

Fu(nd) This!

Comedy Short Film

Written by Oliver Houston, Produced by Dominic Norris
Directed by Anna Edwards & Oliver Houston

A film funding applicant battles censorship and cultural cowardice, as well as his own conscience, in a fraught attempt to get his project 'green-lit' in this surreal and biting political comedy.

Religious and social taboos are challenged, and barriers are broken, as he grows not only increasingly impatient with the stern board of officials vetting his proposals, but also increasingly cunning in working his way around the obstacles they place before him.

Freedom of expression, the bounds of taste and decency, and the slavish capitulation to commercialism, are all confronted in this roller-coaster romp. Anyone who's ever tried in vain to get approval for a fresh and original idea will instantly recognise the scenario that unfolds in this fun little film by a first-time director team.



see www.FundThisShortFilm.com for full details

Running Time: 11 minutes

Starring - Bruce MacKinnon (*The Catherine Tate Show, Taking The Flak, Big Top, The Office, Smack The Pony, Perfect Day*), **Barry McCarthy** (*Kinky Boots, Notes on a Scandal*) and **Gillian McCutcheon** (*This Life, Drop The Dead Donkey, Strike It Rich*).

Anna Edwards, Director - After graduating from King's, Cambridge with a First in Social and Political Sciences, Anna joined Rockhopper Productions as a researcher, initially working on short films for the *National Geographic* channel. With her background in factual research, she went on to produce and direct a half-hour documentary about *Hadrian's Wall* for BBC World, and later developed a one-hour wildlife documentary for Oxford Scientific Films, before taking a job on the feature adaptation of *Pride & Prejudice* for Working Title. Since then she has worked as a freelance assistant to director Joe Wright on *Atonement*, as well as on several films for Richard Loncraine in the U.S, including his latest feature *My One & Only* for which she also made a half-hour, behind-the-scenes documentary. In addition to working on numerous feature films, Anna has directed and edited several shorts, including *Spin Dry*, which won a CobraVision competition to appear on ITV3 and *A Fairlie Film*, which was described as "spellbinding" by the Editor of Fourdocs and selected to be broadcast on Channel 4 as part of a *3 Minute Wonder* strand on storytelling. Anna has recently completed shooting the comedy short *Fu(nd) This!* starring Bruce MacKinnon (*Catherine Tate Show, Taking The Flak, Big Top*) and Barry McCarthy (*Kinky Boots, Notes on a Scandal*), and is currently developing various short film and documentaries.

Oliver Houston, Co-Director & Writer - Born to actor parents, Oliver spent his teenage years performing on stage, most notably with the *Original Shakespeare Company* at the Globe, and in many shows with the *National Youth Music Theatre* in the West End, but left the theatre to pursue a career in politics and journalism. After studying History at Manchester University he worked as an MP's researcher and as political assistant to the Deputy Mayor of London, as well as on the executive committees of the Labour Environment Campaign and the Young Fabians. For many years he has edited the magazine *Justice for Colombia*, as well as contributing to numerous political magazines and union journals. He has written articles for several publications, including the *Morning Star, Tribune, Observer, Guardian* and *Sunday Times*. Oliver has recently written a number of shorts films, including the comedy *Fu(nd) This!* (about the struggle for artistic freedom in the face of censorship), as well as *Postcard* (about a dream souvenir shop), *Flake Out* (about a drug-squad stake-out of an ice cream van), *Branded* (a dystopian vision of over commercialism and home-made marmalade), and *Magpie* (a romance about a beach-combing metal-detective reuniting lost rings with their rightful owners). Each of them blends a *Pinteresque* confinement of enclosed spaces with the surreal outbursts commonly found in *Monty Python* or *Family Guy*. As a playwright he has written two one-act plays – *Choice*, and *The Aluminum Transition* (about Britain's relationship with America); and two full-length *Stoppardian* plays set in the 1880s – *Aunt Ben* (about Charles Stewart Parnell, George Bernard Shaw, Annie Besant and the birth of Fenianism, feminism and the Fabian Society), and *Littlechild's Dolly* (about a workers strike at a Quaker-owned chocolate factory and the birth of the police force's Special Branch). His first novel *Hotel Platypus & The Seven Dolphins* (a comedic political thriller based on his experiences working as a human rights campaigner in Colombia, home to the world's longest-running civil war) is currently being adapted into a screenplay.

Dominic Norris, Producer - Dominic has produced several acclaimed shorts and features over the last 5 years that have competed at various festivals including Cannes, Venice & Edinburgh and successfully sold internationally, including BAFTA nominated *Notting Hill Anxiety Festival* and the prolific feature *Guilty Hearts* starring Julie Delpy, Eva Mendes, Charlie Sheen & Kathy Bates. Dominic has also produced (Channel 4's Creative Director) Brett Foraker's comedy, *Buying Porn* starring Karl Theobald (Green Wing), and Nick White's *Inseparable* starring Benedict Cumberbatch (*Hawking & Atonement*) and Natalie Press (*My Summer Of Love & Red Road*). He set up the production company Serotonin Films in January 2004 and is currently in pre-production on the urban horror *Comedown*, to be directed by Menhaj Huda (*Kidulthood*). He is also packaging family adventure, *The Intrepids* and a suspense thriller, *Darkness Within*. Several other features in development include a romantic comedy, *The Big Red Taxi* and low-budget comedy, *Bigfoot, Small Budget*. Dominic's work and feature slate was showcased at AFM 2008 in conjunction with Screen South and The UK Film Council. He has worked professionally in the film, promo and commercial industry in the roles of Assistant Director and Production Manager as well as Producer.

John Ferguson, Cinematographer - John has worked on many of the *Harry Potter* films as well as on a host of other television and feature films including *Children Of Men, Sleepy Hollow, The Gathering Storm* and *My House In Umbria*.

David Mackie, Cinematographer - Dave has also worked on many of the *Harry Potter* films, as well as on *The Dark Knight, The Quantum of Solace, The Bourne Ultimatum, Batman Begins, V for Vendetta* and *Nowhere Boy*.