

Press Kit

# Medusa (Pilot)

First Date

(2004)

Directed by Pierce Davison  
Produced by Jacob Fjord

with the Voices of

Paul McDermott, John Safran, Catherine Traicos and James Magnus

A Davison Bros Production

In association with  
PAPERCUT MEDIA

Produced in association with  
AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION

Produced in association with  
SBS INDEPENDENT

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## Film Details

Original Title	Medusa (Pilot)
English Title	Medusa
Alternative Title	Medusa – First Date
Country of Origin	Australia
Language	English
Year of Production	2004
Running Time	3 minutes 00 seconds
Screening Format	1:1.66

'Medusa (Pilot)' is available on BetaSP (PAL or NTSC), DigiBeta, DVC Pro 50, DVD Region 0 (PAL), MiniDV, VHS (PAL or NTSC) (preview purposes only).

## Contact Details

Producer

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## **Previous Screenings and Awards for Medusa (Pilot)**

As this short has only recently been released this list will be substantially altered in the coming months, for the latest list please email [jacob@papercutmedia.com](mailto:jacob@papercutmedia.com)

### **Television Screenings**

Nickelodean Channel, Dec 2004–Jan 2005 (USA & Canada)

### **Awards**

West Australian Screen Awards, 2005 (Australia) – Winner Best Animation

### **Festivals (In Competition)**

Finalist (of 8) Nickelodean Nicktoons Film Festival, 2005 (USA)

Finalist (of 3) Dendy Awards, 2005 (Australia)

Australian International Animation Festival, 2005 (Australia)

Corto! Oporto International Short Film Festival, 2005 (Portugal)

London International Animation Festival, 2005 (UK)

Melbourne International Animation Festival, 2005 (Australia)

West Australian Screen Awards, 2005 (Australia) – Nomination Best Animator

Rushes, Soho Shorts Film Festival, 2005 (UK)

Comedia – Just for Laughs, 2005 (Canada)

Anonimul International Film Festival, 2005 (Romania)

### **Festivals (Screenings)**

Fremantle Outdoor Film Festival, 2005 (Australia)

In The Realm Of The Senses – Best of the Rest, 2005 (Australia)

Revelation International Film Festival, 2005 (Australia)

SBS Independent Signature Works, 2004 (Australia)

Sydney Film Festival, 2005 (Australia)

Get Your Shorts On, 2005 (Australia)

Ebensee Festival Der Nationen, 2005 (Austria)

AFC OnScreen, 2005 (Australia)

Mandurah Short Film Festival, 2005 (Australia)

### **Other**

## **Synopsis of Medusa (Pilot)**

### **Synopsis (Page)**

Eric, a mild mannered accountant, has taken Medusa, a gorgon with snakes for hair, to a local Sushi bar on their first date. A blind date. Having settled in and selected a few goodies from the conveyor, they talk nervously about liking Sushi. Eric is a little freaked out by the snakes, but he puts a brave face on it.

Eric walks Medusa home where they begin to talk about their dating history. Medusa it turns out, has been on quite a few dates – many of them don't end well, either the date or the waiter are left stone dead – but she's more than happy to share this personal information with Eric. Eric reverts back to being freaked out and starts to get nervous again. Sensing this, Medusa tries to make a joke out of it all – to little avail.

Meanwhile Cupid is teaching his Cherub trainee the finer points of shooting arrows. "You got to remember to breathe, breathings important". But before he can sink one into our new couple, he's distracted by a nearby window and the arrow misses.

Back on the street Medusa ceases the moment (on what seems to be one of her better dates) and invites herself up for coffee. Eric prepares coffee for his date in his well appointed kitchen, whilst Medusa says 'hi' to Eric's parrot. Medusa's snakes take an instant disliking to Medusa's new feathered friend and decides to Zap the parrot to stone.

Medusa keeps Eric busy by asking for three sugars and milk in her coffee while she thinks of what to do. She takes the newly petrified parrot out of the cage and produces some felt tip pens from her hand bag and starts to bring colour back to the parrot. Medusa is able to get the job finished and the parrot back on its perch before Eric notices, but she decides going out for coffee is the best way to avoid Eric finding out too soon.

Eric, obviously disappointed, concedes as long as he can also take out his pet Chihuahua, Cerberus, along for the walk. There is a big kerfuffle as the two sets of animals get to know each other.

The pair end their date at the Vet, where they wait for someone to help save Cerberus from being totally swallowed by one of Medusa's snakes.

Eric suggests that they shouldn't see each other anymore, "Is it because I'm a Virgo" asks Medusa.

### **Synopsis (Paragraph)**

Things aren't looking too promising when Medusa goes out on a first date with mild mannered accountant Eric. Everyone's naturally a little nervous (what with the snakes for hair) and it's only when Medusa is invited up for coffee that things take a turn for the better, that is until she introduces herself to his parrot...

### **Synopsis (Line)**

Medusa goes out on a blind date with Eric and all seems to be going well until she gets invited up for a coffee and she introduces herself to his pets.

## **Credits**

Written by Pierce Davison

Animated by Pierce Davison

### Voices

Paul McDermott as Eric

Catherine Traicos as Medusa

John Safran as Parrot

James Magnus as Cupid

Art Assistant – James Magnus

Costumes – Bryn Meredith

Special Effects – Simeon Taylor

Motion Control – Rory Paton

### Assistants

Roseline Lau, Michelle Aslett, Pia Illoka Jensen, Serena Sundai

Camera – Seymour Davison

Lighting – Seymour Davison

Lighting Assistant – Steve Cottingham

Music – Alex Ringis, Brett Hirsch

Sound Design – Seymour Davison, Richard Mahony

Audio Recording and Final Mix – Richard Mahony

Editor – Seymour Davison

Grade – Tony Pickburn

Lawyer – Sonya Rogerson

Property – Paul Perin

Project Manager for AFC – Julia Overton

Commissioning Editor, SBS Independent – Miranda Dear

### Thanks

Christopher McCormick, Karl Ockelford, Paulo Perin and David Barton, Phil Jeng Kane, Lis Hoffman, Film and Television Institute, Andrew Taylor, Ingle Knight.

Produced by Jacob Fjord

Directed by Pierce Davison

Produced in association with Australian Film Commission

Produced in association with SBS Independent

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## **Biographies of Key Crew**

### **Pierce Davison – Director / Animator / Writer**

Pierce Davison began his film career by doing a degree in Commerce at UWA, during which time he directed his first short animation 'UFO Inferno', a coat-hanger and magnet classic. Over the next 6 years pierce has made over a dozen short animations culminating in the recent completion of a 3 minute pilot of Medusa for SBS.

In between Pierce made 'Fetch' a adaptation of Henry Lawson's Loaded Dog for ABC's Outback Upfront series, created 'The Olympiads Lounge' for FlyTV and ABC's Animated Behaviour. He also wrote and directed created the original Medusa short film which has been screened widely around the world, and was a finalist in Tropfest 2003.

Pierce is a former ABC TV Young Filmmaker of the Year and with his brother are the core of Davison Bros. Productions.

Pierce is currently working on Professor Pebbles, an animation set in hell, as well as setting about making a 13 part series of Medusa a reality.

### **Jacob Fjord – Producer**

Jacob Fjord is a managing director of Papercut Media a multi-arts and design company based out of Leederville, WA. Since establishing Papercut Media, Jacob has been responsible for the management of all projects undertaken by Papercut Media which have included CD design, websites, book publication and short films.

Jacob is well known as an emerging WA screen producer and over the past 4 years has been responsible for producing the animations of the Davison Bros. These films have received numerous awards and screenings across the globe, including in competition screenings in Canada, Italy, USA, Brazil, UK, Sweden and Germany. Their 7 minute animation Medusa was also a finalist at Tropfest 2003 and they have recently completed a 3 minute pilot for SBS (Australia) . He is a trained improviser and regularly performs around Perth using his ability to think quickly on his feet. Jacob holds a Bachelor of Media Studies from Murdoch University.

### **James Magnus – Artist / Model Maker / Set Designer / Voice Talent**

After leaving school, James Magnus completed a fine arts degree at Curtin University. Since then James has worked on numerous artistic endeavours. He has been responsible for the creation, writing and drawing for a number of comic strips. In addition James has published his own works including Lab Monkey, Mr Rushjob and regular strips with Matthew Langfield for Pelican Newspaper. James has been involved in the production of a number of Animated short films with Pierce Davison. Most recently completing the clay modelling, set-design and set-construction for the ABC Outback initiative short film 'Fetch', 'Medusa' and 'The Olympiads Lounge'. James also provides the voice for Cupid.

### **Seymour Davison – Cinematographer / Editor**

Seymour Davison is the second half of the Davison Bros. Seymour graduated in film in 1999 from Perth Metropolitan TAFE. He has been involved in every Pierce Davison Animation and is a vital member of the animation team. Seymour's responsibilities are mainly in the technical areas of production including Cinematography and as Editor. He also holds a position at the Film and Television Institute as a technical assistant and projectionist. Seymour provided his musical, editing and DOP services on 'Fetch', 'Medusa' and 'The Olympiads Lounge'.

## **Biographies of Voice Talent**

### **Paul McDermott – Eric**

Paul McDermott has been at the forefront of the Australian entertainment industry since the Doug Anthony All Stars stormed to national and international success in the late 1980s.

Paul's career so far encompasses presenting national radio programs (Triple J), writing and presenting television programs including The Big Gig (ABC TV), DAAS Kapital (ABC TV) and Good News Week (ABC TV & Ten Network). He also hosted The World Comedy Tour. He has been most recently seen as the host of the ABC TV Friday night show Strictly Dancing.

### **John Safran – Parrot**

In 1997 John Safran won a place on the ABC travel show Race Around the World. The pieces John submitted won him infamy and the Audience Favourite vote.

After returning to Australia he filmed two pilots for the ABC that the station refused to air after a widely reported altercation with Ray Martin. In the following years John filmed stories for Channel 7's Late Report, Channel 4 UK's Disinfonation and co-hosted radio Triple R's Breakfasters.

In 2002 he released John Safran's Music Jamboree which won two AFI awards – Best Comedy Series and Most Innovative Program Concept. He has most recently been seen on his new series John Safran versus God on SBS.

### **Catherine Traicos – Medusa**

Catherine is an accomplished artist and her work can be found in Galleries in both Sydney and Perth. Catherine has provided the voice of Medusa for both the original short film and for the SBS Pilot.

### **James Magnus – Cupid**

A versatile voice artist with a great ear for imitation and impressions, James improvisational skills and great feel for his characters help make the Davison Bros. animations what they are. In addition to his voice talents, James also lends his model making skills to the animations and is an integral part of the animation family.

James provides the voice of Cupid, reprising his role from the original short film.

## Pierce Davison – Animation Filmography

A full filmography is available upon request, as are complete versions of any of the films listed.

<b>Prof. Pebbles</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Latex Stop Motion</b>
Professor is too much a guy tries to be bad... Currently in production.		
<b>Medusa: Pilot</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>Latex Stop Motion</b>
Pilot episode of 13 part series.		
<b>Olympiads Lounge</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>Latex Stop Motion</b>
The Olympiads come back for one final routine. Produced and screened as part of ABC's Animated Behaviour.		
<b>Medusa</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>Latex Stop Motion</b>
Our favourite gorgon Medusa joins a dating service. Comedy ensues.		
<b>Spencer Tracy Music Clip</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>Latex Stop Motion</b>
Stop motion animation video clip for local Perth band Spencer Tracy. Integrated with live footage of the bands performance. Broadcast on Rage and Channel V.		
<b>Fetch</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>Latex Stop Motion</b>
Stop motion animation about 3 prospectors and their dog in the outback in the search for gold. Produced as part of the ABC series Outback Upfront.		
<b>The Cow Side</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>Stop Motion</b>
Short film about the trials and tribulations of organic versus genetically engineered cows.		
<b>My Mrs. Tingwell</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>Stop Motion</b>
A black and white animation. A multilevel meta-textual story where contemporary office issues are discussed, or just a bunch of stuff that happens.		
<b>Being Pompous: A Case Study</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>Stop Motion</b>
A short animation about a wealthy Cuban cigar smoker. The cigar is Cuban not the person.		
<b>Purgatorian Capers</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>Stop Motion</b>
This short animation is about the wacky antics of everybody's favourite fallen angel.		
<b>AlienEi8ht</b>	<b>1997</b>	
The story of Miles Dunbar and his sheep, Moving Mutton and his quest to solve 8 murders in the eight days before he retires.		
<b>UFO Bedlam</b>	<b>1997</b>	
Returning to his war ravaged home, No.6 (Mr. Alien) is given orders for more Earth cows.		
<b>UFO Inferno</b>	<b>1996</b>	
A nazi camp stands in the way of aliens who intend to harvest cows.		

## **Pierce Davison – Animated Film Credits**

### **Individual Awards**

ABC TV Young Filmmaker of the Year 2000;

Best Male (Film Personality) Puckling Award – Arts Voice Awards 2000 (Australia);

### **The Olympiads Lounge**

**Broadcast:** ABC TV (Australia) 'Animated Behaviour' November 2003;

**Winner:** Post Production Award, Melbourne International Comedy Festival Film Festival, 2005 (Australia);

**Finalist:** Best Animation & Best Animator, West Australian Screen Awards, 2004 (Australia);

**In Competition:** World Wide Short Film Festival, 2004 (Canada); Cartoons on the Bay – International Showcase, 2004 (Italy); In The Bin Short Film Festival, 2004 (Australia) & Tour, 2005;

**Screening:** Fremantle Outdoor Film Festival, 2004 (Australia); Revelation Independent Film Festival, 2004 (Australia); Get Your Shorts On Showcase, 2004 (Australia); Mandurah Short Film Festival, 2004 (Australia); Jackson Hole Film Festival, 2004 (USA); In the Realm of the Senses 2005 (Australia);

### **Medusa**

**Winner:** Best Animation, West Australian Screen Awards, 2003 (Australia);

**Finalist:** Best Animator, West Australian Screen Awards, 2003 (Australia); Intel Tropfest, 2003 (Australia); ATOM Awards, 2003 (Australia); Short Trips Short Film Festival, 2003 (Australia); Canberra Short Film Festival, 2004 (Australia);

**In Competition:** Cartoons on the Bay – International Showcase, 2004 (Italy); St Kilda Short Film Festival, 2003 (Australia); In The Bin Short Film Festival, 2004 (Australia); Nicktoons Film Festival, 2004 (USA); Fantastisk Film Festival, 2004 (Sweden); In the Realm of the Senses 2003 (Australia);

**Screening:** Fremantle Outdoor Film Festival, 2003 (Australia); Get Your Shorts On Showcase 2003 (Australia); Revelation Independent Film Festival, 2003 (Australia); Short Trips Film Festival, 2003 (Australia); Films at Twilight, 2004 (Australia);

### **Fetch**

**Broadcast:** ABC TV (Australia) 'Outback Upfront' January 2003;

**Finalist:** Grassroots Short Film Festival, 2003 (Australia); Melbourne International Comedy Festival Film Festival, 2003 (Australia);

**In Competition:** The 7th OTF Comedy Film Festival, 2003 (Australia);

**Screening:** Shorts Film Festival, 2003 (Australia); Mandurah Short Film Festival, 2004 (Australia); New Brazilian International Film Festival, 2003 (Brazil);

### **The Cows Side**

**Broadcast:** ABC TV 'Noise Film Festival' 2001;

**Finalist:** Noise Film Festival, 2001 (Australia);

**Winner:** Best Animation and New Media, West Australian Screen Awards, 2003 (Australia); Murdoch Screen Awards, 2000 (Australia); Most Popular, Ten Short Film Festival, 2000 (Australia); Most Popular, Pandora's Box Festival, 2000 (Australia);

**In Competition:** The 6th OTF Comedy Film Festival, 2003 (Australia); In The Bin Short Film Festival, 2002 (Australia);

**My Mrs Tingwell & Being Pompous: A Case Study** both broadcast ABC TV 'Noise Film Festival' 2001

### **The Apocalypse**

**Winner:** Dry Shand Award (Open Genre under 5mins), West Australian Screen Awards, 2000 (Australia); Equal First Prize & Most Popular, Artrage Millennium Film Competition, 1999 (Australia);

### **UFO Bedlam**

**Winner:** Most Popular Film, Joy Festival, 1998 (Australia);

### **UFO Inferno**

**Winner:** Innovation Award, Second Prize & Most Popular, The 2nd OTF Comedy Film Festival, 1997 (Australia);

## Medusa Script

### 1.INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT.DAY.

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We track along a line of faces at a bar. The sushi train runs its course tempting the viewing customers. We follow one particular sushi dish past several faces. Finally a nice young lady who just happens to have 9 snakes for hair picks it up. MEDUSA places the dish down in front of her. She fumbles in front of her; the continuous sushi train conceals her hands. Her hands lift with a sushi roll placed carefully in chopsticks. Her other hand reveals 3 chopsticks topped each with a piece of sushi. The 3 chopsticks are raised toward her head and each snake snaps at their piece.

SFX \*SWISH SNAP WHIP-CRACK\*

The sushi piece in MEDUSA's other hand is placed neatly into MEDUSA mouth. She half turns to man sitting beside her.

MEDUSA  
Mmm... Sushi was a great idea Eric.

ERIC looks on, slightly terrified, with a sushi piece halfway to his agog mouth.

ERIC  
I er... I like the sushi.

MEDUSA smiles.

### 2.EXT. STREET

---

Medusa and Eric walk along the street.

ERIC  
I've never had much luck with blind dates. Have you been on many?

MEDUSA  
I've been on a few, but usually somebody ends up dead, sometimes the date, mostly the waiter.

ERIC  
Dead?

MEDUSA  
We don't know if the statues are dead, or frozen, like carbonite.

MEDUSA  
Ah...haha.. er.. ha.

### 3.EXT. APARTMENT BLOCK ROOF. DAY

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The Apartment roof across the street from MEDUSA and ERIC reveals CUPID. He is holding his bow straight and true. An arrow is aimed at ERIC. Next to CUPID is a small CHERUB with a small badge saying 'Trainee'.

CUPID  
Okay Sporto. This is the basic deal. I shoot these two and for eternity they love each other. You got it?

CHERUB  
Okay.

CUPID  
Okay, remember to breathe, breathing's important.

CUPID lines up his shot through the telescopic sight. AS he draws the bow back he gets a tug on his side from CHERUB.

CUPID  
Wah?

CUPID is alerted to a window to his right where a lady is changing.

CUPID  
Oh matron!

CUPID lets the arrow fly as he stares.

#### 4.EXT. STREET. DAY

---

The pair reaches the bottom of a tenement building. They pause and stare awkwardly.

ERIC  
Well er.. er.. this is my place. Today was, today was very different.

MEDUSA  
Wow you live here? Looks ace. I sure could go a coffee

ERIC  
I have coffee.

#### 5.INT ERICS APARTMENT.DAY

---

MEDUSA enters apartment. She sits on the couch while ERIC exits to the kitchen off stage. Sounds of a boiling kettle are heard. Next to MEDUSA is a small parrots cage.

MEDUSA  
Mmm... Spacious.

ERIC  
Yeah, the rents good too.

MEDUSA turns to the parrot. And says in a child like tone.

MEDUSA  
Kiss kiss. Who's a pretty boy? awwhhh

PARROT  
Qwarrkk Freak freak Qwark.

A snake lets out a bolt of lightning and the parrot turns to stone. MEDUSA freaks out. She looks to see if ERIC saw the events. MEDUSA fumbles into her purse and pulls out a coloured marker and starts to colour in the parrot.

MEDUSA  
Crap, Crap, Crap

ERIC  
So... how do you take your coffee?

MEDUSA  
Ah ah... umm White with 3... crap, crap, crap

ERIC  
Hmm sweet tooth huh?

MEDUSA finishes colouring the parrot and places it back on the perch as ERIC enters.

ERIC

You know I thought this date would go badly but I think its going quite well.

MEDUSA trying to conceal the dead parrot.

MEDUSA

You know we should go out for coffee. Right now...

Eric Grins holding a try with a plunger and cups.

ERIC

Oh, but I've got the, with the, oh...

MEDUSA and ERIC head for the door. The ERIC stops at the door.

ERIC

Well if we are going out we might as well walk Cerebus.

MEDUSA

ERIC whistles and a small dog runs up. He holds it up to MEDUSA.

ERIC

Do you like Chihuahua's?

SFX \*SWISH SNAP WHIP-CRACK\*

CUT to black.

#### 6.INT. VET CLINIC. DAY

The pair sits on a couch in the sterile room. Behind the couch is a large window looking out to the street with VET etched on the glass. MEDUSA seems unimpressed sitting in the waiting room, ERIC is next to her. In one of MEDUSA's snakes half a Chihuahua is sticking out of the snakes mouth. ERIC is very tense sitting upright.

ERIC

I don't think we should see each other anymore.

MEDUSA

Is it because I'm a Virgo?