

THE AMAZING ADAM!

Press Kit!



WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
AREITO ECHEVARRIA

PRODUCED BY
RAQI SYED

PRODUCTION DETAILS

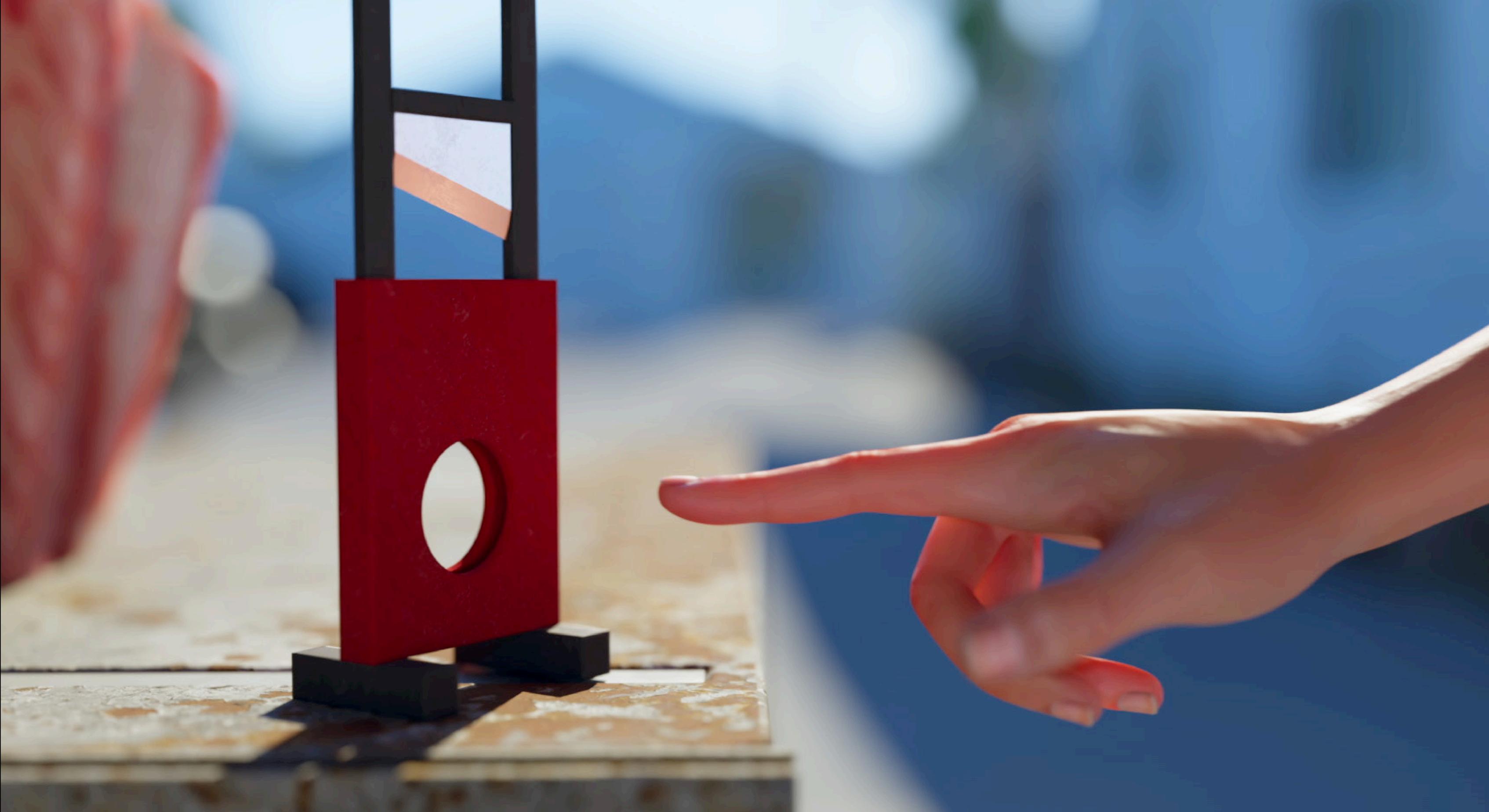
Category	SHORT FILM
Production year	2025
Running time	9 MINUTES
Language	ENGLISH
Country	NEW ZEALAND
Process	COLOR
Target audience	ADULT
Genre	DRAMA, FANTASY, HUMOR, OUTRAGEOUS!
Technique	3D COMPUTER ANIMATION



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LOGLINE

A young boy explores the darkest depths of his grumpy grandfather's garage, where he's confronted by the surreal memories of the man he thought he knew.





SYNOPSIS

My granddad was a magician, and part time butcher. He also kept pet cockatoos.

I remember one day going over to his house way out west to visit him. He was in the garage, cutting up frozen beef shanks on his circular saw. The saw was buzzing and screeching and he was getting covered in a fine powder of frozen beef shavings. Seeing me hovering at the door, he flicked off the saw, wiped the beef frosting from his thick rimmed glasses and beckoned me to come over.

From the front pocket of his greasy white apron he pulled out a little toy guillotine, sparkling and black, old and worn. "Put your finger in there" he said. I was nervous, but my granddad always had cool junk scattered around the place, like the bowling balls with blue pirate ships on them, the cockatoos that could swear and count to ten, the pile of vintage playboy magazines I had located under a box of smelly old paint thinner.

"Ok" I said. I slipped my finger into the dark wooden hole in the base of the rickety little execution machine. He pulled up on the wobbly handle attached to the angled blade. I looked over at the frozen beef shank, stuck deep into the circular saw. He gave me a wink, and slammed his hand down on the blade.

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

My relationship with Granddad was always an uneasy one. He didn't talk much and seemed to only have a passing interest in me.

Years later I got more context. He had been an officer in the New Zealand Army in the Pacific during World War II - he had been demoted for some un-talked about reason and ended up consoling himself with booze, cigarettes, and the English Premier League on the TV. People of that generation saw some terrible things, did some terrible things, and ended up coping by not saying much about it.

It's always struck me how complex and full our own lives are, and then it kind of breaks my brain to think every person who passes by has their own garage stuffed with memories, and sorrows, and adventures, and guilt and shame, and hopes and dreams. Sometimes, if we stop and poke around, we get to see a glimpse of their stuff.

The Amazing Adam! is a memoir of my Granddad. It's a very specific memory I have of him sawing up meat in his garage on a hot summer day. I told my mum about this story recently and she laughed, remembering his magic act and butchery endeavors. But then she said he never had cockatoos, which kind of shocked me. I was so sure he did. But it turned out it was his dad who kept cockatoos, and Granddad must have told me about them.

I like how our memories can be distorted and warped, as we try to make sense of the world and relationships around us. As a filmmaker, I think animation is the most direct and interesting way to share these emotions and incongruities with others.





KEY CAST & CREW

Adam

ALLAN HENRY

Xami

LEONARD LAWREY

Lucy

MELITTA LUKOVSKI

Ms. November

MELITTA LUKOVSKI

Cockatoo

ALLAN HENRY

Technical & Performance Animation

AREITO ECHEVARRIA

Director of Photography

RAQI SYED

Virtual Camera Design

RYAN HOLLOWAY

Costume Design

HELI SALOMAA

Sound Design & Sound Mix

JIMI WILSON



AREITO ECHEVARRIA

WRITER / DIRECTOR

Areito Echevarria is an Academy Award winning artist and researcher, approaching storytelling through the lens of computation and design. He is the co-writer director of the Cristal Award winning VR narrative film experience *Minimum Mass*. He is an Annecy Festival Artist in Residence and Sundance New Frontiers Fellow.

Areito has previously had a long career in feature film VFX, supervising technical animation in films such as *Avatar*, *the Hobbit*, and *Planet of the Apes*.

As a Senior Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka, Areito's research explores the intersections between creativity and computation, and examines ways in which artist's taste and vision can be encoded into digital systems to generate form, function, meaning and emotional response.

One of only a handful of Puerto Rican New Zealanders on the planet, Areito's work examines themes of identity, love, loss, and the monsters that dwell inside us.

RAQI SYED

PRODUCER / CINEMATOGRHER

Raqi Syed is a writer, artist, and researcher. She is co-writer director of the award-winning film experience *Minimum Mass*. Her practice and teaching focus on the materiality of light, hybrid forms of non-fiction and genre storytelling, and an anti-racist critical aesthetics of visual effects.

Raqi has worked as a visual effects artist on a number of feature films for Disney Animation Studios and Wētā FX. Her VR work has been exhibited at the Tribeca, Cannes, Annecy, and Venice International Film Festivals. She is a Sundance and Turner Fellow, a Ucross Fellow, and an Annecy Festival Artist in Residence.

The Los Angeles Times pegged Raqi for a list of 100 people who can help solve Hollywood's diversity problem.

She holds an MFA from the USC School of Cinematic Arts and an MA from the VUW Institute of Modern Letters. Raqi is a Senior Lecturer at Te Herenga Waka in Wellington, New Zealand.



CONTACT INFO

For all enquiries please contact
raqi.syed@gmail.com
areito@gmail.com