

OUR INVISIBLE COLLEGE PRESENTS

THE PARAGON

Sometimes revenge is a cosmic experience.



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
MICHAEL DUGNAN

THE PARAGON

The victim of a hit and run learns how to be psychic so he can find the car that hit him and take revenge on the driver.

Synopsis

The Paragon is the story of DUTCH, a crippled and angry ex-tennis coach whose life has fallen apart since he was the victim of a hit-and-run a year ago. In a bid to find the driver and take revenge, Dutch embarks on a strange psychic training course designed to unlock his latent mind powers. Under the strict tutelage of a witchy disciplinarian named LYRA, Dutch reluctantly begins to expand his consciousness. But soon he learns that Lyra actually has a hidden agenda: she needs Dutch's help to find a mysterious crystal known as THE PARAGON before her evil brother HAXAN and his mind slaves can control it. The two unlikely partners strike a deal; they will use their psychic ability to find what each other is looking for. But by the time Dutch comes face-to-face with the driver who hit him, he starts to see things from a different perspective. When the Paragon falls into the hands of Haxan, Dutch must decide between being a victim of his fate or a slave to cosmic evil.

Writer / Director: Michael Duignan

Michael Duignan was born and raised in Wellington, New Zealand. He studied Film, Theatre and Philosophy at Victoria University. His first short film A NEW WAY HOME premiered at Melbourne film festival. After graduating from the Masters program at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS), Michael's dramatic short TRUANT premiered at the New York Film Festival. Truant went on to play in competition at over a dozen festivals. Michael has directed TV commercials all over the world for clients such as Mastercard, NRMA, Cadbury and Frucor. He has directed numerous episodes of top rating and critically acclaimed shows THE CULT, GO GIRLS, THE BLUE ROSE as well as cult kids TV show POWER RANGERS. He has made documentaries, music videos and cooking shows. His comedy short TEN THOUSAND DAYS was awarded Vimeo Staff Pick and screened all over the world. THE PARAGON is his debut feature film.

Producer / Costume Designer: Lissy Turner

With a vast array of screen credits - including award-nominated Costume Designer on Gerard Johnstone's debut feature, Housebound, and Costume Supervisor on award-winning TV drama, THE PANTHERS (Best Costume). Lissy recently co-produced her first short film PROOF by writer/director, Jonny Brugh. Lissy was then offered the opportunity to utilise her skills and produce her first feature length film, The Paragon, by writer/director, Michael Duignan.

About The Production

The Paragon was shot over 13 days in May-April of 2022 in New Lynn and Bethells Beach in Auckland. It was shot on a budget of approx. \$25,000 made possible by generous contributions from friends and family. The film was created by the incredible hard work and enthusiasm of a small team of committed film-makers.

THE PARAGON CAST

Benedict Wall as Dutch

Benedict Wall is an actor, writer and director born in Auckland, New Zealand. He has a Bachelor's Degree In Journalism from the Auckland University of Technology. After university Benedict studied acting at the Neighbourhood Playhouse School of the Theatre in New York City.

Benedict has worked widely in theatre, television and film. His recent film performances include THE PRETEND ONE, a romantic Australian feature film shot on location in outback New South Wales, and The Flood, a gritty Australian western released last year. Benedict also stars in SHADOW IN THE CLOUD directed by Roseanne Liang, which won the Audience Award at Midnight Madness at TIFF in 2020. Most recently Benedict starred in the US feature film NO EXIT directed by Damien Power.

Most notably in television Benedict played pivotal villain "Jones" in Peter Duncan's critically acclaimed OPERATION BUFFALO opposite Oscar Nominee James Cromwell which screened on the ABC in Australia and Netflix worldwide. Benedict's other television credits include UNDER BELLY BADNESS, HOME AND AWAY, PANTHERS, and he has recently been cast in a lead role in the Sky Original series MILES FROM NOWHERE.

Florence Nobel as Lyra

Florence created sketch comedy BLIND PILOT, in which she played various acerbic characters based on herself. This jump started her acting career. She played victimised intern in award-winning comedy series THE JAQUIE BROWN DIARIES by Gerard Johnstone. She collaborated with Aussie comic legend, Nick Boshier, including the 2014 Emmy award winning Australian comedy 7DaysLater and acting, writing and directing viral comedy MEANWHILE ON EARTH.

Her short film THINGS ARE GOING REALLY WELL did the festival circuit including the Melbourne International Film Festival, where she attended the 2015 Accelerator Program. She co-wrote and directed comedy web series, WAIHEKE REPUBLIQUE. She has directed many comic commercials including the latest successful campaigns for Tower Insurance and international trading app, Pepperstone.

Her unique style of irreverent comedy has gained her much notoriety and critical attention. She was nominated for Best Emerging Talent at the 2016 CAANZ Axis Awards. In 2020, she received a comedy scholarship from the New Zealand Film Commission.

THE PARAGON CAST

Shadon Meredith as Oates

Shadon is a New Zealand born Sāmoan from Wellington. He trained at Toi Whakaari and graduated in 2009. Shadon has extensive experience in theatre, having worked locally and internationally. Most recently Shadon has graced our screens playing the role of Andy in Season 2 of Emmy award-winning show, RŪRANGI and upcoming tv series DOUBLE PARKED. He has worked on feature films SHUT EYE and DARKEST LIGHT which are all set to release this year in 2023. Shadon is now making waves as a writer and is writing for Toi Time and working on his screenplay PETER PETER.

Jess Grace – Smith as Emily

Jessica is an actor who has starred in multiple series and films including HOME & AWAY, SIONE'S WEDDING 2, WESTSIDE and most recently she has been cast in a lead role in TVNZ's new series THE BISHOP.

Michelle Ang as Beth

Michelle Ang is a multi-hyphenate creative. As an Emmy nominated actress, her work spans film and television from the USA, Australia and New Zealand including FEAR THE WALKING DEAD and STAR WARS: THE BAD BATCH. She has produced, written and directed documentary, comedy, shorts and feature films and just wrapped a psychological TV episode. She will next be seen on upcoming New Zealand television series HOMEBOUND 3.0.

Jonny Brugh as Haxan

Jonny Brugh is a comic screen actor, writer and director and producer based in Auckland, New Zealand. He is best known for his role as Deacon in the 2014 cult comedy WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS and most recently as Rapu The Sun God in THOR: LOVE AND THUNDER. In 2021 Jonny brought together a crack team of film making talent to produce the short film PROOF the pilot project for his film company Heimlich Manoeuvre Ltd.

Cameron Rhodes as Enoch

Rhodes graduated from Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School in 1987 with a Diploma in Acting. He has appeared in various TV shows (including XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS) and films including THE ROYAL TREATMENT, THE LORD OF THE RINGS, MR. PIP, and HOUSEBOUND.

Chloe White as Vinnie

Chloe White, has worked in the screen industry as an actor from the age of three, starting out in TV commercials. Her first role in a movie was age 6 where she played Lina in RUNAWAY MILLIONAIRES – Other projects to date include CREAMERIE, and more recently THE PARAGON.

THE PARAGON

KEY CREDITS

Benedict Wall	Dutch
Florence Noble	Lyra
Jessica Grace Smith	Emily
Michelle Ang	Beth
Shadon Meredith	Oates
Jonny Brugh	Haxan
Cameron Rhodes	Enoch
Chloe White	Vinnie
Lucky Lee Morton	Lucky

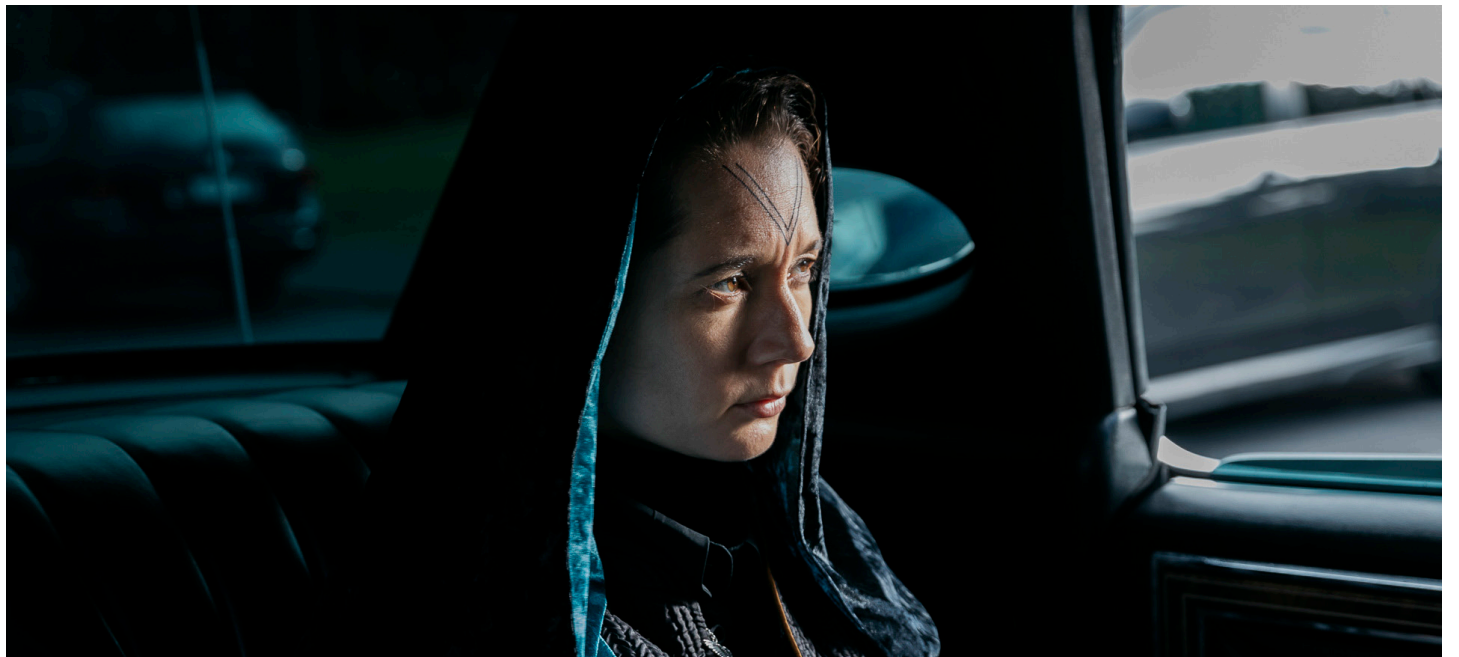
Produced by Lissy Turner and Michael Duignan

Written & Directed by Michael Duignan

Director of Photography	Michael Duignan
Costume Designer	Lissy Turner
Production Designer	Gavin Walker
M/U Designer / MU FX	Levonne Scott
Camera Assist	Finn McGowan
LX / Gaffer	Yusei Tada
Sound Recordist	Flynn Harris
Boom Op	Adam Curlewis
Additional Sound	Shamir Rodriguez
	Ash Bartley
	David Peterson

Executive Producers:

Benedict Wall
Jessica Grace-Smith
Francis McEntee
Michael Sweet
Helen Duignan
Josh Blackmore
Paul Newfield
Michael Lonsdale
Hugh Calvely
Thomas Appleton





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I LOOK FORWARD TO KNOWING YOUR THOUGHTS

