



This is one doll that is rotten to the core!

MAJOR CAST

Susie	NICOLE SIMMS
Heath	SCOTT FARROW
Shopkeeper	JOHN HALE
Tommy	CHRIS ADAMS
Phillip	BEN PAINE

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	REBECCA THOMSON
Producer	ROGAN BROWN
Written by	REBECCA THOMSON
Director of Photography	GORDON CLEELAND
Editor	MIKE SAMPEY
Costumes	FAY MILLIKAN
Digital Effects	MIRO DIGITAL
Special Effects	MELANIE COOPER
Sound Design	MIKE SAMPEY
Music composed by	OWEN THOMSON

PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTORS

Forms:	Narrative fiction, Short
Genres:	Comedy, Horror, Thriller

QUALIFIERS

Exact Runtime: 00 hr : 06 min : 59 sec
Date of Completion: January 2010
Country of Production: Australia
Country of Filming: Australia
Production Budget: \$775 (Australian Dollars)
Funding Source: Our own resources

SCREENINGS

Tropfest Tasmanian screening, Jan 2010
West End Film Festival, Brisbane Australia, March 2011
Indie Spirit Film Festival, Colorado USA, April 2011
Hyart Film Festival, Wyoming USA, August 2011

PRODUCTION CONTACTS

Rebecca Thomson Director
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Rogan Brown Producer, Publicist
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SYNOPSIS

One-Line Synopsis

An apple head doll purchased by an unsuspecting young couple proves to be rotten to the core.

Short Synopsis

When Susie and Heath purchase an apple head doll from a quirky oddities shop, they think they are just getting a quaint, kitsch souvenir.

However, Heath soon realises that this doll, far from being the apple of Susie's eye is, in fact, rotten to the core. Heath knows it. Even Jackie the dog knows it. But can Heath convince Susie of the doll's evil nature before they all find out whether one bad apple really can spoil the whole barrel?!



Rotten to the core! Photo: Dick Marks

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT - Rogan Brown

Rebecca Thomson and I had discussed the idea behind *Apple Head* a few times while we were working on *Cupcake - A Zombie Lesbian Musical*. Having just finished shooting *Cupcake* (our first film-making venture together), enthusiasm to shoot another film was high. Tropfest presented the incentive to put *Apple Head* together on no budget and with very little time.

Mel Cooper, having honed her special effects skills producing various body parts and buckets of blood for *Cupcake*, now turned her skills to creating shrunken apple heads and attaching them to artist's doll figures and toy dogs. Skye Targett kindly loaned us her gorgeous cottage for part of the shoot and with the house came Jackie, the Jack Russell terrier who could howl on cue.

Having got Christmas out of the way, Mike Sampey and I sat ourselves down in Mike's edit suite for several days putting the film together, adding some great visual effects and piecing together the soundtrack from production music and themes composed by Rebecca's brother, Owen (who lived 600 kms away in Melbourne).

Although not short-listed for Tropfest nationally, *Apple Head* went on to win the Hobart City Council Award for Best Tasmanian Tropfest entry in 2010.



Rebecca Thomson: Director

Rebecca has written and directed five short films to date, all of which have tended towards the darkly comic. *Rufus*, a seven-minute film about an urban vampire who meets his prey through internet dating sites, won the Wide Angle Tasmania Judges' Award for

Tropfest 2009, and has since screened at numerous festivals including Melbourne Underground Film Festival and San Francisco Independent Film Festival. As well as releasing *Cupcake: A Zombie Lesbian Musical* in 2010, which consists of 17 hilarious and gruesome minutes of feathers, blood, song and dance, Rebecca has also recently completed another short horror film entitled *Apple Head*, about an evil apple head doll, which won the Wide Angle Tasmania Judges' Award for Tropfest 2010.

Also in 2010, Rebecca was accepted into Raw Nerve, an initiative of Screen Australia and Wide Angle Tasmania which gives emerging filmmakers funding, plus in-kind support and mentoring to make a short film. Rebecca's film *Slashed* is about two women who explore their erotic fantasies through the world of online fan fiction. *Slashed* was released in December 2010 and has already been accepted into two major queer film festivals in Australia. Stay tuned!



"Unusual, aren't they?" - Scott Farrow (Heath), John Hale (Shopkeeper), Nicole Simms (Susie) Photo: Dick Marks



On location - first day's shoot Photo: Dick Marks



"Aaaaaaaahhh!" - Nicole Simms as Susie, Scott Farrow as Heath Photo: Dick Marks



"Unusual, aren't they?" - Ben Paine (Phillip), John Hale (Shopkeeper), Chris Adams (Tommy) Photo: Dick Marks



Rogan Brown: Producer, Publicist

Rogan is Tasmanian, born and bred. For over 25 years he was a teacher and had a wide range of roles in theatre production, and has trod the boards more than a few times. In the last five years, he has branched out into film and television, behind and in front of the camera. He

appeared in Mark Joseph's film *promising* in 2006, Barrie Dowdall's documentary *Exile In Hell* (2007), as the RACT man in the "Win a Mazda" campaign (2007-8), as a frost-bitten fisherman in the feature film *Arctic Blast* (2009) and as the Muster Clerk in *Banished Women* (2010).

He was Chairman of Mainstage Theatre Company until recently, and has managed several of their productions, also playing backstage roles for other theatre companies in Hobart. He has been Stage Director and Artistic Director/Producer for "Carols by the Bay" (Hobart, 2009-10), and producer of a young people's theatre production of *Aladdin* (Hobart, September 2010).

He is the Producer of three short films – *Apple Head*, which won the Hobart City Council Award for Best Tasmanian Tropfest Entry 2010, *Cupcake – A Zombie Lesbian Musical*, an independently funded film released in Hobart in June 2010. His latest film is *Slashed* released in December 2010.

Rogan is currently working on three other film projects (all in pre-production) and is planning further film projects for later in 2011.