

The image features two black silhouettes of men in suits, standing side-by-side against a background of repeating, ornate, golden-brown floral patterns. The man on the left is shown in profile, facing right, with his head slightly bowed. The man on the right is also in profile, facing right, with his head upright. The text 'JAKE' is written in a large, white, serif font across the middle of the silhouettes, and 'PRESS KIT' is written in a smaller, white, serif font directly below it.

JAKE
PRESS KIT

For More Information

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Leighton Cardno as Jake and Jason Fitch as Jacob

Technical Specifications

Country of origin:	New Zealand
Year:	2014
Running time:	88 minutes
Rating:	R13: Violence, offensive language, drug use and sexual material
Mastered format:	HD Cam-SR / 1920x1080 / 23.98psf
Available in:	2K DCP and HD Cam
Aspect ratio:	2.35:1
Sound:	5.1
Language:	English

Links

Official website:	www.jakethemovie.com
Official facebook:	www.facebook.com/jakethemovie
IMDb:	www.imdb.com/title/tt1583279
Twitter:	www.twitter.com/hybridmovies
Hashtag:	#jakethemovie

Credits

Cast

Jacob	JASON FITCH
Jake	LEIGHTON CARDNO
Warren	GREG JOHNSON
Violet	ANOUSHKA KLAUS
Thom	MARTYN WOOD
D	TAINUI TUKIWAHO
Terry	TOBY SHARPE
Stefan Steele	CAMPBELL COOLEY
Tatiana	DEBORAH EVE REA
Vanessa	NARELLE AHRENS
Faye	JULIE COLLIS
Henry	MICK INNES
Annie	JODIE HILLOCK
Belinda	RENEE LYONS
Forge Agent	JULIAN WILSON
Oliver	SAM BERKLEY
Roger	JONATHAN HODGE
Special Agent Ellie Boxer	ANNA DAVIES

Crew

Writer and Director	DOUG DILLAMAN
Producers	ALASTAIR TYE SAMSON DOUG DILLAMAN ANOUSHKA KLAUS
Associate Producer	HEATH KING
Editor	PETER EVANS
Director of Photography	ROSS TURLEY
Art Director	JASMINE ROGERS-SCOTT
Costume Design	JASMIN GIBSON
Original Music	PAUL VELAT
Casting Director	ANOUSHKA KLAUS
Sound Design	JASON FOX
Production Manger	AMANDA CAIRNS-COWAN
First Assistant Director	ELLIE CALLAHAN
Sound Recordist	ALEX BIRD
Focus Puller	GARTH MERRYLEES
Makeup Artist	ANNA HEWLETT
Post-Production Co-Ordinator	GWEN McDONNELL
Colourist	ALANA COTTON

Logline

The story of Jacob, a man whose life is stolen when he is inexplicably recast by a shadowy agency. When the actor who takes his place rekindles a long lost love, Jacob will do whatever it takes to fight for the role of his life.



Jason Fitch as Jacob

Synopsis

Jacob is a dreamer whose life has slowly faded into a nightmare. He's overworked, underappreciated, henpecked by his parents and paralysed by memories of a lost love. He could take control of his life and turn things around... but he hasn't.

One day, Jacob is recast by a mysterious agency known as The Forge. Now, a fresh, more dynamic actor will be playing the part of "Jake" leaving Jacob to start a new life from scratch.

With help from an electro-shock anklet, Jacob begins his new life while "Jake" takes over his role with aplomb, charming everyone in Jacob's life as they accept this improved Jacob without question.

But when Jake decides to reunite with Jacob's lost love Violet, Jacob realises there's no life he'd rather have than his own. With Jake unwilling to give up his dream part, the fight between Jake and Jacob for the role of a lifetime won't end without blood being spilled...

Production Story

The Concept

You can be replaced.

In the world of JAKE, The Forge is the industry leader in “recasting”. For a reasonable fee The Forge can, and will, replace somebody with an actor who will play the role of them throughout the rest of their life. Once the actor fills the role, the replaced person gains a new identity (and an electro-shock bracelet to keep them in line) and everybody is happy.

Or that's the theory, anyway.



Mick Innes as Henry, Jason Fitch as Jacob and Julie Collis as Faye

"When I first read the script, what excited me about JAKE was the quirkiness and cleverness of the concept. I could clearly see this had the potential to be a different and exciting Kiwi film." - Anoushka Klaus, Producer

"It's very exciting to make a film with such a high concept that a global audience could connect to." - Alastair Tye Samson, Producer

JAKE is about identity; what it means to be you, and what happens when someone else becomes you. When Jacob Worthington is replaced by an actor and given his new identity, he has a choice – does he accept this new identity, or does he fight back?

The Team

Hybrid Motion Pictures is a collective of filmmakers founded in 2008 as a mix of industry professionals and enthusiastic amateurs keen to expand their skills and work on their own projects outside of their day jobs. The team would meet every Sunday morning for a coffee, then a “play around” with a camera or two, usually ending the day with a quick edit of the day’s work. Eventually, homemade grip gear entered the picture, as did greater aspirations.



Alastair Tye Samson and Heath King shooting a music video with the first Hybrid jib arm circa 2008

"I've played in lots of bands, and we would have band practice every week. It seemed like a natural idea to apply the model to filmmaking." – Doug Dillaman, Hybrid co-founder and writer/director/producer of JAKE

"Those Sunday mornings were the highlight of my week! I was working in the industry but it was the one place where the normal rules didn't apply. With our 'Hybrid Sundays' I was able to take risks as a filmmaker (and at the time also a closet actor) with people who would eventually become family to me." - Anoushka Klaus

Within a few short months, Hybrid had a strong core group, full of enthusiasm and DIY spirit, ready to take on a much more ambitious project. Concurrently, Doug Dillaman was developing his sixth feature-length script: JAKE.

"Are you doing everything you can with your life? Could someone else do a better job with your life if they took your place? Those are the two questions that led me to start writing JAKE." – Doug Dillaman, Writer/Director

The first draft of JAKE was written over the course of 18 months, in two cities (Auckland and Dunedin), and one laptop theft which required starting again from scratch.

With 20+ speaking parts and an equal number of locations and a surreal, sci-fi-esque concept that moved gradually from comedy to dark thriller, JAKE didn't fit the conventional wisdom of how to make a low budget film. Rather than attempt to either constrain the vision of the script or go through conventional funding channels, which would mean a lengthy delay with uncertain results, Hybrid chose instead to charge ahead, self-fund the film, and begin pre-production of its first feature.

"Even though the script was ambitious for a self-funded feature, I was always confident it was something we could pull off. It was a challenge, but we live for challenges." – Alastair Tye Samson

The Production

On the strength of the script, Hybrid quickly assembled a professional cast. Through a modest budget, industry connections and endless goodwill, JAKE was shot over 23 days in and around central Auckland in 2009. It was challenging ensuring that the experience was both professional and maintained Hybrid's DIY roots. The experience only strengthened and grew Hybrid and many of the crew became regular fixtures of the group

"You can either sit around and wait for somebody to give you a chance to do something, or you can take the chance and do it yourself. That's what we've done here, and that's what we'll keep on doing to make great films." – Alastair Tye Samson

JAKE is a film that advance critics have already lauded for its script, its production values, and its performances, and we can't wait to share it with the public. In the time between production and distribution, Hybrid has charged on, becoming well-known in Auckland for its polished 48HOURS entries, such as 2013's PARALYSIS, and its development slate of upcoming shorts and features.



Tainui Tukiwaho as D and Jason Fitch as Jacob

The Music

One of the most distinctive elements of JAKE is composer Paul Velat's score. Paul has been Doug's composer of choice since his student short film in 2004, but the pair go back farther than that, first meeting a decade prior whilst playing in long-forgotten punk rock bands.

These days, Paul's notoriety comes from his performances as Lord of the Yum-Yum. Wearing a tuxedo and a ruffled shirt and wielding a series of loop pedals, his act combines Vegas showmanship, comedy, and an unexpected take on classical music, performing everything from "Flight of the Bumblebee" to "Carmen" using only his voice. Far from simply a novelty act performer, Paul has also recorded and performed less overtly comic vocal and electronic music under his own moniker.

The score went through several iterations, starting off as completely vocal-driven. During editing, the idea was developed to introduce different instruments which would echo the "replacement" of Jacob, gradually moving from vocals to electronics...a series of experiments which garnered unexpected and rewarding results.

"Because of JAKE's shifting tone, I wanted a score that wouldn't ground the viewer in what seemed like a familiar genre, and that would be unique to the film. I can't think of another film with a score remotely like Paul's, and I'm rapt with the work he's done on this film." - Doug Dillaman

The score is supplemented by tracks by Houston's drone group The Shattered Door, and the film features diegetic music from some of New Zealand's finest underground acts: Royal Falcon, Yebisu, Rose and the Wooden Hearts and Mr. Hayday, as well as Australia's Gatherer and The USA's Secret Primper.

Early Reviews

"The smartest bit of low-fi, high-IQ science fiction New Zealand has produced." – David Larsen, THE LISTENER

"Four stars! Imaginative and endlessly witty ... beautifully photographed and snappily edited with some superb performances." – Sarah Watt, SUNDAY STAR-TIMES

"An entertaining and insightful slice of Twilight Zone-ish fun." – Dominic Corry, FLICKS.CO.NZ

"Lively, thought provoking cinema ... a polish and assurance quite impressive for a first feature." – Jacob Powell, FILMGUIDE.CO.NZ



Anoushka Klaus as Violet

The Cast

"There are so many talented actors in this country eager to work on an interesting project and I was convinced that with such a unique concept and a compelling script we would be able to secure a stellar cast." – Anoushka Klaus

The trickiest casting challenge in JAKE was filling the dual roles of Jacob and Jake. In the script, Jake – the actor who takes Jacob's place – was described as looking relatively similar to Jacob. After rounds of auditions, however, the team decided to go in a very different direction.

Leads Jason Fitch and Leighton Cardno could never be confused with each other; from their build to their height and eye colour, the differences between the pair make them an unlikely choice for the pair of Jacob and Jake. But from their auditions, it was clear that this pair would bring a level of commitment to their performances that would take the potentially absurd premise of JAKE and ground it in a very real way, allowing the audience to move beyond just appreciating the concept to fully engaging with the reality of these characters' lives.

With these two pivotal roles filled, the rest of the cast quickly followed, a mix of industry veterans like Greg Johnson (INSATIABLE MOON, THE WORLDS FASTEST INDIAN) and Mick Innes (HOUNDS, AUCKLAND DAZE), established younger actors like Tainui Tukiwaho (STEP DAVE, BILLY), Renee Lyons (SUPER CITY) and Toby Sharpe (HOUNDS) and core Hybrid team members such as Anoushka Klaus.



Greg Johnson as Warren

"This was my first time working with an all professional cast, which meant I had to trust their experience and instincts while giving them the insight I had from the script to help shape their performances. The result was a fantastic learning experience for me - and, more importantly, some extraordinary performances by actors eager to show new sides of themselves, explore an unconventional script and take a leap of faith with an untested director." – Doug Dillaman

Jason Fitch as *Jacob*

Jason graduated Unitec School of Performing Arts in 2000 and has since been involved in numerous film, television and theatre productions. Among his credits are THE LORD OF THE RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING, SHORTLAND STREET, LIVING THE DREAM, OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE and STREET LEGAL.



"I fell in love with JAKE the first time I read it. It's not often you read a script and you actually have an instant connection to the story, but that's what I found with JAKE. The underlying moral in the story that 'You always want what you can't have, and when you get it, you find that it wasn't what you thought it would be', that struck a chord." – Jason Fitch, "Jacob"

Leighton Cardno as Jake

Leighton graduated Unitec School of Performing Arts in 1999 and immediately landed the title role in the Auckland Theatre Company's production of THE CRIPPLE OF INNISHMAAN and, later, SERIAL KILLERS. Soon, Leighton was cast in core roles in two very different TV shows - the Emmy-



nominated BEING EVE and SHORTLAND STREET, where he worked for several years playing two different roles at the same time. He was later cast in Canada's DA VINCI'S INQUEST. After several years in North America he returned home to work on UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS, SEA PATROL, POWER RANGERS and gained a cult following as the quirky journalist Leo in GO GIRLS.

"Originally I was drawn to JAKE because of the unusual concept - the idea that you could see your life being played out by a complete stranger right in front of your eyes seemed bold, challenging, and ultimately engaging. The story is unique and is certainly not something that I've come across during my travels as a young actor. I knew from the moment that I read the script that I wanted to be involved with the project because it's a really cool story that resonates on many levels and makes you think beyond the normal confines of life." – Leighton Cardno, "Jake"

Filmmakers

Doug Dillaman - Writer, Director, Producer

Doug is a co-founder of Hybrid Motion Pictures. In addition to writing and directing several short films, he has worked as a professional freelance editor for companies including the BBC, South Pacific Pictures, Natural History New Zealand, TVNZ, TV3, Jam, and Two Heads. He has also written several feature film scripts, and is now enrolled in the MA for Creative Writing at the IIML in Wellington as he works on his debut novel. JAKE is his first feature film.

Alastair Tye Samson - Producer

As a co-founder of Hybrid Motion Pictures, Alastair has produced and directed award-winning short films, music videos and online content. After stints with Weta Digital, Eyeworks, TVNZ, The Gibson Group and Images&Sound, Alastair is now the General Manager of Production at Country TV. He is known as a fast and meticulous online editor with an up-to-date knowledge of technology and a strong creative eye. Alastair's primary focus is creating big production values from limited budgets and resources. He is currently developing a slate of features and short films for Hybrid.

Anoushka Klaus - Producer, Casting Director, *Violet*

Anoushka is an actress whose screen credits include *Go Girls*, *Shortland Street*, *Nothing Trivial* and the telefeature *Bloodlines*. Her extensive stage experience includes *Girl In Tan Boots*, *F*ck Love*, *Golden Boys* and *The Sex Show*. She has written, directed and produced six short films and a variety of stage projects. She has worked in a multitude of roles in the film industry, from development to production and post-production. She is passionate about creating dynamic female roles and is currently writing her first feature.



Doug Dillaman, Alastair Tye Samson and Anoushka Klaus on location for the first day of shooting JAKE

Writer/Director's Statement

As a writer who's very interested in the theme of identity, and what it means to be "me", I saw JAKE as a great chance to explore that theme in an entertaining and engaging way. I discussed the concept of being replaced by an actor with others and each brought their own perspective to the idea. Some found the concept liberating, others found it frightening.

Encouraged by the initial response to the concept, I started diving into the mechanics of it: somebody would have to take over the role of that life, and that person would be an actor. But they would have their own desires and direction for the part - would it be comic to see an actor taking over somebody else's life? Or tragic? I suspected it was both, and after several false starts, wrote a script that I felt captured both tones.

I strongly believe that there is no reason to wait for somebody else to tell you to do something: if you're ready to make something, be it a record or a painting or a novel, you should make it. One of my greatest personal satisfactions of making JAKE has been hearing from other filmmakers who have been inspired to follow our path and make something off their own backs.

Having said that, there's no question that making a self-funded, low-budget film is an incredible challenge, even if it's only two actors in a room. With 20-plus speaking parts and as many locations, and some very specific effects requirements, JAKE pushed the boundaries of simple low-budget filmmaking. We knew we wanted to work with professional actors and that meant we wanted to treat, and feed, our cast and crew as well as possible.

All of this would have been beyond difficult - in fact, actively impossible - without the passionate support of the cast and crew, all of whom worked for free, because they believed in the project. It's flattering and humbling, and I hope that all of them are as proud of the final product as I am. There is a great cult around the concept of the writer/director as the single, pure voice of the film. In my experience, that couldn't be further from the truth. JAKE would have been impossible without the rest of the Hybrid team - and, from the first day I presented the script to the team, I made it clear that JAKE would never bear the credit, "A Film By Doug Dillaman". I wanted to make sure that everybody involved understood we were all in this together - I might be the writer, director, and one of the producers, but this is our film.