



SOMERSAULT PIKE

A short film by Kate Lefoe



Victorian College of the Arts,
School of Film and Television
The University of Melbourne, Australia



Somersault Pike

Dark fears and high hopes drive a young competitive diver as she faces the ten-metre platform.

Essential Information

No dialogue

Running time 6:30 minutes

Shoot Format Arri Alexa, Phantom Flex

Aspect Ratio 16.9

Release Year 2017

Victorian College of the Arts, School of Film and Television,
The University of Melbourne


Enquiries

Kate Lefoe (writer / director / editor)

hello@katelefoe.com

Ph +61 412 403 604

katelefoe.com



*Through simplicity,
there is poetry.*

Director **Kate Lefoe**

Directors Statement

Somersault Pike is a poetic exploration of the thought process involved in working through self-doubt, mentally preparing for action, and taking the final steps towards achieving a goal. It is played out in on the ten-metre dive platform, where failure can mean serious injury.

I was drawn into the world of competitive diving by the strength and commitment it demands to succeed. Divers chase the elusive perfect score of ten.

Perfectionism can be a strong and powerful motivator, but it can be paralyzing if the focus is too much on the outcome rather than the process. This is universal.

During my Masters studies at the Victorian College of the Arts, I have developed a strong understanding of visual storytelling. My philosophy of filmmaking is to explore my own darkest fears, bringing them into the light to share with an audience.

By tapping into a raw truth, I believe these stories will always resonate with an audience. I have learnt through the process of making Somersault Pike that through simplicity, there is poetry.

Kate Lefoe



Writer, Director, Editor: Kate Lefoe

Kate Lefoe is an award winning writer and director based in Melbourne, Australia. Kate graduated with a Masters of Film and Television (Narrative) from the prestigious Victorian College of the Arts in December 2016. Somersault Pike is her graduating film.


Kate's most recent short film *Plunge* (2014) screened at more than 40 festivals and won several awards, including Best Director Short Film at the Long Beach Film Festival, Best Lesbian Short Film at the Durham Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in South Africa, Best Student Film at the Melbourne Fringe Festival and Best Senior Short Film at the Warburton Film Festival.

In 2014, Kate was awarded a two-week intensive film making scholarship to travel to Suzhou, China. The resulting short documentary, *Age, Height, Education* (2015), has screened in festivals in the USA and China and was a Finalist in the Phoenix Life Documentary Awards and awarded Best Youth Film at the Beijing Radio and Television Awards.

Kate's first short film, *Under Pressure* (2010), was awarded Best Emerging Talent at the Sydney Mardi Gras Film Festival (2011) and screened at more than 25 festivals around the world, including the St Johns International Women's Festival and the competitive Oz Shorts Program in the Melbourne Queer Film Festival.

When Kate's not making films, she watches hundreds of them as part of her role on the Selection Committee for the Melbourne Queer Film Festival. She also runs filmmaking workshops teaching young queer people how to make their first films.

(Photo: Kate Lefoe with actor Mary Holgate)

A close-up, high-angle shot of a woman's face, looking slightly down and to the right. Her hair is pulled back, and she is wearing a gold hoop earring. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green foliage and a blue sky. The text is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image.

*I know the feeling,
your feet on the edge,
the sun on your face,
terrified but knowing
you have to do the dive.*

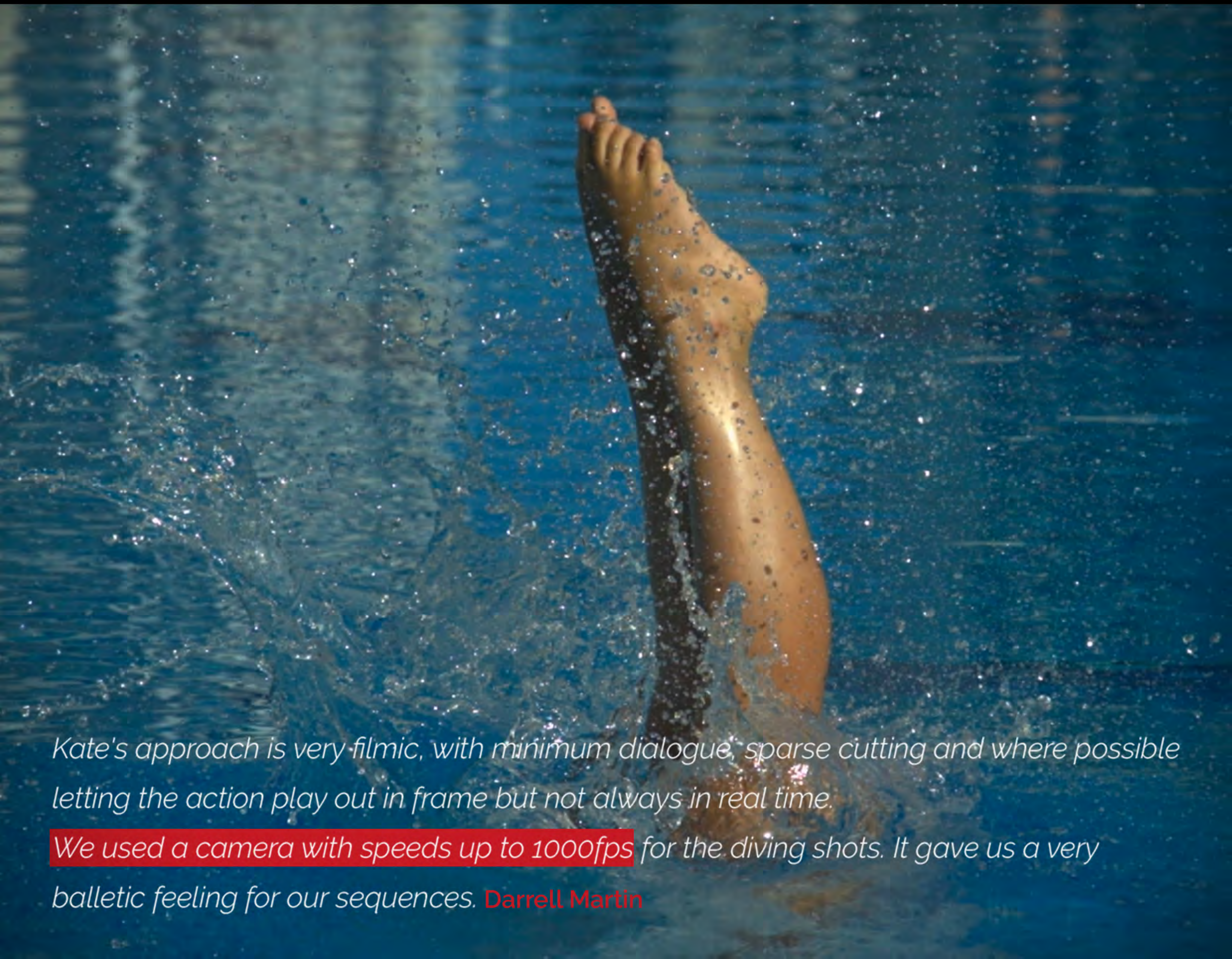
Actor Mary Holgate

Producer: Honeylyn Lisson

Honeylyn Lisson is an emerging Producer born in Canada, raised in Darwin, now based in Melbourne, Australia. From a very young age Honeylyn has loved movies, working with people and being incredibly organized, and has finally found a way to combine all of these passions - producing! Since completing a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Film & Television Studies) at Monash University in 2015, Honeylyn has worked on approximately ten student films as well as multiple independent shorts, corporate projects and music videos, and hopes to do even more in the future.

Cinematographer: Darrell Martin

Darrell Martin has been in the Film and Television industry for over 30 years. Starting as a trainee cameraman at the ABC in Melbourne in 1984 he has worked on programs as diverse as Countdown, Sea Change and The Late Show. He has been an award winning freelance DOP for the last 15 years shooting mainly long form TV Drama. He enjoys lighting and operating – often simultaneously- and has worked extensively in both Film and Digital formats. Darrell has shot 3 series of Satisfaction for Foxtel on film and most recently Mr & Mrs Murder for Network 10. He has worked as an 2nd Unit DOP and camera operator on many other shows including Molly, Offspring, Wentworth and The Dr Blake Murder Mysteries.



Kate's approach is very filmic, with minimum dialogue, sparse cutting and where possible letting the action play out in frame but not always in real time.

We used a camera with speeds up to 1000fps for the diving shots. It gave us a very balletic feeling for our sequences. Darrell Martin

Cinematographers Statement

Somersault Pike was a joy to work on. I'd seen some of Kate's earlier works and knew she would have a distinct style to the film. I wanted to work on a project that was different to a lot of the television work I'd been doing in recent years - a project that could stretch me in different directions. I felt Somersault Pike helped me do this.

Kate's approach is very filmic, with minimum dialogue, sparse cutting and where possible letting the action play out in frame but not necessarily in real time. To this effect we used the Phantom flex HD camera with speeds up to 1000fps for the diving shots. It gave us a very balletic feeling our sequences!

She was insistent in finding an outdoor diving pool, which meant travelling our cast and crew to Queensland.

I think this was a very bold decision that paid off beautifully with the rich blue hues of the skies and pool playing off against the red swimsuit of our protagonist.



Kate Lefoe with Cinematographer Darrell Martin

Kate is very much a great collaborator - she enjoys the relationship with her cinematographer and will take onboard any good suggestions the cinematographer has to give regarding style, process or logistics in shooting.





Key Personnel

Diver: Mary Holgate

Writer, Director & Editor: Kate Lefoe

Associate Producer: Honeylyn Lisson

Cinematography: Darrell Martin

Steadicam: Andrew Condor SOC ACS

1st Assistant Director: Jacob Livermore

Online Editor and Consultant: Declan Loughran

Sound Designer: Livia Rusic

Sound Mixer: Ant Bohun

The filmmaker would like to acknowledge the generous support of
The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Foundation
The Jim Marks Postgraduate Scholarship
Funkita Swimwear