

ANDREW BUCKLAND  
ANTOINETTE LOUW  
NTHATI MOSHESH  
JENNIFER STEYN  
JONATHAN PIENAAR  
MORNÉ VISSER  
ESMERELDA BIHL  
*and introducing*  
ALEX DE LA REY

*A film by Student Academy Award® Winner*  
**Tristan Holmes**

# THE FRAGILE KING

*family by accident*



THE ERGO COMPANY and THE STAR FILMS CO. IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
INDIGENOUS FILM DISTRIBUTION, THE NATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO FOUNDATION,  
KWAZULU NATAL FILM COMMISSION and THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMPETITION  
PRESENTS "THE FRAGILE KING" STARRING ANDREW BUCKLAND, ANTOINETTE LOUW,  
NTHATI MOSHESH, ALEX DE LA REY, JONATHAN PIENAAR, MORNÉ VISSER and ESMERALDA BIHL  
WRITTEN BY TRISTAN HOLMES PRODUCED BY CAD WIEBEK, TUNALI CHUMBE, ADAM THOMAS and LANCE GIBNEY  
DIRECTED BY ANDRÉE-DU PÉREZ EDITOR BRUCE McLAUREN-EVALL MUSIC BY TRISTAN HOLMES



**PRODUCTION NOTES**

The Ergo Company in association with Indigenous Film Distribution and Star Films and the National Film and Video Foundation and the KZN Film Commission present

**THE FRAGILE KING**

Directed by  
TRISTAN HOLMES

Starring  
ANDREW BUCKLAND  
ANTOINETTE LOUW  
NTHATI MOSHESH  
JENNIFER STEYN  
JONATHAN PIENAAR  
MORNÈ VISSER  
ESMERELDA BIHL  
and introducing  
ALEX DE LA REY

Written by  
TRISTAN HOLMES

Produced by  
CATI WEINEK  
DUMI GUMBI  
ADAM THAL

Director of photography  
LANCE GEWER

Production designer  
ANDREE DU PREEZ

Casting Director  
BELINDA KRUGER

Editor  
BRUCE MCLAREN LYALL

## SYNOPSIS

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The Fragile King tells the story of an older white man, Gerald King, who is closer to death than life who gets dumped with his 15 -year-old grandson, when the child's mother dies in a drunken car crash. The boy, who barely knows this old man, is shocked into a new reality when he is dumped in Gerald's flat in Durban by social services. The film pays homage to the filmmaker's grandfather.

## ABOUT THE CAST

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### **ANDREW BUCKLAND – Gerald King**

After tripping and falling into theatre as a student in 1974, Andrew has been active as a theatre maker and actor, performing in a range of theatre, film and television roles in classical and contemporary genres.

During his 45-year career he has also developed a reputation for producing an extraordinary range of cutting-edge original work which has won over 20 national and international theatre awards. These works include *The Ugly Noo Noo*, *Between the Teeth*, *Bloodstream*, *Feedback*, and *The Well Being*. He played a key role in the Drama Department of the University currently known as Rhodes between 1992 and 2017, and when he retired, he was named Associate Professor Emeritus.

Andrew continues to engage strongly in the creation of new works and recent collaborations include *Crazy in Love* with Conspiracy of Clowns (winner of best international production at the Amsterdam Fringe), as well as *Tobacco* for the Fortune Cookie Theatre Company for which he was awarded the 2016 Best Actor Prize at Woordfees in Stellenbosch. He won the 2016 Fleur du Cap Award for Best Actor, and the Naledi 2016 Award for Best Actor for his role as Paul in *The Inconvenience of Wings* by Lara Foot. He also appeared in the role of Heiner Muller in the feature film *Catching Feelings* written and directed by Kagiso Lediga which was released internationally by Netflix.

In 2017, Andrew returned to professional freelance work as an actor, director, teacher, theatre maker, voice artist, performance consultant.

2018 saw him perform the role of Hamm in *Endgame* by Samuel Beckett directed by Sylvaine Strike for the Baxter Theatre Centre, for which he won the Fleur du Cap Best Actor award.

### **ANTOINETTE LOUW – Rachel King**

Antoinette Louw studied drama at the University of the Free State (UOFS) and received her degree *cum laude* in 1996. She then studied film acting at the South African School of Film and Dramatic Arts (AFDA) under the direction of award-winning playwright, Deon Opperman. There she landed the lead in the M-Net short film, *Skidmarks*. She was awarded both the AFDA and M-Net Awards for Best Film Actress for her role as Stacey, a second-rate beauty queen.

After taking a break from the entertainment industry she landed the role of 'Inge van Schalkwyk' in *7de Laan*. After two years on the soap, she returned to the stage in the role of Anna in *Dis ek, Anna*. In 2012, while starring in a play opposite Sandra Prinsloo, crime writer Deon Meyer, saw her and offered her the lead in his movie *Die Laaste Tango*. She went on to win a SAFTA Award for her portrayal as the cancer-stricken photographer Ella Winter. She is the first Afrikaans actress to have won this prestigious award.

Many other film and TV roles followed, including *'n Man Soos My Pa* (2015), *Foto* (2015), *Nul Is Nie Niks Nie* (2017), *Voor Ek Val* (2017), *Swartwater* (2017-2018), and *Sew the Winter to My Skin* (2018). In 2016 she landed her first lead in an international film *An Act of Defiance – the story of Bram Fischer*, directed by well-known Dutch director Jean van de Velde. For her portrayal as Molly Fischer, she bagged the coveted Best Actress award at the Cape Town International Film and Market Festival 2017. Also, in 2018 she received an ATKV-Mediaveertjie Best Actress Award for her performance in the drama series *Swartwater*.

### **ALEX DE LA REY – Michael King**

Alex de la Rey plays Michael King, the 15-year-old grandson to Gerald. Michael is too old for his age and for his own and his mother's survival, he has become an adept and charming confidence trickster who can get cash from anyone....In real life, Alex, embraces his time at St John's College, studying Drama as one of his academic subjects. Born in Gqeberha and raised in Johannesburg, he is a provincial water polo player who is passionate about sports and enjoys playing basketball in his spare time.

He loves theatre and has written, acted in and directed performances at school.

Alex loves watching movies and would love to explore the film industry as a career option. The Fragile King is his first film.

### **MORNE VISSER – Neil Dietrich**

Morne Visser has worked in cinema, television and theater for more than 20 years. He won the Best Actor Award in a Leading Role at the 2015 Silwerskermfees for his role in *Dis ek, Anna*. He also appeared in *The Forgiven* (2017), directed by Roland Joffe. He is best known for his role as rugby player Jaco in the e.tv sitcom *SOS*, having appeared in 126 episodes. He has also appeared in the television series *Isidingo*, *Interrogation Room*, *Madam and Eve*, *Fishy Feshuns*, *Eaten Alive*, *Charlie Jade*, *The Adventures of Sinbad*, *Scandal!* and *Orion*.

He has acted in a number of made-for-television movies including *Zugvögel der Liebe* (2001), *Mein Papa mit der kalten Schnauze* (2001), *King Solomon's Mines* (2004) and *The Poseidon Adventure* (2005).

Feature films he has appeared in include *Ernest in the Army* (1998), *The Quarry* (1998), *Running Free* (1999), *Global Effect* (2002), *Cape of Good Hope* (2004), *Blast* (2004), *Racing Stripes* (2005) and *Skin* (2008).

### **NTHATI MOSHESH - Brenda**

Nthati Moshesh is a South African actress best known for her leading roles in the drama series *Home Affairs* (2005-2006) and the soapie *7de Laan* (2000-2002). She studied drama from matric and her main interest is film. One of the highlights of her career was the first film she did on location in Zimbabwe, *Kini and Adam*, which was on the official selection list for the 1996 Cannes Film Festival. In 2000 she played the lead in Anant Singh's film *The Long Run* and in 2002 appeared in the film *Kin*, starring Miranda Otto and Isaiah Washington. Her other film credits include roles in *Beat the Drum* (2003), *Round Trip* (2003), and *Cape Of Good Hope* (2004).

Her TV credits include roles in the series *7de Laan*, *Soldier, Soldier*, *Gaz'lam*, *Home Affairs*, *Interrogation Room*, *The Deafening Silence*, *Scout's Safari* (for the US Discovery Channel), *Snitch*, and *Homecoming*. She has also acted in the mini-series *Human Cargo* (2004) and

*Whiskey Echo* (2005), and the made-for-TV movies *Pride of Africa* (1997) and *Only Love* (1998). In 2004 she won a Canadian Gemini Award (the Canadian equivalent of an Emmy) for her role as Odette in *Human Cargo*, as well as the award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Supporting Role in a Dramatic Program or Mini-Series. She appeared in the Dutch feature film *The Seven of Daran: Battle of Pareo Rock* (2008) and played the role of Blessed in two episodes of the British drama series *Silent Witness*, also in 2008. She was one of the featured celebrities on the first season of the South African version of the genealogy documentary series *Who Do You Think You Are?*, based on the British series of the same name, which premiered on SABC2 in May 2009.

In 2013 she had a starring role in the Mzansi Magic miniseries *Naledi* and in 2014 played the lead role of Dibuseng Makwarela in the SABC2 thriller series *Thola*.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

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### **TRISTAN HOLMES – Director/Writer**

Tristan Holmes is a director and writer, known for *Elalini* (2005) and *Innocent Times* (2008). Hailing from the Johannesburg South Africa, Tristan was brought up a nomad. With a bohemian mother in tow, early life was a undulating tapestry of strange places, people and faces, a complex collection of anthropological opposites unique to a life in Africa. A dreamer by nature, moulded by the sheer visceral beauty and tragedy inherent in African life, Tristan took to story and images with the same rampant enthusiasm then, as he does today. By seven he was writing up a storm and winning awards for his short plays. By thirteen he was a star on South African television and by 23 he had finished top of his post-graduate class, seen his films on the screen at Cannes, Vienna, and Mill Valley, and was a winner of a Student Academy Award. Growing up in the largest African metropolis, Tristan has been uniquely exposed to important and now increasingly relevant cultural paradigms. In a world where monoculture prevails and search for meaning and authenticity buckle under the weight of a ubiquitous artifice, Tristan is a voice of reason, a soothsayer, a truth seeker and celebrator of authentic beauty. His work carries a texture and sensitivity that resonates across platforms. From viral work to music videos, to short films, he has shown a capacity to move an audience and to evoke strong emotional responses. With a passionate immersion in the execution of his concepts he presents a view of the world that is at once intimate and epic, strange and familiar, far reaching and yet quietly felt.

### **DUMI GUMBI - Producer**

Dumi Gumbi is an award-winning independent producer and consultant in the creative media industries, focusing on film and TV, and consumer marketing. His first feature film, *Gog'Helen*, premiered at the Durban International Film Festival's Main Competition in 2012. The film had its American premiere at the Pan-African Film Festival (PAFF) in 2013 and was nominated in two categories in the 2014 SAFTAs: Best Music Composition and Best Editing. Dumi, who



studied Economics and Filmmaking in Boston, Massachusetts, is a member of the international entrepreneur programme, Endeavor.

He has produced the following films since *Gog'Helen: Die Spook van Uniondale* (2014); *Dora's Peace* (2016) – one of the most critically acclaimed South African films and winner at the Jozi Film Festival, as well as being in official selection at a number of international film festivals; *Mrs Right Guy* (2016) – one of South Africa's top grossing films; *Love by Chance* (2017), *Five Fingers for Marseilles* (2018) – Toronto International Film Festival official selection and *Love Lives Here* (2019). He has various short and feature films in development and has an animation feature in production.

### **CATI WEINEK - Producer**

Cati loves producing beautifully crafted award-winning feature films and social change documentaries. After completing her degree in history, she worked as an archival researcher in documentary films, wrote her first feature, *Come See the Bioscope*, (1993) and eventually was head writer for various SABC programmes including *Ubizo* and *Muvhango*. Her career highlights include: co-creating the ground-breaking Sediba script programme under the wing of South Africa's National Film and Video Foundation, producing the award-winning *Soul City* series, founding of The Ergo Company with Dumi Gumbi, producing social justice documentaries such as *Uranium Road* (2007), which stopped the nuclear power roll-out; *Here Be Dragons* (2007) directed by human rights lawyer and filmmaker, Odette Geldenhuys, about Nelson Mandela's lawyer, George Bizos; and developing films with celebrated storytellers such as Zola Maseko, Twiggy Matiwana, Pieter Grobbelaar, Tristan Holmes, Adze Ugah and Sibusiso Khuzwayo. Cati has over 30 feature films in development. She is a founding member of the gender diverse director and writers' collective, New Moon Rising, and also is a full member of both the Independent Producer's Organisation and of the Writers Guild of South Africa. She is at present producing an animated feature film with Dumi Gumbi and her partners at Luma Animation, working on the release of two feature films and preparing Sara Chitambo's documentary, *Black People Don't get Depressed*, which was selected for Marche du Films Cannes Docs 2021, for production. In between she is writing 3 optioned feature films.

All her work is for the express purpose of changing the world one small step at a time. She believes

### **PRODUCER – ADAM THAL**

Having graduated from AFDA (The South African School of Motion Picture) in 2003, Adam wasted no time in setting up his commercial production company with his late business partner, Ryan Poole. The Star Film Company was born while in his honours year at AFDA and today it is considered one of the top production houses in South Africa with a multimillion rand turnover. Along with co-owner, Tristan Holmes, Adam focuses on the production of short-form content for the advertising industry. In his tenure, his work has managed to pick up numerous trophies and awards from festivals around the world. Besides these accolades, Adam has been fortunate enough to produce work across the globe, from Los Angeles to Accra, Cairo to Cape Town, Moscow to Nairobi, and many more cities. The excitement for Adam is the lack of the mundane office cubicle and that each day brings a new location. Adam's expertise lies in the business side of filmmaking and knowing when to spend and when to cut deals, putting the money in front of the camera and making sure scheduling and logistics is always on point. Over time in, Adam has made a great name for himself as an executive producer and is a well-respected individual. With 18 years of business management and production under his belt, Adam is now venturing into the long-form world to apply his expertise in this field.

### **LANCE GEWER – Director of Photography**

Lance Gewer is an internationally recognised, award-winning filmmaker and cinematographer who has worked in the field for 28 years. He photographed *Tsotsi* (directed by Gavin Hood and winner of the Oscar for Best Foreign Film 2006, Peoples and Critics Award Toronto Film Festival), *Beat The Drum* (27 International Awards), *Master Harold And The Boys* (with Freddy Highmore and Vingh Rheimes), *Otelo Burning* (over 70 film festivals internationally), *Flight Of The Storks* (Directed by Jan Kounen with Rutger Hauer), *Spud* and *Spud 2* (with Troy Sivan and John Cleese), *Elelwani*, *Jozi* and others. He has filmed international feature documentaries,

docudramas, and dramas. He also directed and produced several short fiction and non-fiction films and has lectured extensively over the last 20 years.

### **BRUCE MCLAREN-LYALL - Editor**

As an innovative editor, visual storyteller and post-production specialist in terms of grade, CGI and VFX, Bruce loves challenges that expand his skills, and he has a keen interest in new film technologies. He started his editing career while signed to Gallo as an artist with the band Karoo, working on their first music video *Mission Impossible*. Fascinated by film, he started from the ground up, working as an all-hander on films like *Dangerous Grounds* and *The Making of a Mahatma*.

After spending two years working on numerous sets, he found his way into the editing suite. Here he gained hands-on skills by editing and delivering many hours of diverse content for television. He had his first film break with Lokshin Bioskopes movies like *The Conman* and *Foreign Hearts*. This led to the acclaimed Afrikaans film *Die Spook van Uniondale*, which Bruce edited and graded, including all VFX work. This was also the first film he edited for producer Dumi Gumbi.

*The Dunning Kruger Effect* was next, followed by *Mrs Right Guy*, a box-office hit in South African theatres in 2016. Most recently, he edited the SA/USA co-production *Love by Chance*, a romantic comedy on screens in over 30 cinemas in South Africa in 2017.

## END CREDITS

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### CAST

Gerald King	Andrew Buckland
Rachel King	Antoinette Louw
Michael King	Alex De La Rey
Brenda	Nthathi Moshesh
Niel Dietrich	Morne Visser
Sheila	Jennifer Steyn
Gavin	Jonathan Piennaar
Connie	Esmeralda Bihl
Shopowner	Deon Lotz
Fatima	Saarah Sallie
Girl At Till	Britanny Thyra Carstens
Neil Dietrich	Mornè Visser
Michael's Half Brother	Quade Britz
Michael's Half Brother	Kyle Karsten

## CREW

Unit Production Manager	Khanyeza Khanyeza
Unit Production Assistant	Aubrey Nukeri Ayanda Hadebe
First Assistant Director	Thabani Gigaba
Second Assistant Director	Kurt Brookes
Third Assistant Director	Njabulo Shelembe
Co-Producers	Mokopi Shale Kethiwe Ngcobo
Production Manager	Ntuthuko Sibaja
Production Accountant	Ndaba HI Gerald King
Production Accountant Assistant	Siphokazi Tekwane
Office Administrator	Lihle Dhlomo
Production Coordinator	Siphokazi Tekwane
Production Assistants	Thokozani Sihlobo Thando Motshwene Sazi Shezi Bongani Gumbi Benjamin Hlongwane Kwanele Ngobese
Location Scout	Khanyeza Khanyeza Nerusha Sadapal Neville Botha Sipho Gift Clem Hennessey
Director's Assistant	Siyasanga Nkata
Script Supervisor/Continuity	Musa Sekele

Stunt Dept Manager	Jenn Robinson
Stunt Supervisor	Leon Breytenbach
Stunt Assistant	Royce Munnery
	Sean Bartlett
	Warren Pemberton
Set Dressers/Scenic	Lovell Southey
Art Department Assistant	Tshepo Moloji
Props Master/Buyer	Jenna Holmes
Wardrobe Assistant	Lungile Madondo
	Nduduzo Zwane
Make-Up/Hair Artist	Silindile Dladla
Make-Up/Hair Assistant	Mbali Mpoli
Focus Puller	Houston Hadden
Camera Assistants	Themba Mabaso
Drone Operator	Adriaan Jonker
DIT	Jordan Persson
VT Assistant	Michael Zondi
Sound Recordist	Richard Mc Namee
Boom Operator	Mandla Mdletshe
Gaffer	Emmanuel Sithole
Spark	Sifiso Sibiya
	Bheki Xaba
Best Boy Electric	Moeketsi Mbele
Key Grips	Lucky Mzinyane
Best Boy Grips	Siza Khawula
Grips Assistant	Luckyboy Ndou
	Kwanele Wiseman Ngobes
	Mzwandile Mdali

Post Production Services	The Ergo Company
Assistant Editor	Thando Motshwene
Online/VFX/Colour	CtrlAltDel
Music Supervisor	Bruce McLaren-Lyall
Sound Design and Final Mix	Insomnia Studios
Extras Coordinators	Becky Casting
	Go Big Productions
	Professional Background Extras
Rental Equipment	Panavision
	Thalia Gardiner
	Panalux
	Regan Cesroe
Film Producers Insurance	Toro Financial Services
	KEU
Completion Bond	Hollard Film Guarantors
For Hollard	Paul Raleigh
	Gail Radnitz
	Margaret Taback
	Mamoeti Nosi
	Wesley Raleigh
Director of Administration	Samantha Cheatle
Financial Accountant KZNFC	Ndamu Farisani
	Sibongile Yaka
Auditor	Mauritz Trollip
Vehicle Manager	Andries Van Niekerk
Production Drivers	Benjamin Hlongwane
	Lucky Gungqisa
Caterers	AEC Access Event Catering
	Go Big Productions

	Cook King Catering
Security	Simbonile Mzotsheni
2 <sup>nd</sup> Unit	
Production Manager	Sabelo Mathuthu
Production Co ordinator	Lali Avis (Bennet)
1st Assistant Director	Nomtha Dano
Medic	Seganeng Tefu
PR	Jana Erasmus
Photographer	Dom Barnardt
Casting Agent	Nashoda Billy
D. O. P.	Bekker-Brand J v R
Focus Puller 1st AC	JP Turvey
Loader 2nd AC	Tirelo Maepa
DIT/VTO	Nena Buchmann
Key Grip	Grant Rowe
Grip – Best Boy	Patrick Rikhotso
Grip – Assistant	Christopher Rasch
Gaffer	Henry Blignaut
Best Boy Lights	Modwell Mncube
Best Boy Lights	Nathan Mokobane
Spark	Maliyakhe Radebe
Genie Op	Moses Mechanic
Sound	Francois De Klerk
Hair & Make-up	Julene Paton
Art Director	Tamzyn Botha
Assistant art director	Shelandrey Yates
Props Master	Wisdom Mpofu
Props Master	Frans Mboyi
Unit Manager	Chad Machogo



Unit Assist	Thami Motaung
Unit Assistant	Sibusiso Radebe
Catering Manager	James Mubaiwa

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

#### KZN Film Commission

Chief Executive Officer	Carol Coetzee
Chief Operating Officer	Jackie Motsepe
Production Analyst	Teboho Pietersen
	Ziyanda Macingwane
Production Coordinator	Zanele Nhlapo
Production Administrator	Sindisiwe Ngcobo
Production Accountant	Mthobisi Ncube
Call a Crew	Sandi Kirkwood-Blair
Top Techs	Lindi Haskel
Krew Kut	Saskia Stuart-Clark
Red Not Studios	Ruan van Tonder

Belinda Kruger

Adam Bentel

Mkhize Family

De Lay Rey Family

Wayne Oosthuizen

Thandeka Zwana

Helen Kuun

Reflio Hlabioa

Jo Da Silva

Marius Weyers

Michael Peyper

Nomtha Dano

James Barth

Franz Carstens

Loxton Family

Kotze Family

JJ Le Roux

Jamiel Philander

Iggy Moegasien

Anwar Philander

Dudu Ndlovu Maphumulo

PRO Addington Hospital Francis Zuma

The Community of Alexander Bay

The Community of Port Nolloth