

Cure sometimes, treat often, comfort always.

AS THE LEASH COMES LOOSE

A THE EVERYDAY PRODUCTION EMMA WHISTON IN "AS THE LEASH COMES LOOSE"
MUSIC BY CAMERON MURPHY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JACKSON HAYAT
PRODUCED BY JACKSON HAYAT DIRECTED BY JACKSON HAYAT & TOM BUCKINGHAM

THE
EVERYDAY

A close-up, profile view of a woman with light brown hair pulled back, looking down. She is wearing a blue turtleneck sweater. The background is a bookshelf filled with books, softly blurred. The lighting is warm and focused on her face.

AS THE LEASH COMES LOOSE

Directed by: Jackson Hayat & Tom Buckingham

Production Company: The Everyday

Genre: Documentary/Short

Production Year: 2024

Country of Origin: Australia

Language: English

Running Time: 18 Minutes

Screen Ratio: 16:9

Sound Format: Stereo



LOGLINE

A veterinary euthanasia specialist endeavours to alleviate the suffering of others, whilst navigating her own struggles with mental health.

SYNOPSIS

As The Leash Comes Loose is an empathetic documentary of compassion and hope. The documentary follows Dr. Emma Whiston, a Melbourne veterinarian pioneering a revolution in home-based euthanasia. Pitted against a long standing veterinary culture that prizes pragmatism over consideration, and a lifelong battle with her own internal struggles, Emma must face the world with empathy and willpower. *As The Leash Comes Loose* ultimately depicts the hardships of working in an emotionally strenuous field and brings into question how we balance compassion for others with compassion for ourselves.

EMMA WHISTON

Dr. Emma Whiston is a pioneer not just in the veterinary trade, but also in her outlook on death.

Emma's career as an in-home euthanasia specialist was informed heavily by her upbringing as the daughter of two veterinarians.

Watching on as her parents performed anything from dental surgery to euthanasia for their family pets - at home, in a loving, caring environment - was a formative sight for a young mind.

From then on, Emma has remained adamant that, if handled compassionately, death can be a beautiful thing.

However, as someone facing life-long mental health struggles - nothing out of place in a mental health epidemic being faced by veterinarians worldwide - Emma now meditates on the sense of compassion she offers herself.

Ultimately, Emma's story explores how her upbringing and unique view on death has given her hope in the work she performs, and the life she lives; bringing to light our very human need to offer compassion to others and ourselves.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As The Leash Comes Loose began as a shared fascination with Emma's career as a veterinary euthanasia specialist, and the unique struggles faced in such an emotionally strenuous line of work.

However, as the shoot began, the film found itself operating at a deeper emotional level than anticipated, surveying not just the compassion Emma brings to the traditionally pragmatic field of vet care, but also her own struggles with self-compassion and her journey to pioneer a positive view of death.

This dichotomy ultimately became the heart of our fascination for the project, the seemingly opposed themes of compassion and death. As we spent more time with Emma, these two ideas slowly coalesced before us, something we became excited to display on screen: Emma's view that death can be a beautiful thing.

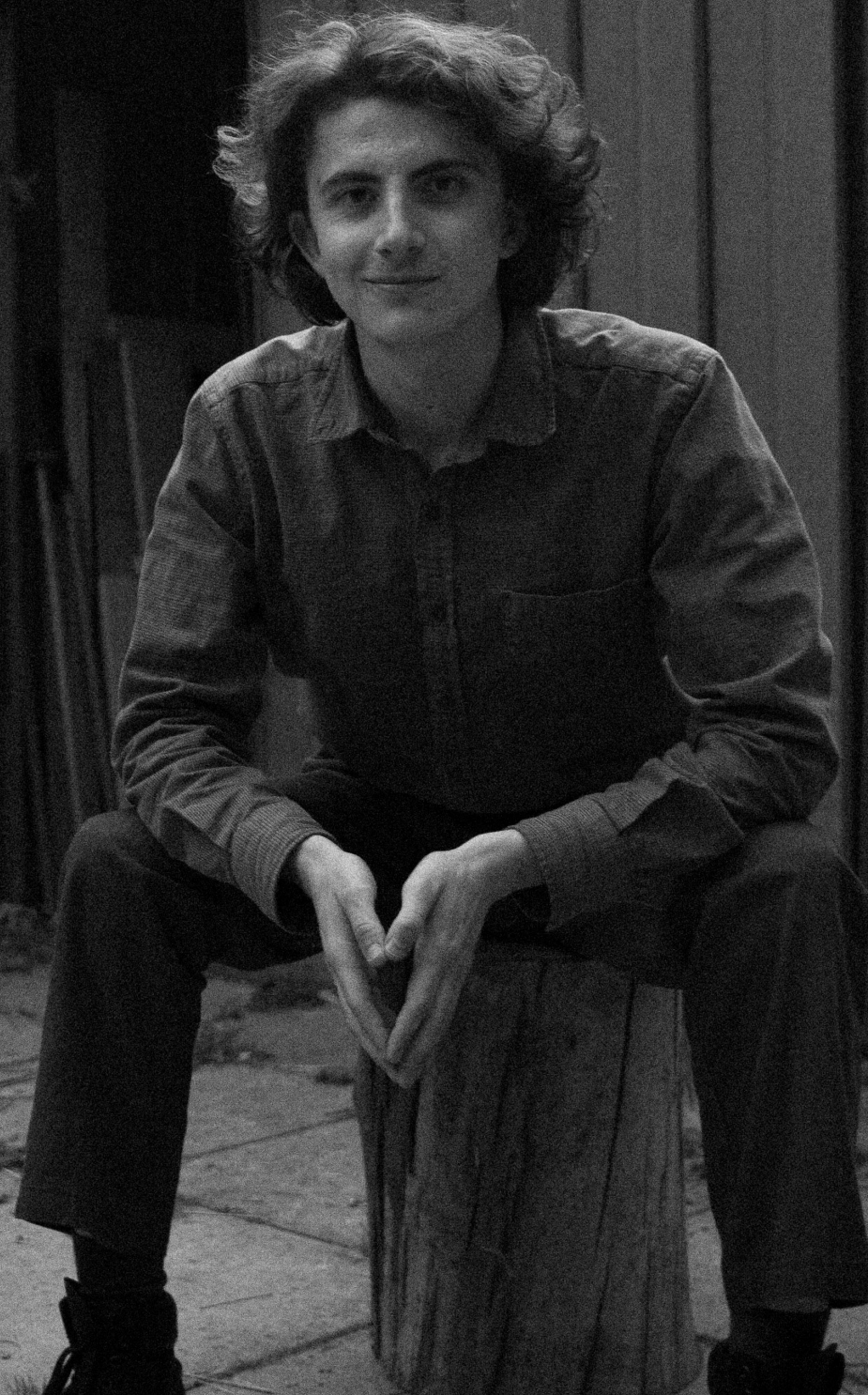
Emma's story is truly inspiring and hopeful. We were grateful to have had the chance to immortalize Emma's story and wisdom onscreen in such an intimate way, sharing in her quest to shift our world's perspective on death and self-compassion.

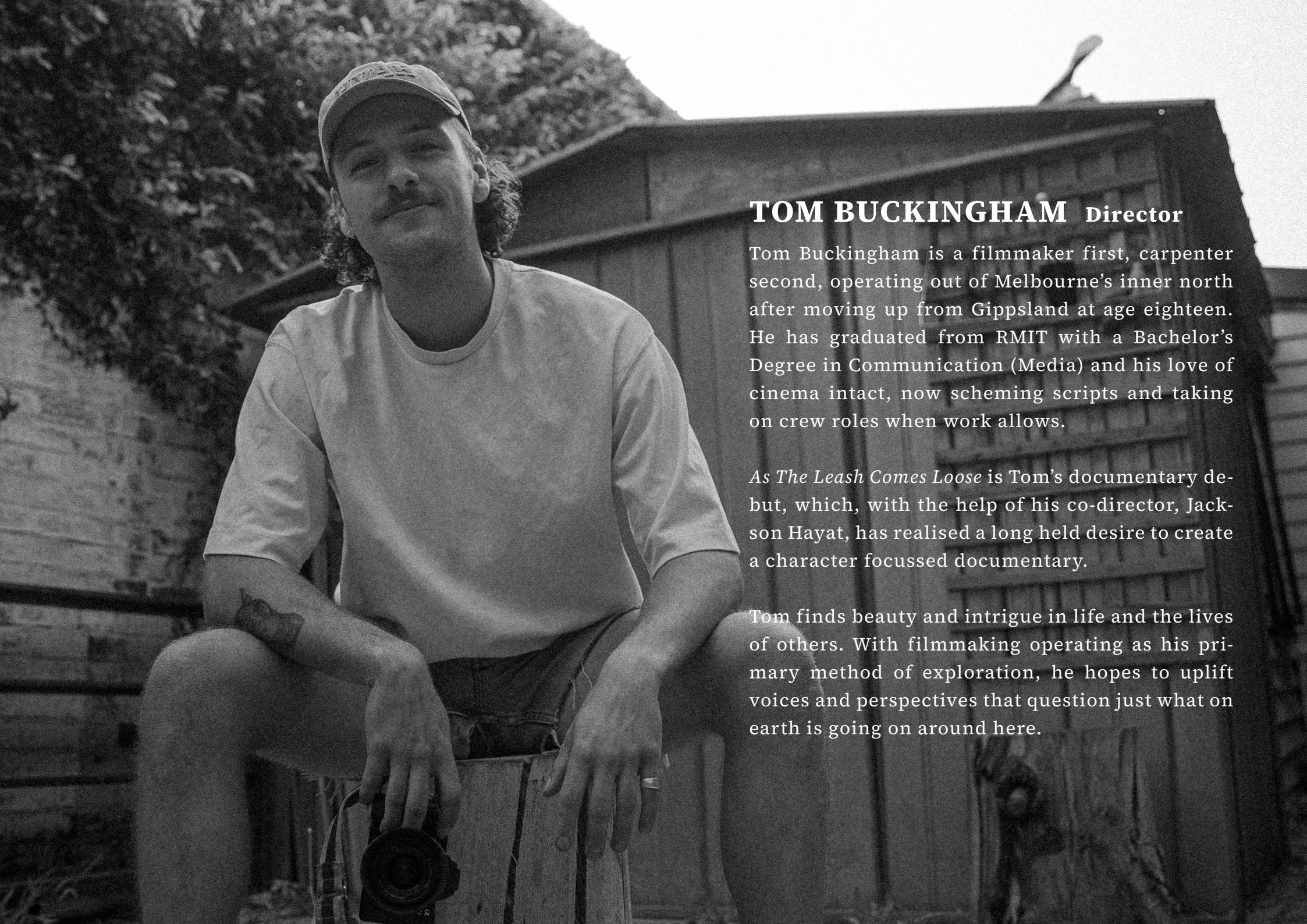
JACKSON HAYAT Director

Jackson Hayat is an emerging documentary director hailing from Melbourne, Australia. Originally growing up in the small coastal town of Apollo Bay, he moved to Melbourne and completed a Bachelor of Film & Television (*Honours*) at Swinburne University in 2022.

Jackson specialises in directing character-led documentaries that explore the emotions and wisdom of their protagonists. His recent documentary, *Declutter* (2022), was nominated for Best Documentary at St. Kilda Film Festival, and his latest documentary, *Crumble* (2023), was nominated for Best Documentary Short at Melbourne Documentary Film Festival and screened live at the prestigious Byron Bay International Film Festival at the end of 2023.

Jackson uses the documentary form to support and immortalise the voices of others, showcasing these people, their wisdom and their everyday stories with a love of stylization and empathetic sense of connection.





TOM BUCKINGHAM Director

Tom Buckingham is a filmmaker first, carpenter second, operating out of Melbourne's inner north after moving up from Gippsland at age eighteen. He has graduated from RMIT with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication (Media) and his love of cinema intact, now scheming scripts and taking on crew roles when work allows.

As The Leash Comes Loose is Tom's documentary debut, which, with the help of his co-director, Jackson Hayat, has realised a long held desire to create a character focussed documentary.

Tom finds beauty and intrigue in life and the lives of others. With filmmaking operating as his primary method of exploration, he hopes to uplift voices and perspectives that question just what on earth is going on around here.

CREW LIST

Directed By Jackson Hayat & Tom Buckingham

Produced By Jackson Hayat

Director of Photography Jackson Hayat

Composer Cameron Murphy

Edited By Jackson Hayat

Assistant Editor Tom Buckingham

Colourist Jackson Hayat

Gaffer Tom Buckingham & Matt Annett

Photographer Abby Whiston

