



43<sup>RD</sup>  
YOUNG ARTIST  
ACADEMY AWARDS

**CALEB PAYNE Interview**

**Project: *Good Life***

**How would you describe the plot of this project?**

Olive (played by award winning South African actress Erica Wessels) runs away to Greece to find her late father's house and meets little 'Jetmir' (played by me), who happens to be an Albanian refugee (I had to learn the accent), and shows her the 'good life'.

**What was your fondest memory from working on the project?**

It was an honour to work with the amazing experienced actors and actresses that make us this beautiful movie. The support and friendships are what will stay with me forever, especially as it was filmed in the hard lockdown of winter mid 2020.

**Were there any cool locations or sets that were fun/different/strange?**

Filming in the Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town and being able to see areas that few have seen, considering it is the oldest building in South Africa.  
Doing my own stunts (like Tom Cruise does) falling down a well was pretty cool.

**Do you recall any particular memories with castmates or crew that were impactful?**

On the professional side – the scenes lying in bed in hospital with the two amazing actresses (Wessels and Robyn Scott), digging deep emotionally, allowed me to be a great observer and ask questions after. I will never forget playing hand squash with Sven Ruygrok, in the old torture chamber of the Castle in Cape Town.

**Did the project inspire you to see the world differently? Or did you learn anything new about the production process?**

Being filmed during lockdown allowed only a very small production team. I was able to talk to every head, from camera to sound to special effects, which made the puzzle pieces come together.

I know that had it been filmed before lock-down, it would have been a very different experience.

**What stands out to you from working on this project?**

Definitely relationships with fellow actors.

I had a role in the musical, *Mathilda*, which ended a month into the 18-month tour of Asia, when The Philippines went into lockdown and we were evacuated out of Manila.

One dream died. But another rose as *Good Life* came to life.

Similar to Olive's experience – there is always something to be grateful for.

Just dig.

**If you were to produce a sequel or a continuation of this project, what would that be like?**

Jet(mi)r's (me) and Olive's deeper connection maybe – how much they both learned from one another.

And more importantly, we actually film on a Greek island in summer – awesome!

**What do you love most about the Entertainment Industry?**

Meeting people from so many different walks of life and places in the world.

There is no hierarchy on a film set.

Seeing the end labour-of-love on a big screen with popcorn, candy and Lemon

Twist is pretty cool.

**What do you wish could be better?**

Being from South Africa, Dr. Strange's portal, for easier in-person auditions would really help. Any idea how we can contact him?



