

Drama Director  
Peter Burger

**How much did you know about the Erebus disaster before you came on to the project?**

I knew it was an Air New Zealand plane that had crashed into Erebus in Antarctica. I didn't know anything at all about the coverup, I'd never heard of that aspect of the story. I had never really wondered why it crashed, I just figured it's Antarctica, it's pretty rough down there. Certainly I had never considered who had to go down there and clean the mess up.

**Were you daunted by being a part of portraying a real event and real people, some of them still living?**

I have portrayed real and living people on screen before. In some cases the real people were very happy about it, in some cases perhaps not, in one case definitely not. I go by the principle that as long as I am portraying my characters honestly and sympathetically, with a thoroughly researched script, then I feel confident in what I am doing. It's always very important to me to find empathy with all my characters, even psychopaths! Only then can I honestly aim to represent them on screen; their flaws as well as their strengths.

**What was it like to meet the real Stu & Greg when they came to set?**

It was an honour to meet Stu and Greg. The ordeal they went through was vastly unlike anything I've ever done or (hopefully will ever have to do). I was thrilled to learn that they thought the crash site we had created was accurate. For Stu, his arrival on set marked the first time that he had been back to the snow since Operation Overdue.

**How did it feel to be involved in telling a story of such a defining moment of NZ history?**

I am proud to be involved in presenting this moment in our history to the New Zealand public. This phase in our history was an important one, not just because of the tragedy, but because it marks a shift in our society, along with the Springbok Tour and Bastion Point, in which New Zealanders realised that they could not always trust the authorities to make the best calls on our behalf. Hopefully it's a lesson we hold on to.