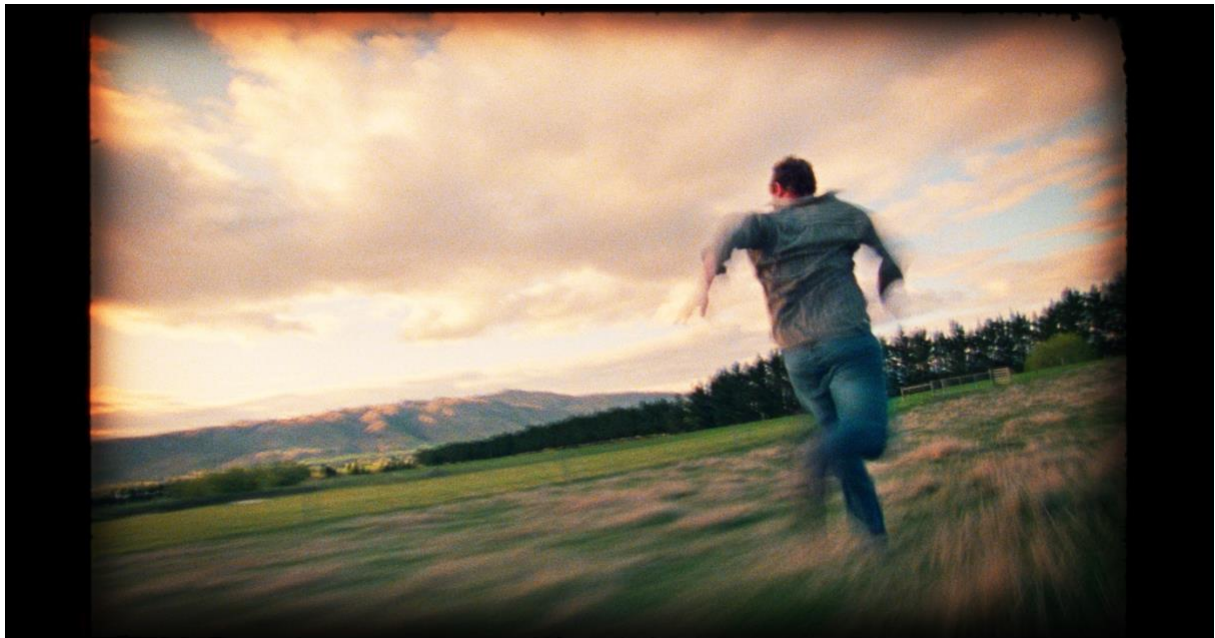


# The Finding

A short film (21mins) by Rebecca Tansley



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A teenager's efforts to reconnect with her estranged father forces them to confront the dark secret in their past.

### **About *The Finding***

- *The Finding* stars award-winning international actor Matt Sunderland and Dunedin newcomer Ruby Walton.
- *The Finding* has been selected for ten international film festivals in Europe and North America and Show Me Shorts film festival in New Zealand.
- *The Finding* was shot on 16mm Kodak film in the Ida Valley, Central Otago, and in Dunedin. The film negative was processed in Los Angeles and scanned at Park Road Post Production in Wellington.
- *The Finding* features three 'Dunedin sound' music tracks including Sneaky Feelings' anthem *Husband House*, which has never before been licensed for film or TV.
- It also features part of the poem *Song* by James K. Baxter set to music by renowned New Zealand composer Anthony Ritchie.
- Pre-production (including auditions) took place during New Zealand's first Covid-19 lockdown. Filming took place in three blocks over seven days, in-between Covid-19 lockdowns, throughout 2020.
- *The Finding* was privately funded with the support of Prolex Pario, Prospect Group, Queenstown Camera Company, Park Road Post Production and individual donors.

## Synopsis

When Sanders, a down-and-out sheep farmer, is visited by enigmatic Auckland teenager Lucy things get off to a bad start: the remote, run-down farm is in the grip of an unseasonal cold front and its sorry state is an indication of the state of Sanders' mind. The only place they connect is on the lambing beat, rescuing early lambs, where it emerges that Sanders is Lucy's estranged father. After Lucy discovers a frozen pond on the property, the dark secret in their past begins to rise to the surface, and when Lucy discovers an old family photograph father and daughter must acknowledge the tragic events that split the family apart. It looks like their relationship is doomed, until Lucy finds the ability to forgive her father, ultimately promising hope for his – and their – future.

## Cast

Matthew Sunderland	Sanders
Ruby Walton	Lucy
Sara Georgie	Karen
Grace MacRae	Young Lucy
Olivia MacRae	Tom
Pixie, Jock	Lambs

## Key credits

*Writer, Director*  
Rebecca Tansley

*Director of Photography*  
Simon Raby NZCS

*Editor*  
Thomas Gleeson

*Producers*  
Rebecca Tansley  
Sue Marshall

*Executive Producers*  
Adrian Burr  
Brett Mills  
Tim Storey

## Bios

### Rebecca Tansley – Writer/Director/Producer

Rebecca is an independent filmmaker working in documentary, drama and the performing arts. In 2008 her first screenplay, *The Waiting Game*, was produced as a half-hour drama for Māori Television. Her short film *eden* (2009), which she wrote, directed and produced was selected for the New Zealand International Film Festival (NZIFF) and screened in festivals in Africa and Australia.

In 2015 Rebecca's first documentary feature *Crossing Rachmaninoff* premiered at NZIFF and went on to screen at festivals around the world. Her award-winning second feature documentary *The Heart Dances* (2018) also premiered at NZIFF before its international festival run. Both films have been picked up for international distribution and have screened on platforms like Netflix and HBO. Most recently Rebecca's film of New Zealand Opera's live production of Handel's *Semele* has been critically acclaimed and is currently in worldwide distribution. She is currently in production on a second opera film for NZ Opera, *The Strangest of Angels*.

### Matthew Sunderland – Actor

Matt is an award-winning actor, writer and director who has appeared in numerous feature films, television series, short films and stage plays both in New Zealand and internationally. He won Best Actor in a Feature Film for his portrayal of mass murderer David Gray in *Out of the Blue*. Subsequently he toured Australia three times with Sydney Theatre Company on their iconic production of *The Secret River*. Most recently he has been on screens around the world in the Cannes-selected Australian film *The Stranger*, directed by Thomas M. Wright, and Ti West's film *Pearl*.

### Simon Raby NZCS – Director of Photography

Simon is an award-winning cinematographer with several decades of experience in the film industry spanning studio and independent feature films, documentary, television and short film. His long list of film credits includes *Mortal Engines*, *Krampus*, *Deathgasm*, *Kim Dotcom: Caught in the Web*, *Giselle*, *District 9*, *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Elysium* and *Predicament* and numerous short films. He worked with Rebecca as Director of Photography on her documentary features *Crossing Rachmaninoff* and *The Heart Dances*, for which he won Gold in the New Zealand Cinematographers Society awards. Simon is also an in-demand as a Second Unit Director on international productions.

### Thomas Gleeson – Editor

Thomas is an editor and filmmaker whose long-form, factual editing work in NZ and the UK has included projects for National Geographic, Discovery US, BBC and Al Rayann Qatar as well as the feature documentaries *Crossing Rachmaninoff* and *The Heart Dances*. His own award-winning documentary short, *Home*, played in festivals around the world.

### Sue Marshall – Producer

Sue is a Dunedin-based filmmaker. In 2018 she co-produced, directed the feature documentary *Deal'in with the Devil* which premiered at New Zealand's Doc Edge festival. Previously her short film *Famous* was funded by Short Film Otago.

## Credits

### Production

*1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director*  
Jeremy Anderson

*2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director (Dunedin Airport)*  
Emma Schranz

*1st Assistant Camera/Focus Puller*  
Graham MacFarlane  
Rajendra Patel

*2nd Assistant Camera*  
Tom Neunzerling  
Logan Westwood

*Gaffer/Key Grip*  
Max Catterick

*Lighting Technicians/Grip Assist*  
Ash Bartlett  
Justin McRae

*Lighting Assistants*  
Caleb Moody  
Viran Ranaweera

*Location Sound Recordist*  
Ian Masterton

*Boom Operator*  
Annie Theewis

*Hair, Make-up and Wardrobe*  
Rachelle Gourley

*Set Decorator, Props Master*  
Gamel Kate O'Brien

*Props Buyer, Set Assistant*  
Rose Tansley-Broad

*Set Fabricator*  
Martin Tansley

*Chaperone*  
Lisa Daly

*Animal Wranglers*  
Fraser McKnight  
Chanel Hack  
Kelly Harvey

*Ice Consultant*  
Dave Young

*Script Editor*  
Lisa Chappell

*Script Consultants*  
Mark Travis and Elsha Travis

*Photo Re-toucher*  
Ken Downie

## **Post Production**

*Assistant Editor, VFX*  
Craig Parkes

*Sound Editor*  
Dick Reade

*Sound Designer*  
Tom Scott-Toft

*Titles*  
Robin Charles, Lotech

## **At Park Road Post Production**

*Re-Recording Mixer*  
Tim Chaproniere

*Mix Technician*  
Michael Donaldson

*Colourist*  
Jon Newell

*Online Editor*  
Rob Gordon

*Film Scanning*  
Stephen Duburguet

*Post Producer*  
Dean Watkins

## **Music**

*Music Supervision*  
Wayne Bell and Jan Hellriegel, Aeroplane Music Services

***Husband House***  
Written by M. Bannister  
Published by Songbroker  
Performed by Sneaky Feelings  
Licensed courtesy of Sneaky Feelings and Songbroker

***Tomorrow Without You***  
Written by Graeme Downes  
Published by Songbroker  
Performed by The Verlaines  
Licensed courtesy of The Verlaines and Songbroker

***Down In Splendour***  
Written by A. Brough (Mushroom Music)

Performed by Straitjacket Fits  
Licensed courtesy of Flying Nun Records

**Song**

Excerpt from the poem *Song* by James K. Baxter

Music by Anthony Ritchie

Used by kind permission of the J. K. Baxter Trust and Anthony Ritchie

Performed by Ruby Walton (vocal) and Tom McGrath (piano)

Vocal coaching by Olivia Leonard

Engineered by Stephen Stedman and Danny Buchanan

University of Otago School of Music



