

ECCO HOMC

'Illusion is the first of all pleasures

directed by Lynn-Maree Milburn & Richard Lowenstein

written by Lynn-Maree Milburn

produced by Maya Gnyp, Richard Lowenstein, Andrew de Groot, Lynn-Maree Milburn



contact

Ghost Picture

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Screen Australia in association with Film Victoria
and the Melbourne International Film Festival Premiere Fund
present
a Ghost Pictures production
'ECCO HOMO'

directed by Lynn-Maree Milburn & Richard Lowenstein
written by Lynn-Maree Milburn
produced by Maya Gnyp, Richard Lowenstein, Andrew de Groot, Lynn-Maree Milburn
executive producer Shaun Miller
director of photography Andrew de Groot
edited by Richard Lowenstein & Lynn-Maree Milburn

INTERVIEWEES

Lynne Barrow	Michele Bennett
Iain Brown	Gavin Campbell
Claudia Castle	Bruno Charlesworth
John Clifforth	Marcos Davidson
Adam (Simon) Davies	Andrew Davies
Freada Davies	Charles Freyberg
Sarah Gilbert	Anne Harding
Michael Hamlyn	Paul 'Bono' Hewson
George Huxley	Tobsha Learner

Tim McKew

Mia Mortal

Greg Perano

Kriv Stenders

Sue Walshe

FEATURING APPEARANCES BY

Michael Hutchence

George Huxley

Benjamin Peelman

Paul 'Bono' Hewson

David 'The Edge' Evans

CAST

Troy Davies & Pan

James Andrews

Vanessa Davies

Matthew Connell

Peter Davies

William Cole

Young Peter Davies

Jagger Serafin

Andrew Davies

Jack Conti

Simon Davies

Freddie Curry

Libby Davies

Marlee Kierl

Mrs Cranswick

Dana Miltins

George Davies

Andrew Curry & Robert Elderton

George Huxley

Alex Nitsikopoulos

featuring music by Nils Frahm, Warren Ellis & Sophie Brouss

hair & make-up design by Olivia Still

wardrobe design by Karla Erenbots

featuring excerpts from the films 'Genius in Lying' and 'Four Steps to Glamour' by Anne Harding

ECCO HOMO

Illusion is the first of all pleasures

Provocateur, artist, chameleon: Peter Vanessa 'Troy' Davies, charmed his way through a lifetime of secrets and lies prostitution, art, HIV, abuse, incest and gender subversion.

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Provocateur, artist, chameleon: Peter Vanessa 'Troy' Davies, charmed his way through a lifetime of secrets and lies prostitution, art, HIV, abuse, incest and gender subversion. Part detective story, part social history, **ECCO HOMO** investigates a startlingly unique life through a kaleidoscopic myriad of visual media. From obscurity and isolation, determined to transcend the ugliness of a dysfunctional and incestuous childhood, Troy venture clandestinely into the world first as a young woman. A wild and witty confabulist he mastered the art of self reinvention, until his past caught up with him. **ECCO HOMO** explores the nature of truth-fiction and the imagination, revealing that truth often lies in the obsessive strategies employed in its evasion.

PETER VANESSA 'TROY' DAVIES

Chronology

- Born 1959 to Eileen and George Davies and christened Peter Davies. Eileen was a nurse and George a medical laboratory technician.
- The family lived in Ferntree Gully, Victoria. Peter was one of four kids – the eldest was Andrew (born 1957), then Simon (born 1958), the youngest was sister Elizabeth 'Libby' Davies (born 1960).
- At 15 years of age Peter dropped out of school.
- Lived as Vanessa for 5 years in the late 70s (until the age of 20), first for a few years in Sydney, then in Melbourne
- As Vanessa travelled to Flinders Street Station from their humble two bedroom home in Ferntree Gully most evenings, and took photobooth photos with friends and strangers alike.
- Upon return to Melbourne and with the support of George Davies, enrolled in gender re-assignment program.
- Re-appeared in the Melbourne subculture as 'Troy' soon after being told that he's been accepted by gender re-assignment surgery.
- Collaborated creatively with Melbourne's creative and artistic scene, on music videos, and feature films like 'Strikebound' (1984), and Dogs in Space (1986)
- Anne Harding makes film 'The Genius Is Lying' (1982) about Troy Davies
- Early to mid 1980s is diagnosed with AIDS
- Troy Davies collaborates with bands INXS, U2, Cold Chisel on various music videos
- Late 1980s forms band 'Ecco Homo'
- Continues to work domestically and abroad on music videos, concert films and TVC's
- Moves to Sydney in early 90s. Continues working as a Director and artist, holding two solo exhibitions
- Mid-90s writes and develops the film TWO / OUT with Kriv Stenders
- Late 1990s applies to Art School in Sydney (is later rejected)
- In his final years is drawn to classic arts such as painting and sculpture.
- Despite ill health, continues to travel abroad
- Died 2007 in Sydney

Lynn-Maree Milburn, co-director / writer / editor / producer

Lynn-Maree Milburn directed the festival and theatrical hit *In Bob We Trust* (2013) and co-directed the equally successful *Autoluminescent: Rowland S. Howard* (2011) with Richard Lowenstein. *Ecco Homo* marks her second co-direction with long time collaborator Richard Lowenstein. Both films premiered to critical acclaim, and high regard for their sensitivity and 'lyricism'. Milburn's debut feature film, *Memories and Dreams*, which she wrote and directed, enjoyed Official Selection at Venice, Telluride, Yamagata, and Hungary's Mediawave Film Festivals winning multiple awards including the Jury Prize at Hungary, and Best Film at the Melbourne International Film Festival as well as the AFI Open Craft Award. Her music videos including *What You Need* by INXS have won several international and local awards. She has also acted as a creative producer on Amiel Courtin-Wilson's documentaries *Bastardy* and *Chasing Buddha*. *Chasing Buddha* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and won AFI Awards while *Bastardy* played at the Sheffield, Melbourne, and Sydney Film Festivals. Lynn-Maree has also directed and produced on John Safran's TV Series - *John Safran Vs God*, *John Safran's Music Jamboree* (AFI Award for Best Television Comedy Series 2003) and directed episodes for his most recent *John Safran's Race Relations*. Lynn-Maree is currently developing a feature film 'Dark Mirror' based on the book 'Hell On The Way To Heaven' by Chrissi Foster about child abuse within Melbourne's Catholic Church.

Richard Lowenstein, co-director / producer / editor

Richard Lowenstein has written, directed and produced five feature films including *Strikebound*, *Dogs In Space*, *Sa: A Little Prayer*, *He Died With A Felafel In His Hand* and the feature documentaries *Ecco Homo*, *Autoluminescent Rowland S. Howard* and *We're Livin' On Dog Food*. He has also produced two award-winning satirical TV series for SBS Independent, *John Safran's Music Jamboree* and *John Safran Vs God* as well as the documentary *Intangible Asse #82*. He is a partner in the Melbourne-based production company GHOST, and an active partner in the feature film production company Fandango Australia Pty Ltd with producer Sue Murray. Richard has also produced Amiel Courtin-Wilson's feature documentaries *Bastardy*, and *Ben Lee - Catch My Disease*. Richard's next dramatic feature film as a writer/director/producer, *Michael* is in its final stage of development with financial assistance from Screen Australia.

Andrew de Groot, cinematographer / producer

Andrew de Groot is one of Australia's most notable cinematographers. A graduate of Swinburne Film & Television School he received an AFI nomination for his first feature as Director of Photography on Richard Lowenstein's *Strikebound*. He has photographed further feature films for Richard Lowenstein, including *Dogs in Space* and *He Died With A Felafel In His Hand*. Other projects include John Hillcoat's feature *To Have & To Hold*, and documentaries including Lynn-Maree Milburn's *Memories & Dreams* that won the AFI Open Craft award. Andrew has received a multitude of awards for his work including music videos for U2, INXS, Crowded House, Pet Townsend, Midnight Oil and Hunters & Collectors. He has also received several Gold ACS awards for his work on features, documentaries, television commercials and music videos. More recently he shot the tele-feature *Call Me Mum* that also won the AFI Open Craft award. He has been closely involved in the development of many projects both feature and documentary, including Amiel Courtin-Wilson's documentaries *Chasing Buddha*, as associate producer, *Bastardy* as producer, and as co-producer on Edward Martin's *Jisoe* and Emma Franz' *Intangible Asse Number 82*. Recent credits include *In Bob We Trust*, and *Autoluminescent: Rowland S. Howard*, as cinematographer and producer, and producer of feature documentaries *Ben Lee: Catch My Disease* and *We're Livin' on Dog Food*. Andrew is a co-founder and partner in the film production company GHOST.

Maya Gnyp, producer

In 2013 Maya Gnyp Produced the feature documentary *In Bob We Trust* (dir. Lynn-Maree Milburn), which went on to be the second highest grossing Australian feature documentary of the year. In 2013 she was selected by Screen Australia to represent the national industry at the prestigious Rotterdam Lab, specialising in feature film co-productions. In 2011 she Line-Produced *Autoluminescent: Rowland S. Howard* (dir. Lynn-Maree Milburn, Richard Lowenstein), and Post-Production Supervised the feature documentary *Ben Lee: Catch My Disease* (dir. Amie Courtin-Wilson), both of which screened at the Melbourne International Film Festival (2011) and were broadcast on The ABC. *Ecco Homo* (2015) is her third producing credit. Prior to joining GHOST PICTURES, Maya was Associate Producer at ROBYN KERSHAW PRODUCTIONS (RKP) working on the marketing and theatrical release of feature film BRAN NUE DAE (second highest grossing Australian film of the year) and the financing of the feature film SAVE YOUR LEGS, (dir. Boyd Hicklin). Maya has a background in UK Distribution and International Sales with Spier Films, (London, UK and Cape Town, South Africa). She is currently in development on two feature films; the Film Victoria supported 'River's Edge' (dir. Richard Lowenstein), and 'Dark Mirror' (dir. Lynn-Maree Milburn) Maya produces feature films for the global market and continues to be interested in the many facets of commercially successful audio-visual content, including web series, music videos and media-art installations, which she has directed, produced and exhibited around the world. Maya was educated at Berkeley, University of California and at The University of Melbourne.

Ghost Pictures

GHOST produces auteur driven film and television, favouring eclectic subjects and storytelling. Established in 2000 by Lynn-Maree Milburn, Andrew de Groot, and Richard Lowenstein, their collaborations in directing, writing cinematography and production have resulted in some of Australia's most iconic films including *Dogs in space*, *Memories and Dreams*, *He Died With a Felafel in His Hand*, *Autoluminescent: Rowland S. Howard* and most recently *In Bob We Trust*, a feature documentary about Father Bob Maguire.

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