

FUNNY HOW FILMS presents

MAD COW

Press Kit



MAD COW - he's got a beef

Mad Cow is a fast-paced, crazy comedy horror movie (with the accent on the comedy) from Funny How Films that dares to go where *Naked Gun*, *Scary Movie* and *Shaun of the Dead* feared to tread.

Mad Cow sets out to spoof the zombie/horror movie genre in a new and totally insane way, following the story of a Frankenstein-like experiment that goes horribly wrong, with hilarious results.



taglines

**IT'S NOT JUST THE COW THAT'S MAD...
PART MAN, PART COW, TOTALLY CRAZY...
MORE PROTEIN THAN YOU CAN HANDLE...
WHILE YOU'RE OUT FOR LUNCH... LUNCH
IS OUT FOR REVENGE!**

Genre: Comedy / Horror

Starring: Tanya van Graan & Greg Viljoen

Running Time: 85mins

Language: English

Movie website: www.madcowthemovie.com

Contact details: info@funnyhowfilms.com

synopsis

Deep in the African Bush, a crazed scientist has stolen the body of a super-human android from a top secret military research base with the not-exactly-original plan of world domination. But finding the body he has stolen has no head, he grabs the nearest thing he can find, a cow's head from a butcher's fridge and puts the two together - *Mad Cow* is born!

Wielding a chainsaw, the *Mad Cow* goes on the rampage around the Boerewors Game Lodge, leaving a trail of bad special effects in his wake.

Enter undercover cop Vince Chopper, who together with vegetarian-waitress-turned-weapons-expert Charlize, does battle with *Mad Cow* in a series of off-the-wall action-packed set pieces.

They defeat the monster, find romance and have a braai – (South African barbeque) but prepare yourself for a series of increasingly off the wall twists, as it's never over when you think it's over....



cast & crew

Writer/Director – Michael Wright
Producer/Co-director – Michael J. Rix
Producer – Jason Rogan
Producer – Doug Marschke
Producer – Tom George

Tanya van Graan – Charlize
Greg Viljoen – Vince Chopper
Craig Brown – Mad Cow
Tim Sandham – Bill Kaiser
Angus Douglas – Harry Balls





TANYA VAN GRAAN

CHARLIZE

Tanya van Graan is a South African model and actress best known for her role as Talen Aimes in the second season of the Afrikaans crime drama 'Snitch'. In 2008 she played the leading female role of Chantelle in the SABC2 Afrikaans mini-series 'Malan en Kie'.

In 2007 Tanya was named FHM magazine's Sexiest Woman South Africa.



GREG VILJOEN

VINCE CHOPPER

Greg Viljoen is perhaps best known for his lead roles in the Sitcoms 'Big Okes' and 'Unicity', and for his commercial work, specifically Vodacom's Vodaworld campaign and Windhoek lager's Louis Gosset Jr. Series. He has also played significant roles in various features, including 'Dead Easy' and 'Cape of Good Hope', as well as a variety of theatrical productions on South African stage. Greg is also a writer, director and producer, running his own production company C Squared, in Johannesburg South Africa.

In 2008 Greg was named FHM magazine's Sexiest Comedian in South Africa.



CRAIG BROWN

MAD COW

Craig Brown is a method actor who has dedicated his life to understanding cows. Over the last few years he has taught himself to eat like a cow and has perfected the art of farting, which he often practices while standing in a meadow. He also enjoys having his nipples tugged.

In 2009 Craig was named Farmer's Weekly magazine's Sexiest Cow Impersonator in South Africa.



The rest of the cast comprise various talented comedic performers familiar mainly to South African audiences for their contributions to SA film, television and theatre. Talent will ooze from the film like a soggy sponge.

Michael Wright

DIRECTOR

Michael came from a non-showbiz family and had to wait a while to realise his filmmaking dreams, finally making his first film 'G.I. Joe on Fire in a Tank' when he was 10 years old. The follow-up 'Barbie Air Hostess on Fire in a Tank' proved less popular, particularly with his sister.

After studying sculpture and film making at University, Michael began his career in the industry as a production designer, working on Nick Park's Academy Award winning short 'Creature Comforts' and the multi-award winning Peter Gabriel 'Sledgehammer' promo.

Michael has now learned to stop fiddling with the wallpaper and concentrate on directing movies and commercials using live action, animation and visual effects.

His commercials include the long-running Kraft 'Cows' campaign, the Chevron talking cars and the award winning Serta Mattress spots. He has previously directed through Aardman and Partizan and is currently with Curious Pictures in New York.

His shorts 'Heavenly' 'Dark Side' and 'Big Range' have been screened at festivals worldwide, and there were even people in the audience.

He is currently developing several live-action features with Funny How Films.

Favourite Hobby: Japanese Bunraku Puppet Theatre

Pet Hates: Pretentious hobbies.



'Michael will never achieve anything unless he stops drawing those ridiculous stories in pictures in his school books...'

-David Brody, Headmaster Woodford Secondary School, 1971

MICHAEL J RIX

PRODUCER

Michael was born early in his career at Ward 3, Johannesburg General Hospital. Little did he know he would be back there decades later when he injured his left index finger during scheduling of *Mad Cow*. There was damage to the ligament surrounding the digitus minimus manus and abrasions to an area of the derma close to the fingernail. Following treatment using proprietary creams, the injury was dressed with a small protective gauze pad and he was discharged forthwith. Michael, by the grace of God, has made a full recovery and is once again able to open the *Mad Cow* production check book.

Michael has written, produced and directed several award-winning short and feature films, including *Tengers* and *The Game of My Life*.

JASON ROGAN

PRODUCER

Jason Rogan began producing through the collaboration on several projects with long time friend Enrico Falconi. Working with Falcon Productions, he has executive produced six of Falconi's short films, *1937 (2002)*, *Original Black Poet (2003)*, *Alsjeblieft (2005)*, *No Turning Back (2006)*, and *Brotherly Love (2009)*, and *Tequila Sunset (2010)*.

Mad Cow marks his first efforts as a co-producer on a feature film. Other projects include executive producing with Mirror Mountain Pictures the South African films *Tengers (2007)* and *Game of My Life (2009)*.

In college, Jason studied engineering and management. In 1994 he began working with Internet technology and became a technical trainer and public speaker. He then turned his focus to the study of film and marketing.

With Funny How Films, he is in development on several feature films, and on two screenplays of his own, *Now Boarding* and *Love Death*.

Born and raised in New York City's Greenwich Village, Jason currently splits his time living in NYC and Amsterdam, Holland.

DOUG MARSCHKE

PRODUCER

At age fifteen, Doug took his father's video camera in hand to complete a homework assignment focusing on the cryptic tales of cafeteria food. This early experience spurred a desire to further discover how to tell a compelling story through a lens.

Douglas met Enrico Falconi and Jason Rogan while living in Amsterdam, Netherlands in 2001. It is during this time that Doug came on board as an associate producer for the falcon-pro doc, *Experience*, a unique concert film spanning 15 years, about the life and career of virtuoso Gypsy jazz guitarist, Robin Nolan.

In the spring of 2006 Doug came on as a co-exec producer on *The Beer Run*, which was shot on location in NYC in the fall 2008. Other projects include executive producing with Mirror Mountain Pictures on the South African film *Game of My Life (2009)*.

Transitioning from a career as a network engineer, he has decided to devote much of his time to producing with his first full feature *Mad Cow*. Doug brings a unique perspective to any job he gets involved in. He has achieved distinction as a published author in the technical field and is also a bar owner in San Francisco, CA.

production notes

The *Mad Cow* project found its genesis at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival, and is the first collaboration between UK based writer / director Michael Wright (*Dark Side, Boulevard Noir*) and South African producer / director Michael Rix (*Tengers, The Game of My Life*) and producers Jason Rogan and Doug Marschke who together formed Funny How Films.

In early 2009 Wright had shot a commercial which featured an actor in a cow costume, and when Rix saw the short film, he suggested the idea of developing the character into a possible movie idea.

'We both love horror movies' says Wright 'but we soon realised we loved comedy even more, and given the look of this character, the film simply had to be a spoof.' 'We talked over a couple of possible approaches but knew straight away the film would be called '*Mad Cow*' – how could it not be?' says Rix.

Then producers Marschke and Rogan, who had wanted to work with Rix and Wright after meeting in Cannes, heard about the *Mad Cow* concept and loved it straight away. 'We were totally into the idea from the start' says Rogan 'Except at that stage, we were not exactly sure what *Mad Cow* was...'

Wright put together a one page treatment in the business centre at the Cannes Marche, and presented it to Marschke and Rogan at a lunch the next day. ('We had steak...' says Marschke) 'We knew we wanted to do this film, and that we wanted to bring it back to Cannes 2010 as a completed picture, so we had to get cooking.' Says Rogan.

The producers set about securing funding from US and Chinese and British sources, while Wright penned a script that was 'vaudevillian in its inspiration. The idea was to keep the gags coming at you.' says Wright. 'I'd been recently writing a naturalistic comedy feature and a horror feature and it was like suddenly I was free, free to go totally crazy...'

Mad Cow was shot in locations around Johannesburg and the Kruger National Park. 'We shot some tests in September up in Kruger' says Wright 'To see how we could work in the demanding environment of the African Bush with the cow costume' 'Craig who plays *Mad Cow* started to realize how hot it could get wearing the head.' 'He made us a short shopping list for the main part of the shoot which was basically 'Ice Packs' and 'more beer'.

***Mad Cow* has its world premiere at Cannes on 17th May 2010.**



**Funny How Films
presents:**

**a MICHAEL WRIGHT /
MICHAEL J RIX film**

TANYA VAN GRAAN

GREG VILJOEN

**in
*Mad Cow***

**with:
Andile Mngadi
Craig Brown
Angus Douglas
Tim Sandham
Kelly Grobler**

**and introducing
Billy Bush as 'Tickle'**

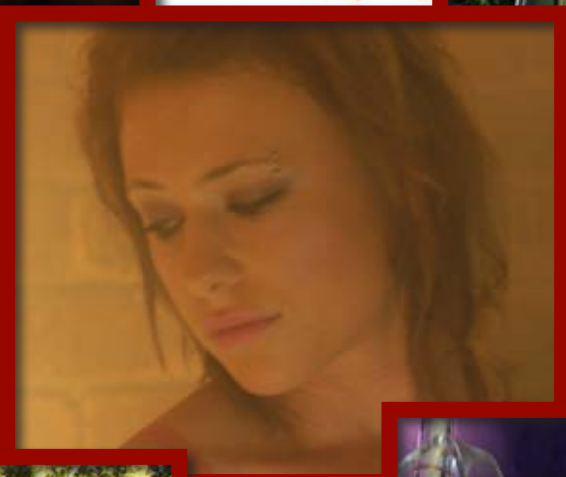
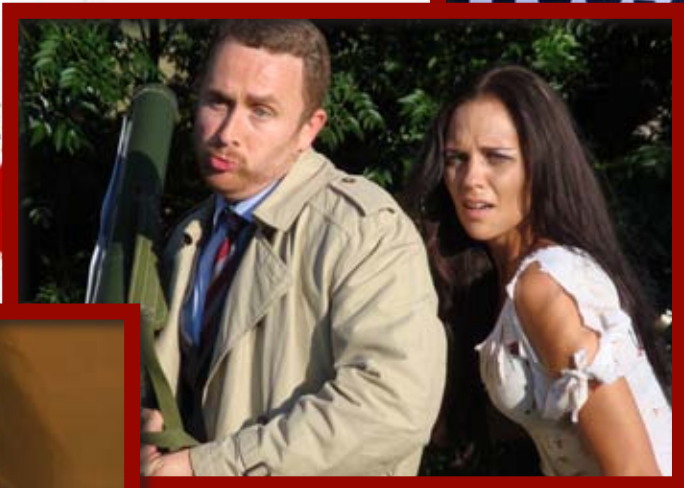
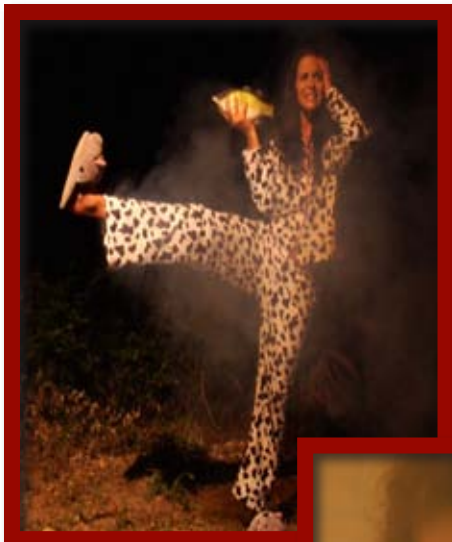
**Director of Photography
ROBERT HAYNES**

Screenplay by MICHAEL WRIGHT

Edited by MICHAEL J RIX

**Producers:
DOUG MARSCHKE
JASON ROGAN
TOM GEORGE
MICHAEL WRIGHT
MICHAEL J RIX**

**Directed by MICHAEL WRIGHT
and MICHAEL J RIX**







©2010 Funny How Films