

**THE GREAT**

# CHAMP FERNLEY

**PRESS KIT**

Logline + Synopsis .....	2
Technical Details .....	3
Backgrounder .....	4
Key Crew Biographies .....	5
Key Cast Biographies .....	7
10 FAQs Answered by the Writer / Directors .....	10
Media .....	13
Contact + Links .....	15

OFFICIAL SELECTION



COURT MÉTRAGE  
short film corner  
FESTIVAL DE CANNES 2015

## LOGLINE + SYNOPSIS

IT'S HARD ENOUGH TRYING TO TALK TO A GIRL, LET ALONE A VISITOR FROM OUTER SPACE.

Lawrence 'Champ' Fernley is a 13-year-old boy who lives in his own world free of the sorts of social pressures kids normally have at his age. While his friends struggle with girls, school and adolescence, Lawrence is obsessed with planets, aliens and all things science fiction.

One night Lawrence wakes up to a rock being thrown through his bedroom window. He unravels a note containing an alien message that Lawrence recognises from an original copy of his favourite science fiction comic book. He deciphers the letter to find it has a startling message: 'Meet me in the woods this Friday night.' Convinced that aliens have contacted him, Lawrence spends the next few days excitedly preparing for his own personal 'close encounter.'



## **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

<b>Duration</b>	18 minutes 30 seconds (including credits)
<b>Date of Completion</b>	December 2014
<b>Genre</b>	Science Fiction / Adventure / Fantasy Comedy / Drama
<b>Origin of Production and Filming</b>	Australia
<b>Aspect Ratio</b>	16:9
<b>Shooting Format</b>	16:9 Arri Alexa 2K
<b>Master Format</b>	Prores422(HQ)
<b>Audio Format</b>	24 bit/48KHz stereo, broadcast wave file (.wav)
<b>Production Company</b>	Tinker Films





Brisbane film production team 'Tinker' have made a short film, 'The Great Champ Fernley'. The film was written and directed by brothers Josh and Thomas Calder.

The film is in the family/comedy genre, and is about a teenage boy who is contacted by aliens. He and his friends excitedly prepare for their arrival.

The story was inspired by much-loved films from the Calder brothers' childhood, such as *The Goonies*, *The Sandlot*, and *Back to the Future*.

Having developed a script together, the Calder brothers won a place in Screen Queensland's Raw Nerve program. The program provided funding and mentorship to burgeoning filmmakers, and included a screening of the film on ABC2. The Calder brothers workshopped the script through the Raw Nerve initiative over a six week period.

The remaining funding was obtained via crowdfunding website Pozible. Having run a successful campaign, the team were able to raise an additional \$4000 through this method.

Filming took place in Brisbane over 4.5 days. Along with the cast of talented tweens, the role of Mr Boffat was played by the Calder brothers' father, Ian.

Working closely with DOP Daniel Maddock, production designer Rachel Steedman, costume designer Marlee Dutton and editor Pip Sugden, the Tinker team achieved the desired outcome of a cinematic aesthetic mimicking that of classic 80s films. The finished film runs at 18 minutes and 3 seconds.

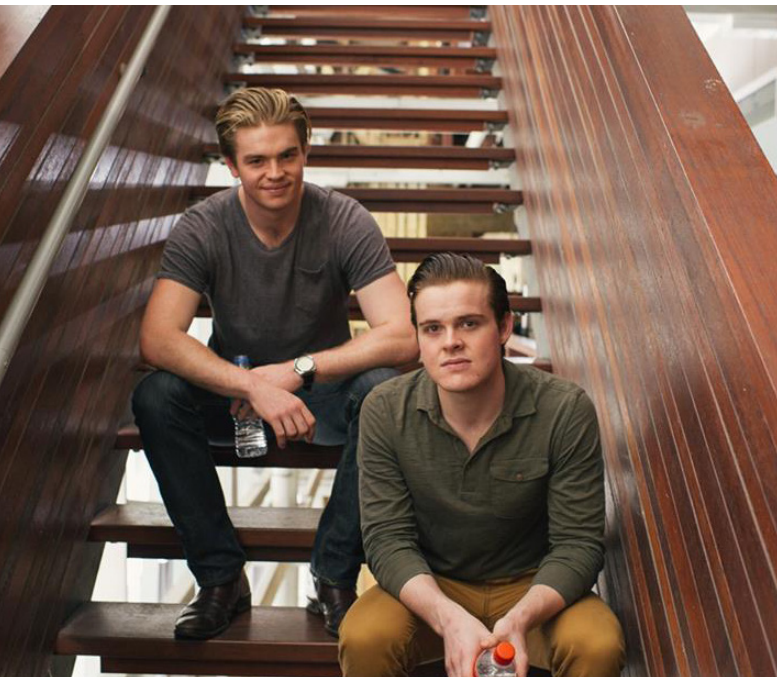
The Great Champ Fernley has been accepted into the Cannes Film Festival short film corner and officially selected for the Quebec film festival "Film Quest", in the science fiction category. Tinker are now entering Champ into film festivals all over the world.

The next project for Josh and Thomas Calder is their first feature length film.

'Tinker' has produced a number of music videos and short films - view our other work at: [www.builtbytinker.com](http://www.builtbytinker.com)

The Great Champ Fernley is Tinker's biggest project to date, and the team are very happy with the outcome and excited for the future.

## KEY CREW BIOGRAPHIES



### JOSH + THOMAS CALDER

Writer / Director / Producer's

Josh and Thomas Calder are a filmmaking team from Brisbane, Australia. The pair grew up in a creative household surrounded by family and friends with performance arts backgrounds. Dad Ian's a comedy writer, actor and radio presenter and Mum Glenys had an early career in Sydney television before starting her family.

Josh studied film for two years then started working as a Grip, which has given him the opportunity to work on several major movie productions including *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Railway Man*, *The Wolverine*, *Unbroken* and *Pirates Of The Caribbean*, *Dead Men Tell No Tales*.

Thomas's creativity found a different outlet: In April 2011 he amassed as much musical gear as he could find, then produced and recorded a self-written mini-album *Bleeders* in his Brisbane home. After releasing the record independently Tom was thrilled with a fantastic response from music fans and industry professionals alike. It led to Tom forming his five-piece band *The Trouble with Templeton* which, two albums later, is now signed to UK label *Bella Union* and touring Europe. Tom's career has enabled the brothers to collaborate on all nine *The Trouble with Templeton* music videos and forge their creative partnership.



### DANIEL MADDOCK

Director of Photography

After working as a live television news director, Daniel has shot a number of documentaries and television commercials. He also shot season six of the television drama series *Love Patrol* in Vanuatu, which screened on SBS and The Australian Pacific Network. His most recent feature film work includes *Break The Rock* (dir Michael O'Halloran). After shooting *The Great Champ Fernley*, Dan went onto DOP a short film called *The Power Of One* (dir. Chris Reig). Daniel currently teaches at Griffith Film School and is undertaking his Master of Visual Arts research in the newly emerging world of Virtual Cinematography.

## KEY CREW BIOGRAPHIES (CONT.)



### PIP SUGDEN

Editor

Pip completed her bachelor of Film and Screen Media at Griffith QCA in 2010, and has since been pursuing a career as a Film Editor. She's worked on a range of projects such as The Spierig Brother's feature films 'Daybreakers' and 'Predestination.' She currently lectures at JMC Academy on Post Production.



### MARLEE DUTTON

Costume Designer

Marlee began her career in film and television in 2006 on the American reality show Survivor. Since then she has had various positions in Costume departments on feature films including The Chronicles of Narnia- Voyage of the Dawn Treader, The Railway Man and Pirates of The Caribbean- Dead Men Tell No Tales. The Great Champ Fernley is her first role as Costume Designer.

## KEY CREW BIOGRAPHIES (CONT.)



### OWEN ARNOLD

Sound Designer

Owen's first musical memory was attempting to play along with an Elvis Xmas cassette tape on an electronic organ at age 4 - you can imagine the result. Stepping up the pace he studied classical piano, narrowly avoided a career as a stock broker and completed a Bachelor of Music Composition at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

Founding Regatta Studios in 2001, Owen composed scores for TV and Cinema ads around the world and often dipped his toes in the world of sound design. The dip turned into a swim and numerous accolades. As a result, Owen's sound craft is more often than not influenced by musical timbres.

## KEY CAST BIOGRAPHIES



### MAXIMO FATICA

Lawrence 'Champ' Fernley

Maximo "Max" Fatica made his screen debut at nine years old in an award winning WW2 Short "The Token" (2012). Shortly after this he won a recurring role on NBC's US TV series "CAMP" (2013). He went on to be cast in challenging and lead roles in "Sailboats" (2013) and "Dark Gardens" (2014), his work in Sailboats winning him a best actor nomination. With a natural ability for accents he became the voice of Victor, the son of British aristocracy in a new and original concept of multimedia theatre "A Voice in the Walls" (2015). Max is very active in the art of Parkour/Free running, a highly disciplined street sport of running, flips, tricks and ariel stunts.

## KEY CAST BIOGRAPHIES (CONT.)



### IAN CALDER

Mr Boffat

Ian Calder has been working professionally in the Australian Entertainment Industry for over 45 years. In that time he's carved out a career in theatre, performed in bands, worked as a scriptwriter in Television and Film, established himself as a successful commercial voice-over artist and, perhaps most infamously, appeared as professional fool 'Crikey the Clown' on the multiple Logie-winning morning kids show 'Agro's Cartoon Connection'. Ian has also worked extensively in Radio. From 1990 to 2005 he supplied comedy sketches, characters and voices for Australia's longest running and most successful capital city radio breakfast show, 'Jamie Dunn and the B105 Morning Crew'. In 2006 when Jamie left B105 to move to Zinc 96 FM on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, Ian joined him on-air, as part of the Zinc Morning Zoo Breakfast Show. Ian has continued this collaboration with Jamie, firstly moving to Brisbane's Radio 4BC in 2009 and then to Triple M in 2015, where they currently present the Saturday Breakfast Show.



### PIPER NAIRN

Wendy

Piper Nairn is a young Australian/British actress.

Born in Australia in 2003 to parents of UK & New Zealand descent; and has trained with some of the most prolific casting directors, dialect, and acting coaches in the industry; including Christian Kaplan; Alex Newman; Anousha Zarkesh ;Tom McSweeney; Amanda Mitchell; Cinzia Coassin; Greg Apps; Thea Mcleod; Marianne Jade and Peter Kent (dialect coach for Unbroken, San Andreas Fault) to name a few. Piper has been a recipient of numerous academic awards including 'General Excellence' and Overall 'Academic Excellence', and was selected to represent the youth of today at the Halogen Foundation National Young Leadership conference 2014, Piper is now studying at a prolific college towards International Baccalaureate exams.

Piper is known for her roles in The Great Champ Fernley; Mako Mermaids; Icarus in Love; Steven Spielbergs Terra Nova and Storybridge Feature film Mental.



## KEY CAST BIOGRAPHIES (CONT.)



### JAI BOFFINGER

Franky 'Tubbs' Tubbley

Jai is 13 years old. His previous credits include playing the role of Michael Banksin Disney and Cameron Macintosh's production of Mary Poppins (Australia and New Zealand 2011-12), the role of Son of McDuff/Fleance in Queensland Theatre Company's production of Macbeth (2014) directed by Michael Attenborough, the Prince of York in Richard III (Brisbane Shakespeare Festival 2014), and Oliver in the musical Oliver! (John Paul College 2014). He has also appeared in short films and television commercials.



### JARROD YATES

Mikey 'Butch' Melhorn

Jarrod Yates, (14 years of age), recently returned from Toronto Canada where he filmed a Principal Role as Simon Webb in the multi-platform television TV Series "Time Tremors" with Episodes & Webisodes. The Time Tremors Game won the iKids 2014 award and was also an Emmy Award Nominee for 2014. Jarrod also has played a role as the 'Flag Boy' in the NBC series "Camp" alongside Rachel Griffith and Nikolai Nikolaeff produced by Berman Braun & Matchbox Pictures recently aired on NBC.

### WHAT'S IT LIKE DIRECTING YOUR DAD?

**Josh:** We've worked together on past projects and there's nothing really between us so when we're on set it just makes it incredibly easy to work together.

**Tom:** Dad's an actor first and foremost and there was no one better for the part of Mr. Boffat, we wrote it with him in mind. We just laughed constantly at how good he was, it was absolutely hilarious for us watching. The hardest part was not laughing out loud during takes.

### WHAT METHODS DID YOU USE TO GET THE BEST FROM YOUR YOUNG ACTORS?

We did a bunch of rehearsals with the kids, just to get a feel with where everyone was at with the script and to get them used to it.

**Josh:** It really helped with making them a team also, when it came shooting time they were all really good mates and entertained each other between setups.

**Tom:** The more we rehearsed with them the more we understood what they were capable of. The main thing on set was directing them towards that level we knew they could achieve.

### WHAT WAS YOUR APPROACH TO THE FILM?

**Tom:** The films Josh and I always seem to turn back to are the films of our childhood, like *The Goonies*, *Hook*, and *The Mighty Ducks*. Those films have this sort of energy and vibe about them that just instantly smacks you back to what it was like being a kid. We love that so much and we haven't really seen that in live action films made in this day and age, so we wanted to create that for the future generations.

**Josh:** We wanted to create something that wasn't patronizing, that genuinely was something kids can relate to and enjoy watching.

### WHERE DID THE STORY ORIGINATE?

**Josh:** It was originally a 5-paged script set in the 1950's that was going to be a short film for Tom's second album 'Rookie' which has those same themes of what it was like being a kid. We didn't end up having the money to make it at the time so it just sat in the drawer until we ended up getting funding from Screen Queensland and from there it blossomed into what it is now.

### HOW DID THE FILM GET OFF THE GROUND?

**Josh:** Screen Queensland had a new filmmaker's initiative called 'RawNerve' where they partially funded our project and took us through a six-week program to develop it.

**Tom:** Through them we met with the guys at crowd funding website Pozible and they gave us great strategies to crowd fund.

**Josh:** The rest of the budget we hassled our friends and family for!

### HOW LONG DID YOU SHOOT FOR? ANY CHALLENGES?

**Tom:** We shot for 4 days and did a 1/2 day for pickups

**Josh:** There were a lot of challenges throughout the shoot but that's always a good thing, it's the only way to get better. One of the biggest challenges we had was shooting a scene in two hours, a day scene just before last light.

**Tom:** We had about 27 angles setup for the scene and we'd mapped it all out ready to go. We ended up just throwing that out and I think we covered the entire scene in 5. It's moments like those you realize that if we had the time we would've shot everything, but because we didn't we made it work and it ended up being better than what we originally thought.

**Josh:** It's one of the best parts of filmmaking.

### HOW DO YOU TWO WORK TOGETHER ON SET?

**Tom:** I handle the actors, Josh handles the camera.

**Josh:** Tom has an acting background and I've been a grip for six years so we're both playing to our strengths at the moment and learning a lot from each other. I've been discovering a whole new way of speaking to actors just from working with Tom, which has been a great experience. It's very handy having two of you on set because decisions can be made faster and you can obviously be in two places at once.

**Tom:** Josh and I share the same taste in film and it enables us to make decisions for one another. Since we write all our films together it puts us in sync from the get-go.

### WHAT MAKES A FILM GREAT FOR YOU? ARE THERE CERTAIN QUALITIES THAT MAKE A FILM BETTER FOR YOU?

**Tom:** Characters, 100%. It's always the characters and how much depth is given to exploring them.

**Josh:** Films that also give off a certain vibe, like it's so well made that you feel something while you're watching it. It's incredibly hard to actually articulate what you want your audience to feel and then shoot that and somehow project it onto a screen.

### WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOU HAD TO LEARN THAT HAS HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT ON YOUR FILM? HOW DID THAT LESSON HAPPEN?

**Josh:** The most important lesson was that how we see and make a movie is what's going to separate us from anyone else, and it's had a positive effect because what you see is 100% us. We came across a lot of criticism for what we were making and we were given a lot of notes on what's important and what's not important, how this should be done etc. At the end of the day you have to stay true to yourselves creatively otherwise it ends up being someone else's movie. When we watch *Champ*, we know that's our film.

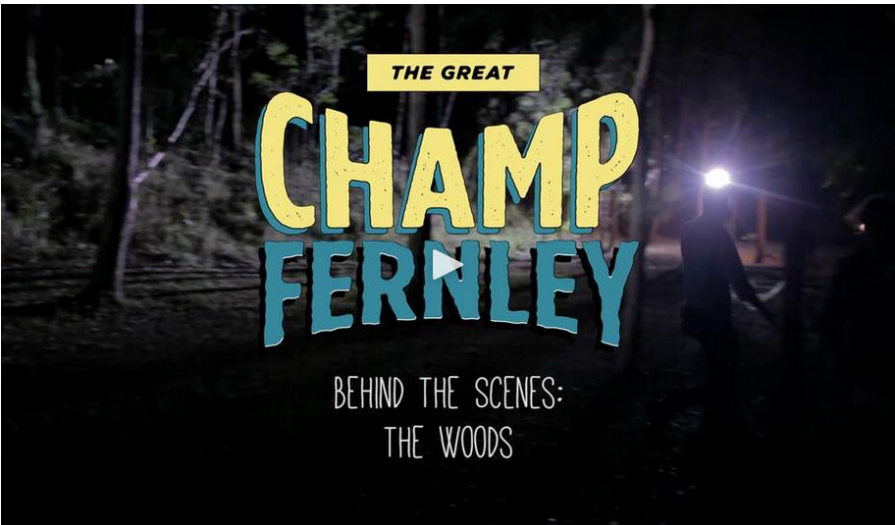
### WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU AS FILMMAKERS?

**Tom:** We're in the middle of writing our first feature film. The plan is to try and get *Champ* out to as many people as possible whilst writing the next thing and getting that funded. We've got a few short films up our sleeves, so maybe that mixed in with the rest of it.

# MEDIA

Trailer and Behind  
The Scenes Videos

<http://thegreatchampfernley.com/media/>



Publicity Stills

For high quality versions of these  
stills, please visit: [https://www.  
dropbox.com/sh/3hao4przbxr1c1w/  
AABaTXFG5GOQpToHVSF\\_6Mvba?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3hao4przbxr1c1w/AABaTXFG5GOQpToHVSF_6Mvba?dl=0)



# PRESS KIT

# MEDIA (CONT.)

## Poster Art

For high quality versions of this art, please visit: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2gjmehwd0d4l3on/AAA9dK7JJ4\\_1Da9dh7A5J\\_hPa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2gjmehwd0d4l3on/AAA9dK7JJ4_1Da9dh7A5J_hPa?dl=0)



# PRESS KIT

## **CONTACT + LINKS**

Public Relations:

Caitlin See

0401 196 094

[caitlin@builtbytinker.com](mailto:caitlin@builtbytinker.com)

Producer:

Josh Calder

0430 565 538

[josh@builtbytinker.com](mailto:josh@builtbytinker.com)

Website:

[thegreatchampfernley.com](http://thegreatchampfernley.com)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/champfernley](http://www.facebook.com/champfernley)

Instagram:

[@thegreatchampfernley](https://www.instagram.com/thegreatchampfernley)

Twitter:

[@builtbytinker](https://twitter.com/builtbytinker)

Production Company:

[www.builtbytinker.com](http://www.builtbytinker.com)

*Tinker*