pam Dunn in her award winning theatre school. This is Lynette's film debut.

Production Team

Rie Natalenko (Writer, Producer and Director.)



Rie (left) with Nancye Elliott (production manager)

Rie is a screenwriter and a teacher.

One of her feature film scripts, “Playing it Straight” won the 2000 Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival screenwriting award. It is currently in planning for production.

Rie has participated in the Tropnest emerging writers’ program at Fox Studios in Sydney, and has completed a Master of Creative Arts in screenwriting. Her first short film, “The Last Secret,” has been shown in several film festivals both in Australia and overseas.

Rie has written all her life, and has acted for many years in community theatre, and more recently in short films. She is currently enrolled in a doctorate in screenwriting.

Contact information: email <natalenko@hotmail.net.au>

Lance Lenehan (Music)



Contemporary Australian composer and musician, Lance Lenehan, has been involved with electronic music for over 20 years. During his work for the film, he used a range of modern instruments which were recorded in his home studio using the latest digital media.

Over the last few years Lance has created music for a number of short films and continues to receive outstanding reviews for his debut CD "Soundscape". More information is available at <http://www.soundscapemusic.com> and <http://www.mp3.com/lance>.

Taras Natalenko (DOP, Editor)



Taras completed certificate II in Film and TV production two years ago, and is currently working for Network TEN. He has worked on numerous film shoots in many roles, most recently as first AD on *The Last Secret*(2001), and *The World According to Nancy*(2001).

He has been cinematographer on *The Cope Program* (2001) and *Keep Myself Awake* (2001) and has edited *The Last Secret* and *Keep Myself Awake*.

A man of many extraordinary talents, his artistic imagination and excellent organisational skills kept the shoot and the edit on track at all times.

Nancye Elliot (Production Manager)

pictured with Rie Natalenko, p.5.

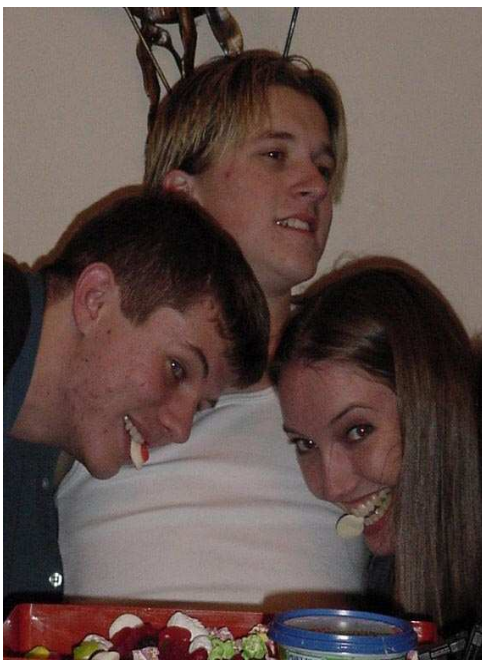
Nancye is a teacher and a natural born organiser. She is gentle, efficient and uncompromising, and is just the person needed to make sure all the 'i's are dotted and the 't's crossed. Considering that this was her first taste of production management, indeed her first film shoot, she was an unfailing support and a constant source of encouragement to everyone.

But film sets are addictive, and she loved the job so much that she has gone on to do a course in production management. So next time she'll be doing an even better job - if that were possible!

Ben Lipman(left), Luke Dunham and Lorelle Pembridge keeping their strength up for the demanding work on set.

All three also appeared in the photographic exhibition scene. Without them this film would not have been the same!!!

Luke Dunham was the stills photographer for the shoot (amongst other things) and it was a really difficult task for him to take photos which were as clichéd or downright



awful as were required in the brief. Some of his own wonderful photos were displayed in the photo exhibition in the film. Luke is an excellent photographer and a keen filmmaker in his own right. He has just finished High School and has gained a place in film school in the USA in 2002. We wish him well, knowing that he is headed for the success he deserves.

Lorelle Pembridge was unit manager for the shoot, and also did hair and makeup, among other tasks. She has crewed in short films in the past and has done some acting. Her unfailing good humour was a constant asset on the set.

Ben Lipman is currently completing a certificate I in Film and TV production at North Sydney TAFE. He has had experience in many crew roles in short films, and performed an incredible juggling act as he filled all the support crew roles on this one - working where required as camera assist, first AD, continuity - you name it.

Credits

Cast

Lisa (young girl)
 Carol (photographer)
 Pam (woman)
 Bianca (young friend)

Xenia Natalenko
 Bree Baldwin
 Helen McLean
 Lynette Pembridge

People at the exhibition:

Van Badham, Lesley Coombs, P P Cranney, Hamish Danks Brown, Luke
 Dunham, Amanda Field, Callum Field Bare, Jackson Field, Lance Lenehan, Ben
 Lipman, Annie McNamara, Adam Orris, Heather Peckman, Lorelle Pembridge

Technical credits

Writer, Director and Producer
 Music composed and performed by
 Director of Photography and Editor
 Production Manager
 Stills Photographer
 Ist AD and everything else
 Unit, Hair, Makeup
 Original Concept

Rie Natalenko
 Lance Lenehan
 Taras Natalenko
 Nancye Elliott
 Luke Dunham
 Ben Lipman
 Lorelle Pembridge
 Xenia Natalenko

Photographers:

Luke Dunham,
 Nancye Elliott,
 Kim Morrison,
 Brian Pembridge,
 Rie Natalenko,
 Taras Natalenko

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Thanks also to Jessica Grainger and Alex Natalenko.

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