



## SASHA HADDEN AGAINST THE PRINCIPLE

By Toby Longhurst & Jenna Beattie

Name: **Sasha Hadden**

Occupation: **Filmmaker**

### Q: What's your background?

I've been making films since primary school. I became very obsessed about what I wanted to be when I grew up. First it was a magician, then a golfer, and then it was a cameraman and then my friend wanted to be a director and then I wanted to be one too. With my very first roll of film, I sat on the roof of my house, pointed to the clouds and took a picture every 15 seconds. I wasted the rest of the film, sent it away and waited three weeks. Finally I got it back and then ran it through a projector. When the clouds came up they were racing by and it just blew my mind. I had created this animation and that was when I knew that this is what I wanted to do.

### Q: So how did you go from just having an interest to actually making movies?

Sasha: When I was 12 years old I became involved with an organisation called Metro Video Kids, which is at Paddington Town Hall in Sydney where they have a studio with professionals and proper equipment, and they would work with us in this sort of kid's workshop.

Then, in high school, I was helping my friend make his film and we entered it into a national film competition. I remember us joking around saying "wouldn't it be funny if we got in" and then we did get in and actually won the Encouragement Award and that was enough encouragement to keep us going. The year after, between me and my friends, we were just winning all sorts of national film competition awards.

### Q: What projects have you had a chance to work on?

Sasha: During school I would spend a lot of time on film sets. That's when I first met Craig Wood, who edited the Pirates of the Caribbean films. I started hanging out with him and learning about editing from him and learning about his philosophy. I also met Alex Proyas [I, Robot, The Crow, The Knowing] who is an amazing director. After I left high school, I was editing for a little while and I learnt the basic structure of telling a story through editing. Then I began a three-year contact working at the Arts Department of a film school. There I made a film that was only the fourth film in the history of the school to make a profit. We also had master classes where these amazing filmmakers would come in. One day we had cinematographer John Seale come in just after he had finished working on Dead Poets Society and we recreated one of the scenes from that film in this master class and that actually appears in the special features of the Dead Poet's Society DVD. So I'm on there and you can get a sense of what I was like in my early days.

### Q: You are working on your own project now, Against The Principle, how did that come about?

Sasha: I had about 10 different ideas for films and after considering them all carefully, one of them in particular interested me more than the other and that eventually came to be Against The Principle. I wanted to do something about a homosexual kid in the school being pressured because he is gay but then getting the whole school to his side against the principle. So it's a church school and I had this idea about defaming the bible. I tried to understand why this man Jesus, who is obviously a highly spiritual leader, turned his back on religion and society and just was there with the people. Why would this man, if he were in this room with me right now, have any problem with me being gay?

### Q: Did you go to a religious school yourself?

Sasha: Yes I did, and it was a lovely school, actually. I once asked a teacher about sex before marriage and was told that you can't have sex before marriage and that was as much as I enquired into my sexuality at that time. I didn't feel like the school was against me, I just thought there was something wrong with me and that was something that I really struggled with.

### Q: What message would you hope Against The Principle gives to people?

Sasha: It's a film about standing up for things that we believe in. It's about a straight boy who is the school's debating champion and he decides to become a hero by defending the gay boy who has been kicked out. When you strip it right down, it's about standing up for what we believe in and questioning things that don't seem right. It's about not taking on general assumptions, instead questioning them yourself.

### Q: What does it take to get a project like this off the ground?

Sasha: I'm not sure (laughs). After I write the first script I showed it to Craig Wood [Editor: Pirates of the Caribbean, We Were Soldiers, The Mexican], and he helped me fine tune it and draft it to target the intended teenage audience. I then gave the script to Don McAlpine [Director of Photography: Moulin Rouge, Peter Pan, Wolverine] and he decided that yes, it was an important film and agreed to do it. At the moment we are approaching the gay communities in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane and just trying to gauge how much support there is for this story.

### Q: I had heard that Michael Kirby had come on board as a supporter of the project.

I approached Michael because I was very keen to have him look at the argument and have him challenge it. I want this film to be as realistic as possible and I wanted it to be challenged by the absolute best, and there is nobody more inspiring and incredible than Michael Kirby, he is just an astonishing mind. He looked at the

script and then became more interested in the way we portrayed the characters and institutions involved in the script rather than the moral or legal argument. He has become a consultant who has challenged us and been a great supporter to us and as a result he has made the script much stronger.

### Q: How can the community support this project?

Sasha: People can support the production by purchasing a ticket to win a bound copy of the script that has been signed by the Hon Michael Kirby, Don McAlpine, Craig Wood and myself. Or if you want, you can make a donation to the development of the production, on-line at [www.haddenmotionpictures.com](http://www.haddenmotionpictures.com). Finally, if you are more adventurous and can afford to be involved on a more significant scale, we would love to hear from you about the possibility of becoming a private investor from as little as \$1,000. If the film is not made people get a full refund as the money is held in trust and administered externally. Every dollar counts and every bit of interest gives us strength.

For more information about Against The Principle, please visit [www.haddenmotionpictures.com](http://www.haddenmotionpictures.com)



## Q LAW Drug / Drink Driving- Don't Be a Bloody Idiot

By Stephen Page - Harrington Family Lawyers

If you're caught, the penalties for drink driving above .05 but below .15- are up to 3 months jail. As well as, or instead of, RBT Police can require you to provide a sample of saliva to see if you test positive for drugs. If the crystals go the right colour, you're off to the station for a DNA saliva sample to be taken. Police are not limited to using that sample merely for why they took it. Police can, if they have a reasonable suspicion, search you, your car or your home for evidence of drugs. If you test positive at the roadside for drugs, then that would be reasonable suspicion. They do not need a warrant.

If the DNA test shows, for example, that you had taken ecstasy, but Police didn't find any, they can still ask you if you took ecstasy or not. If you tell police that you've taken a drug, you can be charged with possession. You can't refuse to provide a sample, but can maintain your silence about having taken drugs.

If you maintain silence and are unco-operative, police might believe that you have failed to supply, which is the equivalent of being charged with driving .15 or more- and also charge you with drink driving of .15 or more- relying on your indicia - breath smelt of alcohol, bloodshot eyes, slurry words etc.

### What police can do if you test positive for drugs at the roadside:

- Take you back to the station for questioning
- Take a DNA sample
- Target you for further action having noted you tested positive to a drug, eg ice
- Impound your car
- Search you, your car, your home

