

## **LEVON J POLINELLI**

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### **Biography**

Levon has been making weird things all his life. His first forays were some experimental pieces in high-school, culminating in a 90-minute action/adventure film entitled THE WHEELCHAIR WARRIORS, written, directed and produced at the age of fifteen. Levon's children's TV pilot DREAMSCAPE, produced at the age of nineteen, had him sitting in a boardroom with the executives of Channel Seven in Sydney. Levon directed and co-produced a trailer for a fake Bollywood Kung-Fu movie called HINDU JEDI JESUS, which was a finalist in Margaret and David's At The Movies 25th Anniversary trailer competition. Levon directed a TV pilot called STRIPPERDRIVER, based upon an incredibly random part-time job. Along with that, he directed and edited Perth comedian Xavier Susai's BOGAN ROCK video clip (which brought in 65,000 unique views in its first three days), and co-wrote and performed in a show in the 2013 Perth International Comedy Festival called WHEN GOD MET SATAN; a bizarre comedy exploring the most complicated father/son relationship in the universe, which was re-staged in the 2014 Perth Fringe Festival. He directed Jeff Hewitt's solo stand-up shows V FOR VAGINA in 2015 and RAD DAD REDEMPTION in 2016 (which received a Best Comedy Award nomination), as well as directing Luke Bolland's 2016 kids-show-for-adults DARREN THE EXPLORER in a sold out run. In 2017 he produced nine shows for FringeWorld, directing five and garnering another Best Comedy Award nomination. In 2018 he not only ran an independent venue (playing host to over thirty-five shows), but produced five shows, one of which went on to a Golden Gibbo nomination at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

He wrote, directed and produced the world premiere of WEREWOLF PRIEST! THE LAMENTABLE BALLAD OF FATHER HANK GRIMBY in the Blue Room Theatre's 2014 Season One to rapturous audience acclaim – Ben Elton declared it “quite possibly the most fun and entertaining thing I've ever seen!” In 2018 Levon directed and produced THE EDGE as part of the Blue Room Theatre's Season One; the show had originally been staged in Malaysia and this was its first international production.

His first feature film as writer, director and producer, EVERYBODY GETS STABBED, is currently in post-production and will hit streaming in 2020.

Levon has also partnered with Tomás Ford on a new streaming platform, Normal Place, which can best be described as “Netflix for weirdos”, and will launch in April 2020.

He is the man behind Perth comedy sensation Mac the Comedy Computer, and bafflingly, he was a finalist in Mr Boylesque WA 2015. Aside from all this nonsense Levon is developing a wide swathe of projects in the US and Australia, enjoys scotch and cigars, and has shadowboxed with Muhammad Ali.

## Selected Works

2001 – *Dreamscape*. Creator, writer, director, producer. One-hour children's television series pilot.

2003 – *Buffy* – Supernatural. Writer, director, director of photography. Music video for local Perth band.

2006 – *The Rise, Fall and Rise of Queen Bitch: Boyband Extraordinaire*. Writer, director, co-producer, editor. Pilot for six-part mockumentary series

2007 – *A Still and Awful Red* – sample scene from feature film. Director, Producer.

2009 – *Lady (I'm Gonna Rock Ya)* – Michael de Grussa. Concept, Director, Editor. Thirteen-minute music video for local Perth singer/songwriter.

2011 – *Hindu Jedi Jesus* – trailer for feature film. Director, Writer, Production Designer, Co-Producer.

2012 – *StripperDriver* – TV pilot. Director, Writer, Co-producer. (in post-production).

2013 – *Bogan Rock* – Xavier Susai. Director, Editor. Music video for comedian Xavier Susai.

2013 – *When God Met Satan* – stage show, 2013 Perth International Comedy Festival, 2014 FringeWorld Festival. Co-writer, co-director, co-producer, actor.

2014 – *Werewolf Priest! The Lamentable Ballad of Father Hank Grimby* – original stage musical, 2014 Blue Room Theatre Season One. Writer, director, producer, lyricist.

2015 – *V For Vagina* – Jeff Hewitt's one-man FringeWorld Festival 2015 show. Director, script consultant.

2015 – *Werewolf Priest! The Lamentable Ballad of Father Hank Grimby* – original stage musical, Nexus Theatre remount. Writer, dramaturg, producer, lyricist.

2016 – *Darren The Explorer* – original stage musical, FringeWorld 2016, also Perth Comedy Festival. Director, script consultant.

2016 – *Rad Dad Redemption* – Jeff Hewitt's one-man FringeWorld 2016 show, also Perth Comedy Festival. Director, script consultant.

2016 – *Mac The Comedy Computer's 53.3 Minute Varietynado!* – FringeWorld 2016 show. Producer, director, writer, performer.

2017 – *Chase!* – Tomas Ford's FringeWorld 2017 show. Director, script consultant.

2017 – *Sophie Joske: Household Name* – FringeWorld 2017 show. Producer.

2017 – *Thunder God & Other Tales* – FringeWorld 2017 show. Producer, director.

2017 – *Daddyng For Beginners with Luke Bolland* – FringeWorld 2017 show. Producer, director.

2017 – *Jeff Hewitt's Compliment Battle* – FringeWorld 2017 show. Producer, director.

2017 – *Lola's Showgirl Smear Campaign* – FringeWorld 2017 show. Producer, director.

2017 – *(Not) The Bachelor Live!* – FringeWorld 2017 show. Producer.

2017 – *Adam Peter Scott's Trivia Death Match* – FringeWorld 2017 show. Producer.

2017 – *"Is This What You Humans Call Variety?"* – FringeWorld 2017 show. Producer, director, writer, performer.

2017 – *Werewolf Priest! The Lamentable Ballad of Father Hank Grimby* – proof of concept reel. Director, producer, writer.

2017 – *Nick & Dan's As Yet Untitled Pilot* – pilot. Director, producer, editor.

2018 – *Anna Piper Scott - Water Off A Cuck's Back* – FringeWorld 2018 show. Director, producer.

2018 – *Almost Lesbians* – FringeWorld 2018, Melbourne International Comedy Festival show. Producer.

2018 – *The Edge* – musical. Producer, director, dramaturg.

2020 – *Everybody Gets Stabbed* – feature film. Director, producer, writer.

2021 – *Gaslight* – feature film. Director, producer, writer.

2021 – *Fugue* – feature film. Director, producer, writer.

2021 – *Trainsurfing* – feature film. Producer, writer.

2022 – *Hookshot* – feature film. Producer, writer.

### **Feature Screenplays (on spec)**

- *Four Winds*
- *The Long Night: The Coming of Darkness (part one)*
- *The Long Night: The Witching Hour (part two)*
- *The Long Night: The Approaching Dawn (part three)*
- *The Rise, Fall and Rise of Queen Bitch: Boyband Extraordinaire*
- *Still Waters* (with Audrey Currie)
- *The Stranger*
- *Untitled Musical*
- *Werewolf Priest! The Lamentable Ballad of Father Hank Grimby*
- *The Wheelchair Warriors*

## Commissioned Feature Screenplays

- *Dead Dogs*
- *E.M.F.*
- *A Still and Awful Red* (with Paul Payne)
- *Untitled Ivory Film*
- *Westgate*
- *Tribe*
- *Trainsurfing*

## Other Notes

- *Still Waters* was shortlisted in ScreenWest's inaugural West Coast Visions low-budget feature initiative in 2004 and again in 2005, and also received development funding in 2005.

- *A Still and Awful Red* received development funding from ScreenWest in both 2006 and 2007, and was shortlisted in the 2006 and 2007 annual West Coast Visions Initiative.

- *Hindu Jedi Jesus* was a finalist in Margaret and David's *At The Movies* 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trailer competition.

- *Bogan Rock* attracted 65,000 views in its first three days online.

- *Werewolf Priest! The Lamentable Ballad of Father Hank Grimby* won Best Host at the 2014 Blue Room Theatre Awards, and was declared by Ben Elton to be "quite possibly the most fun and entertaining thing I've ever seen."

- *Rad Dad Redemption* was nominated for the FringeWorld 2016 Little Creatures Comedy Award.

- *Sophie Joske: Household Name* was nominated for the FringeWorld 2017 Best Comedy Award.

- *Almost Lesbians* was nominated for the Golden Gibbo Award at MICF 2018.

## Referees

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