

Trillo & Suede
At
OXFORD PARK
Press Pack



**The Farnham
Film Company**

Background to the Project

Jonathan Geffner, New York based ace ventriloquist, sends an unsolicited screenplay to a British film company he's found on the Internet. It's a re-telling of *The Maltese Falcon* involving ventriloquist's dummies – a bit like *Roger Rabbit* with dummies instead of toons.

Ian Lewis, producer-director who runs the company, loves the concept but isn't so keen on the script as it stands. Over the next while, they rework the script. When an opportunity for funding of a full-length feature film arises in Britain, Ian suggests involving elements of *Gosford Park* and an English Country House murder, too. An excellent full-length script results, but the funding falls away.

They decide to make a short film version of the story as a film in its own right, and as a fund-raising pilot for the full-length film. And that's *Oxford Park*.

Synopsis

The shadow of a knife. A scream. Murder.

Lady Oxford is appalled that her favourite Policeman isn't available. They're sending two detectives on attachment from New York. She's even more appalled to discover that one of them is - a dummy.

Will they uncover the guilty secrets of Oxford Park?

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Director's Notes – from Ian Lewis

Oxford Park is a romp. It's *The Maltese Falcon* meets *Gosford Park* in a British version of *Roger Rabbit*, where the toons are not toons, but ventriloquist's dummies.

But it's a little more than that. It has a couple of hooks to stay with you afterwards.

The first (and simplest) is the idea that the puppet people might be on the rise. The revolution might be on its way. A hint at a fairly straightforward horror movie double ending.

The second is more interesting, less obvious, and runs through the whole piece. It has to do with the idea of minorities and their place and treatment in a society (or Society). The dummies (puppets) are a repressed minority, with echoes of former greatness. And in her teenage enthusiasm for the underdog, although she appears 100% human, Laura identifies defiantly with the minority part of her mixed background.

And then there's the element of culture-clash – New York streetwise to English Country House, just to give it all an edge.

And the rather sweet, hopeless love that makes the doctor murder for his Lady.

General Notes

The movie was filmed in two days in the south of England, with a previous day rehearsing with the actors. The actual location is considerably smaller than the grand exterior that appears to be Oxford Park.

Production format was 16:9 DVCAM with an Ikegami DV7 camera – the DVCAM version of their Betacam cameras. Cast and crew were all professionals.

Web site

Visit www.trilloandsuede.com for more details, the movie; the "making of" documentary; and production and behind the scenes stills.

Visit www.farnfilm.com for more on The Farnham Film Company.

Principal Cast and Crew credits/biogs

CREW

JONATHAN GEFFNER (writer, and performer as van Trillo)

Jonathan is a professional ventriloquist living in New York. He performs live, has made many programmes for video distribution, and has appeared on the nationally seen television programs: Late Night (NBC), Hour Magazine (FOX), The Joe Franklin Show (WOR), Dialogue (ABC) and KTV (CNBC). Jonathan has also appeared on numerous cable-tv programs, and has been featured on ABC-TV News and News-12 Long Island.

IAN LEWIS (producer-director)

Ian has been directing television for many years. His credits include the drama-doc series "The Chef's Apprentice" (ITV), "Takeaway" (Carlton Digital), "The Best of British" (BBC), and "Rooted" (Channel 5). He also discovered, developed and wrote scripts for the massive worldwide success "Mona the Vampire" (CBBC). He has won several awards for documentaries.

INGRID DOMEIJ (cinematographer)

Ingrid has a wide experience of television including much documentary work, and drama including "King of Fridges", and "Family Affairs". She and Ian have often worked together, including filming in India for Channel Five's "Rooted".

She was Director of Photography on the independent feature film, "AKA".

NICHOLAS ALAN GRAHAM – Composer

Nick Graham claims to have been the lead vocalist/bass player with 70's UK recording groups Atomic Rooster and Skin Alley, and to have played in legendary soul singer Edwin Starr's backing band. he co-wrote "The Flame", a #1 hit single for US rock band Cheap Trick, which ousted Michael Jackson from the Billboard Hot 100 Number One spot in 1988 and won a BMI award for 1 million airplays. To date Nick has notched up a couple more hits and numerous album cuts with various well-known UK & US artists.

Commissions to compose and produce theme tunes and incidental music for TV & Radio have followed, notably "Stacey Stone", a 16-part children's drama for BBC 1 (written by BAFTA winner Roy Appes) and the theme tune to the award winning World Service/BBC7 soap "Westway". Music for corporate films has also become a substantial part of Nick's work, and clients include Deutsche Bank, Ericsson, Abbey, British Airways, Hong Kong Bank, Sony, and Xerox.

Taking the mantra "comedy is the new rock'n'roll" to heart, Nick began in 1998 a collaboration with the Reduced Shakespeare Company which saw the result, "The Complete Millennium Musical (abridged)", touring the UK, US, and Australia continuously throughout 1999-2000. This included a highly successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe and another at the Kennedy Centre for P.A. in Washington DC., and the show is still performed regularly in theatres and colleges around the US.

Nick's latest project, to compose an orchestral score for Farnham Film's Trillo & Suede movie "Oxford Park" is a logical career progression which marks his first foray in this medium.

CAST



CATHERINE BELLAMY - Laura

Catherine was trained at the Guildford School of Acting. Her stage credits include Hedda Gabler, Mistress Page in "Merry Wives", Hermione in "Winter's Tale", and Nell Gwyn in "Playhouse Creatures". She has also begun to collect screen credits including "Shoot the Writers" (ITV) and "The Idol of Evil" (Short Film).

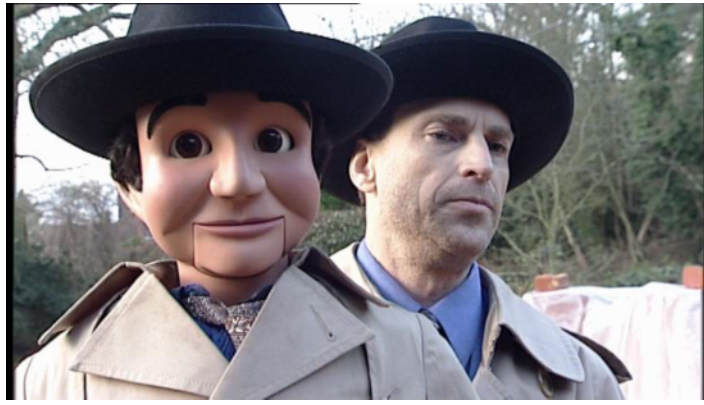


FIZ MARCUS – Lady Oxford

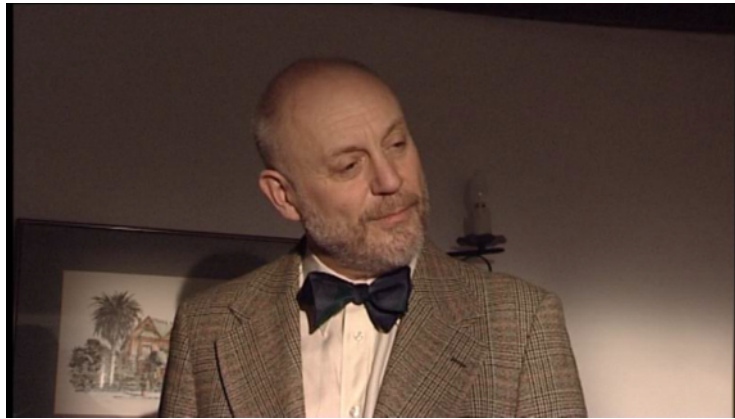
Trained Bristol University Drama Department, joint honours Drama/French. Acting work includes Theatre, TV, Radio, Commercials, Corporate Videos and Feature Films. She also works as a writer, with several plays published by Samuel French and scripts performed on BBC Schools Radio. Recently she wrote and directed 'Hants Very Much' for The Phoenix Theatre Bordon.

Theatre credits include 'Star Quality' West End and tour, 'A Kind Of Alaska' Orange Tree Richmond, 'Four Portraits – of Women', The Bridewell Theatre, A Small Family Business, Chichester Festival Theatre, 'A Man With Connections', Minerva Theatre Chichester/ Finborough Theatre/ The Arches Glasgow.

Film includes 'Leon The Pig Farmer', 'Suzie Gold' and 'The Penalty King'

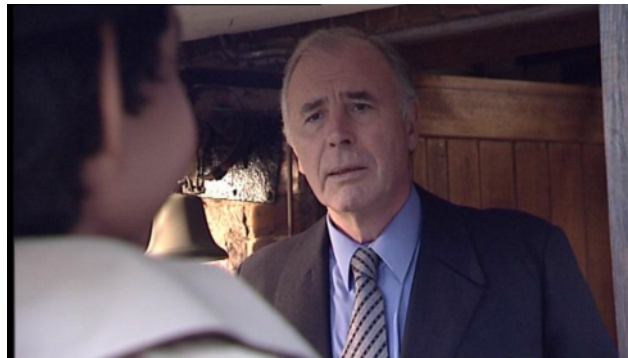


JONATHAN GEFFNER – van Trillo; Sam Suede; Lady Sarah
See above



RUFUS GRAHAM – Doctor Frederick

In a short career begun as a bit of a late starter, Rufus has amassed an impressive range of stage and film credits including Kane in the award winning "Citizen Welles". Television credits include "Scandal in Bohemia" for Hungarian television, and "Dido and Aeneas" for Arte.



JULIAN ROBERTS – Jive

Julian has had a busy year playing Reddie Siddiqui in Her Alabaster Skin for the Oxford Shakespeare Company, an OAP in The OAP Comedy Spectacular in London, Galway and the Edinburgh Fringe, Haakon Werle in The Wild Duck, Head in a Box at the 20th Century Theatre, an Alcoholic Doctor in Night Sweats at the Blue Elephant and is now playing Baron Hector in Jean Anouilh's Leocadia at the Landor. His many film credits include "The Last Broadcast"; award-winning films "Dark Bright Red", "Man with a Bicycle"; music videos and commercials.