

# Pork Pie

## **PRESS KIT & PRODUCTION NOTES**

Written and directed by **Matt Murphy**

Produced by **Tom Hern of Four Knights Film.**

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## **SUMMARY INFORMATION:**

**WRITER/DIRECTOR:** Matt Murphy

**PRODUCER:** Tom Hern

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:** Tim White, Alan Harris, Tim Wood

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:** Crighton Bone

**SECOND UNIT DIRECTOR:** Miles Murphy

**PRODUCTION DESIGNER:** Seth Kelly

**COSTUME DESIGNER:** Kristin Seth

**HAIR AND MAKE UP DESIGNER:** Jacqui Leung

**EDITOR:** Jonno Woodford-Robinson

**COMPOSER:** Jonathan Crayford

## **STARRING:**

**DEAN O'GORMAN** as Jon

**JAMES ROLLESTON** as Luke

**ASHLEIGH CUMMINGS** as Keira

**ANTONIA PREBBLE** as Suzie

**MATT WHELAN** as Noah

**SIOBHAN MARSHALL** as Becca

**BEN MITCHELL** as Motorbike Cop

**THOMAS SAINSBURY** as Bongo

**GERALDINE BROPHY** as Andy

**RIMA TE WIATA** as Mrs D



## **SYNOPSIS:**

*PORK PIE (action/adventure/comedy):* Jon is failing as a novelist, failing to pay the rent and has recently failed his one true love, Suzie.

After washing up on a mate's couch, he summons his blind optimism and sets off in a clapped-out old Holden to find Suzie and make things good again. When that plan breaks down too, Jon's left hitchhiking with nothing to his name but a charred laptop and a borrowed suit. A zippy young man, Luke, takes pity and offers him a lift and Jon soon finds himself riding shotgun on a wild ride. The car he's in (a new MINI Cooper S) appears to be stolen, and after escaping from a motorcycle cop, it's clear Luke is not about to give it back. Stuck for a better plan and almost admiring the kid's pluck, Jon hangs in there. On a whim, Luke invites a burger drive-through attendant, Keira, aboard. Escaping some strife of her own, Keira quits her job by climbing in through the MINI's window and racing off with the boys. So begins an epic Kiwi road trip with Jon, a charming failure in almost all pursuits, Luke, an incredible driver escaping from his past in a stolen MINI, and Keira, a passionate vegan activist out to change the world. As events snowball, Jon becomes more and more resolute in his pursuit of Suzie; Luke and Keira fall for each other; and the three accidental outlaws find themselves on the run with a frenzied contingent of police and media in hot pursuit.

*Logline:* *Pork Pie tracks the escapades of a trio of accidental outlaws as they travel the length of the New Zealand in a yellow MINI, protesting conformity and chasing lost love with a posse of cops and a frenzied media in hot pursuit.*



## THE STORY OF PORK PIE:

When the opportunity came to realise a modern re-imagining of one of the biggest Kiwi blockbusters of all time, there was no question that preserving some of the original DNA would be a good move. That DNA came in the form of writer/director Matt Murphy, who graduated from his position as a lighting assistant on the 1979 feature to write and direct the 2016 reboot, simply entitled: 'Pork Pie'.

Reimagining the cherished family project wasn't something on Matt's radar but he describes how quickly the idea escalated from its inception.

*"I was looking to get back in touch with feature film-making about five years ago and the idea of making a fresh 'Pork Pie' was proposed to me," says Murphy. "I couldn't see the point in doing a straight re-do of the original but when I considered the possibility of a 'reimagining' of it, I got pretty excited and starting writing ideas right there and then".*

The original *Goodbye Pork Pie* careened into cinemas on Feb 6th 1981 and went on to take \$1.4 million dollars at the local box office (with inflation, that would equate to more like \$10 million today). Directed by Matt's father, Geoff Murphy, and written by Geoff along with fellow kiwi screen legend Ian Mune, *Goodbye Pork Pie* was a box office smash and holds the position of New Zealand's very first action film, first "stoner" film and first "blockbuster." Starring Tony Barry, Kelly Johnson and Claire Oberman, the film to this day still maintains its pop-culture icon status and remains entrenched in the hearts of a generation of kiwis.

*"When we made the original film in 1979, I never imagined it would inspire a new telling of the story some thirty years later, let alone with one of my sons directing," says Goodbye Pork Pie director Geoff Murphy. "We granted the adaptation rights to*



*Matt with our absolute blessing and are chuffed that the Blondini legacy is to be continued.”*

With a script in the works, Murphy contacted producer Tom Hern who was immediately drawn to the potential of the project and a modern take on the iconic story.

*“Although I was well aware of Goodbye Pork Pie’s iconic place in NZ film history, to be honest I was too young to fully remember the original film,” says Hern. “So when I read Matt’s script I was coming at it pretty fresh, as its own standalone piece of work. Upon reading, I immediately saw a fun and adventurous film with a big beating heart. Pretty quickly Matt and I were on the same page creatively and we kept gaining momentum from there....”*

Hern and Murphy discovered that their styles and approaches were complementary and the project continued to fire creatively as a result. After a period of thorough script development between Murphy and Hern, with other key creatives also feeding into the process, the team took the screenplay to market. The response was exciting. Studiocanal soon joined the project as distributors for Australia and New Zealand, partnering with the NZ Film Commission, NZ On Air and a number of high net worth private investors as financiers on the project.

With the ambitious and adventurous script finalised and funding in place, casting on the film commenced. The team knew the role of epic-failure yet ultimately endearing novelist, Jon Hardy, was going to be crucial to making the film work.

*“The script was a bit of a genre-bender and it felt super important to cast someone who could navigate the transitions in comedic, dramatic and romantic tone as facets of the same character,” says Murphy. “Dean O’Gorman sauntered in for a test as Jon...and nailed it. In one key scene we tested, he made me listen, shed a tear,*

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*then laugh... all within seconds. We secured the overall tone of the movie when we cast Dean, that's how good a fit he was."*

Hern echoes Murphy's sentiments towards O'Gorman.

*"We looked far and wide to find our Jon," says Hern. "There were very particular qualities we were looking for. We needed an actor who could screw up horrendously but still somehow have the audience rooting for him to succeed. Dean's audition came through and we both (Hern and Murphy) looked at each other convinced we had just found our guy."*

The chemistry between the dynamic duo of Luke and Jon was also something the filmmakers knew would be paramount to the success of the picture.

*"James was always on our radar as a possible Luke," says Hern. "That young fella is a star. I loved working with him on The Dark Horse - and always had him in mind. Once we got him and Dean together we saw the comedy in their 'chalk and cheese' 'buddy cop' vibe. Once we saw that chemistry firing, we were really excited."*

*"When he came in for a screen test I was blown away by how much the camera loved James." Murphy adds. "It was also clear his calm and charismatic demeanor would play brilliantly against Dean's often calamitous Jon, so the chemistry had great potential. I wanted a Luke with heart, who was reluctantly navigating some rough circumstances, not a reckless poster boy for the underprivileged. James played his Luke with a cool hand. Aloof, yet armed with spark and self belief."*

O'Gorman is quick to credit the creatives for their castings in the key roles.

*"Like the original, Pork Pie is really about the characters and their relationships with each other," says O'Gorman. "Matt and Tom were really clever with their casting as we quickly became buddies so didn't need to fake it. Our energies are completely*

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*different so putting us together in a MINI and seeing what happened was quite a lot of fun.”*

When it came to the casting of Keira, Murphy applauds Ashleigh’s dedication to her craft in bringing the character to life.

*“Keira was written as a strong and independent activist. Her character helps shape the journey and at times serves as the antagonist,”* says Murphy. *“However we also needed to enjoy her softer, romantic side and Ashleigh's depth and skills as an actress deliver this character beautifully”.*

Rounding out the ensemble cast, Casting Director Yvette Reid brought together a group of larger-than-life characters made up of the who’s who of acting royalty.

*“I love our supporting cast in this movie. Geraldine, Thomas Sainsbury, Ben Mitchell... their characters and performances in PORK PIE are larger than life and extremely memorable,”* Hern says. *“That was always our intent... for the characters that our Blondinis meet on their roady to be eclectic and electric.”*

The film began shooting over Easter of 2016 with the iconic railway chase scene chosen as the first scenes to be shot.

*“As in the original film, the Wellington Railway station sequence delivers the climax of a car chase and is pivotal to their escape south,”* says Murphy. *“Kiwirail came aboard and the best shoot window for them happened to be just prior to our intended shoot dates. The opportunity had to be taken so we took on some of the biggest stunt sequences in the movie before principal photography. It’s fair to say that really set the tone of the shoot!”*

A classic road trip film, the ‘traveling circus’ of cast, crew and vehicles traversed the length of the country utilising New Zealand’s epic scenery to ensure a level of





cinematography befitting an iconic story. True to its original roots, the 2016 production of Pork Pie was a family affair.

### THE (GOODBYE) PORK PIE FAMILY TREE

*The original director (Geoff Murphy)'s son, Matt Murphy is the writer/director of Pork Pie. Matt also worked on the original film as a teenager all of those years ago.*

*Matt's brother (Geoff's son), Miles, was the second unit director on the new film.*

*Miles' wife, Angela, was social media wrangler on the new film.*

*Matt and Miles' sister, Robin, worked in the costume department on the original and was the Locations Manager on the new film. Robin's son, Charley (Geoff's grandson), was the unit assistant on the new film. Matt's partner, Kath, is an Associate Producer and Post Production Supervisor, and his daughter Saoirse is in the costume department on the reboot...*

*Matt's other brother, Paul, also consulted on the script of the new film and is an acclaimed director in his own right.*

*Sons, daughters and grandchildren of kiwi acting legend, Bruno Lawrence (who co-starred in the original and played on the score) were also involved in the reboot.*

*Bruno's son, Thad, provided the lighting gear on the new film, Bruno's daughters Veronique (Veronique's partner, Seth, was the Production Designer) and Melissa did continuity on the new film. His granddaughter, Lily, held a key role in the Art Department.*

*Nigel Hutchinson was one of the producers of the original. His son, Nick, was the 2nd Unit Cinematographer on the reboot.*

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*Tom Hern, the producer of the new film got his father, Brian, on board as a swing driver on the reboot. Tom's partner, Jacqui, was the Makeup Designer and his brother Geoff, was an assistant editor and sound editor on the new film.*

*The cinematographer in the original film, was the legendary Alun Bollinger. His granddaughter Bella and grandson Sonny-Jim worked on the new film. Their brother, Jack, worked in the art department.*

*A number of Bollinger, Crayford, Murphy and Lawrence grandchildren and great grandchildren also appeared in the new film as extras.*

With the film set for release in NZ on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, Murphy is confident that Pork Pie's modern re-imagining will appeal to both old audiences and new.

*"Goodbye Pork Pie was an extremely bold and entertaining piece of Kiwi film making. It defined a time and place for many Kiwis," says Murphy. "I'm not trying to replace or erase that. Having worked on the original Goodbye Pork Pie, I cherish those memories and that time and place, too. But I'm also excited about bringing a good whiff of that to a new generation of kiwis and the old fans alike. But it's not the same movie updated. It's not meant to be. The times are not the same. It's a new film, borrowing from and adapting that legend for a 2017 audience. I've gone to huge lengths to honour Dad's original film, but I've pushed as much, if not more, to make a movie that appeals and stands on its own merits."*



## CAST BIOS:

### Dean O’Gorman

Dean O’Gorman has an extensive and impressive list of television and film credits to his name over a career that spans more than 25 years.

His highest profile international film roles include playing dwarf Fili in Peter Jackson’s epic *The Hobbit* trilogy and appearing as Kirk Douglas in the biopic *Trumbo* alongside legends like Bryan Cranston and Helen Mirren.

On the small screen, he’s featured in many of New Zealand and Australia’s biggest productions, from *The Almighty Johnsons*, to *Shortland Street*, *Go Girls*, *McLeod’s Daughters*, *Xena: Warrior Princess* and *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*.

2016 sees Dean star as Evan Lace in the second series of *Westside*, as George Lowe in the *Hillary* series on the feats of Sir Edmund Hillary as well as Jon in *Pork Pie*.

### James Rolleston

James Rolleston was a breakout star as *Boy* in Taika Waititi’s hit film of the same name. *Boy* remains New Zealand’s 2nd highest grossing film at the local box office.

Other major film roles soon followed: he starred alongside Cliff Curtis in the award winning Kiwi film *The Dark Horse*, as Hongi in Toa’s Fraser’s *The Dead Lands* and as Stanley in 2016’s *The Rehearsal*.

Rolleston’s cheeky brand of wit is also often seen in various Vodafone commercials.



## **Ashleigh Cummings**

Ashleigh Cummings is an Australian actress and the 2016 recipient of the prestigious Heath Ledger Scholarship.

On Australian television Ashleigh is possibly best known for her lead role in the award-winning Australian coming-of-age series, *Puberty Blues*.

She's also spent the past few years playing Dorothy 'Dot' Williams in the series *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* and last year played leading lady Celia Houghton in the Gallipoli mini-series.

Her film credits include *Tomorrow When the War Began*, a film based on John Marsden's best-selling novel and *Hounds of Love*, described as a "genre-bending powerhouse thriller".



## KEY CREATIVES:

### Matt Murphy

Matt Murphy has filmmaking in his blood and has been around film sets since his father directed the original *Goodbye Pork Pie* when he was a teenager in 1980.

After a period art directing on films, dramas and ads in his 20s, Matt became a successful and award-winning commercial director.

*Pork Pie* is his directorial debut on a feature film.

### Tom Hern

Tom Hern is an award-winning film producer identified as a “Future Leader of the Industry” by Screen International in their special Cannes-edition (2015).

At the age of just 32, Hern has produced four feature films, most notably the award-winning box office hit *The Dark Horse*, which won a number of Audience Prizes at top film festivals around the world (including the San Francisco, Seattle and Rotterdam International Film Festivals) and also won Tom the Moa Award for “Best Film” at the NZ Film Awards. Hern also produced award-winning micro-budget thriller, *I’m Not Harry Jenson* (which co-starred *Goodbye Pork Pie* co-writer, Ian Mune), festival darling, *Everything We Loved*, and the multi-award-winning Porirua-set short film, *Lambs*.

Hern has also appeared in front of the camera as an actor on many television series and commercials, including *Shortland Street*, *Power Rangers* and *Harry*.

*Hern was a member of the prestigious international jury for the Berlin Film Festival (Generation Section) in 2015 and currently sits on the board of Script to Screen.*



## **TECHNICAL INFORMATION:**

TITLE: Pork Pie

GAUGE: Arriraw & ProRes XQ 4444

LENGTH & FRAME RATE:

104 mins 53 seconds, 23.976 shoot, 24P Theatrical master

ASPECT RATIO: 2.39:1

SOUND FORMAT: Digital 5.1

DCP Resolution: 2K

PRODUCER: Tom Hern

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Blondini Enterprises Limited

DIRECTOR: Matt Murphy

KEY CAST:

Dean O’Gorman, James Rolleston, Ashleigh Cummings and Antonia Prebble

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CAMERAS:

Arri Alexa XT and Alexa Mini

LENSES:

Panavision G-Series Anamorphic



## BILLING BLOCK:

FOUR KNIGHTS FILM in association with THE NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION NZ On Air SOUTHERN LIGHT FILMS TREEHOUSE FILMS PARK ROAD POST PRODUCTION FULCRUM MEDIA FINANCE RANDOM FILMS and AUGUSTO  
presents "PORK PIE" STARRING DEAN O'GORMAN JAMES ROLLESTON ASHLEIGH CUMMINGS and ANTONIA PREBBLE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TIM WHITE ALAN HARRIS TIM WOOD  
CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHARLOTTE LARSEN MARK WESTERBY LEON KIRKBECK ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS BEN COOK JAR NOMINEE KATH RAPHAEL TIM RILEY CINEMATOGRAPHY BY CRIGHTON BONE EDITED BY JONNO WOODFORD-ROBINSON  
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JONATHAN GRAYFORD PRODUCTION DESIGN BY SETH KELLY COSTUMES BY KRISTIN SETH LINE PRODUCED BY BELINDALEE HOPE CASTING BY YVETTE REID WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MATT MURPHY PRODUCED BY TOM HERN



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