

Matthew and Lucas Bugeja – IAF Grant Recipients 2022 Short Film Production *Thereafter*.

We (Matthew and Lucas Bugeja) would like to acknowledge the Independent Arts Foundation (IAF) and their assistance in helping fund the production of our short film *Thereafter*.

After the completion of our first short film *Lyrebird* (2022), we had some ambitious ideas about what we wanted to accomplish with the filming of *Thereafter* (2023). The film is an extremely inward, psychological and metaphoric journey of coping with regret, and the events in life that cannot be undone. The grant we received from the IAF made a significant difference to our budget, and helped us in several key areas, including: the hiring of

professional-grade video and lighting equipment to meet specific technical challenges; location hire; covering transportation costs and compensating hired crew; paying actors; and buying time for professional sound mixing at a sound studio.

After five months of detailed pre-production carried out by ourselves and our producers (in which we secured our crew, actors, locations, and completed a series of equipment and lighting tests, rehearsals, wardrobe fittings, and production logistics meetings) we underwent production in late March of 2023.

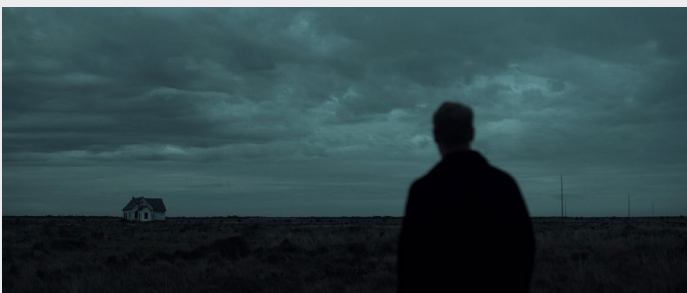


Behind-the-scenes stills of the production of 'Thereafter'.

Taking place over four consecutive days, we filmed in a variety of locations, including a house in the Adelaide Hills, an abandoned building in Magill, an endless field at Buckland Park, as well as supporting locations in North Adelaide and Myponga Beach.

We owe a great deal of thanks to our cast and crew, who thoroughly understood the tone and pace of the movie. They were able to help us achieve the performance and technical standards we were aiming for. We filmed some difficult scenes requiring careful attention to continuity of lighting, as well as scenes that demanded unique camera rigging, drone operation, and operating equipment in freezing cold water.

As with all film productions, we were faced with some unexpected difficulties. Most challenging of which was our camera operators falling ill and unable to attend the shooting days. We had several contingencies in place, including having backup crew on call, as well as having other multi-disciplinary crew members able to take some of the slack – including ourselves, thanks to our experience as cinematographers. Other challenges included unfavourable weather, however, our past experience gave us the foresight to allow additional room at the tail end of the shoot to pick-up any unfinished scenes.



Stills from the finished production of 'Thereafter'.



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Post-production involved a lot of long hours in the edit room, getting creative again, chopping up the film and trying new combinations, as well as colouring and completing the visual effects. Over the course of this experience, we worked closely with our amazing composer, and finally, our sound mixer, who has been adding the remaining sound effects to the film, and mastering the final audio track.

Through the journey of conceptualising and producing this film, we have added a great deal more experience under our belts, and we have grown significantly as artists and directors. Seeing our work travel the distance again from the page to the edit room has

given us invaluable opportunities to reflect on our strengths and weaknesses, learn what worked and what could be improved on; and has given clarity with how we map out the way forward for future learning and film projects.

With our completed film, we now aim to proudly circulate it to different film festivals around Australia and the world, starting with the local Fleurieu Film Festival. We are incredibly grateful to the IAF, as without their support and funding, we are positive our film would have appeared much different to the one we have today.



Stills from the finished production of 'Thereafter'.