



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OFFICIAL SELECTION

sexy thing

synopsis

Standing on the hot metal roof of the garden shed, twelve-year old Georgie (HANNA MANGAN-LAWRENCE) watches the endless blue sea of a summer sky. The sound of summer settles across the dry back yard. A father (CHRIS VANCE) mows what is left of the lawn. A baby sister (HARPER DAMICHI) circles around the mower. A mother (CATHERINE McCLEMENTS) carefully places clothes over a washing line, "Watch out for daddy" she warns her child. The day ahead will change everything. Georgie will slip between the reality of sexual abuse, and the imaginary underwater world into which she escapes to survive. But for the first time, Georgie will share this world with her best friend Lisa (LAYLA TRACEY). And, for the first time, Georgie and her Mum will truly see each other.

denie pentecost - director/writer

Denie started her creative career studying sculpture and photography at Australian National Art School in Sydney, she completed a three year diploma in fine arts and quickly transferred these skills into her first job as a standby props person on an Australian television series. Over the last 6 years she has expanded her experience by working on some big films such as Jane Campion's HOLY SMOKE, GARAGE DAYS, MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: II and MATRIX II and III. During this time, she has completed a number of director's attachments and courses, including through the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. **sexy thing** is her debut as a writer/director.

heather oxenham - producer

Heather Oxenham has extensive experience in the Australian feature film industry working with award winning directors such as Rolf de Heer, Bill Bennet, Clara Law and Scott Hicks. Heather began her career in South Australia, working on both mainstream and independent films. She has a MA (writing) and is currently completing her MBA. Heather has won several awards for her productions over the years and is currently working as Line Producer on the acclaimed TV series, 'All Saints'.

casting

Probably the greatest challenge in completing **sexy thing** was starting it, by trying to cast the two lead girls. In looking for Georgie, we were looking for a 12 year-old girl who could play a convincing tom-boy, and could grasp, but not be disturbed by the issues raised by the film, who could convey a range of emotions without speaking once, and who would look even more at ease underwater than in the film's sun-bleached scenes. In looking for Lisa, we were looking for almost the opposite; but for two girls who could play best friends capable of sharing anything.

We started with all the usual channels: agencies going through their books; then we tried surf clubs, soccer teams. I spent days hanging around shopping malls, schools, drama centres. After 8 months of looking for Georgie, punctuated by a phone call with Jane Campion, who told me to find - above all else - girls with energy, and there were Hanna and Layla.

Hanna attends The Newtown School of Performing arts, and is a representative Australian aerobatic gymnast. Performing in the moment is second nature to her. Layla had done a couple of commercials; and it was on the set of one of these that a friend met her, leading a room full of adults in a conversation - Denie Pentecost

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