

= Harvie Krumpet =

Harvie Krumpet is a 2003 Australian clay animation comedy @-@ drama short film written , directed and animated by Adam Elliot , and narrated by Geoffrey Rush . It tells the life story of Harvie Krumpet , a Polish @-@ Australian man whose life is plagued by bad luck but who nevertheless remains optimistic .

The film was funded by SBS Independent , the Australian Film Commission and Film Victoria , and it was filmed and animated by Adam Elliot and two assistants over 15 months in 2001 ? 2003 , using models made of plasticine and other materials . The production was completed in May 2003 and Harvie Krumpet premiered a month later at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival , followed by over 100 subsequent film festival screenings . It won many accolades , including the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film in 2004 .

= = Plot = =

The story revolves around the life of Harvek Milos Krumpetzki , born in Poland in 1922 . As a child , he begins to collect pieces of information he calls " fakts " , which are presented throughout the film . At the outbreak of World War II , shortly after his parents ' death in a house fire , he migrates to Australia as a refugee , settling in Spotswood , Victoria , and changing his name to Harvie Krumpet .

Despite a life filled with bad luck ? having Tourette syndrome , being struck by lightning , and losing one of his testicles to cancer ? Harvie remains optimistic , living out his own eccentric way of life . In one of the pivotal episodes of his life , Harvie sits in the park next to a statue of Horace while he hears the instructional Carpe diem , which inspires him to make many changes in his life , such as embracing nudism and embarking on daring rescue missions for animal rights . He marries Val , a nurse he meets in hospital , and they adopt a daughter , Ruby , who has deformed limbs due to the effects of thalidomide .

After Ruby moves to America and Val dies of a stroke , Harvie develops Alzheimer 's disease and is placed in a nursing home . Although he briefly considers suicide , he decides to continue living his life to the fullest . The final " fakt " presented reads : " Life is like a cigarette . Smoke it to the butt " .

= = Voice cast = =

John Flaus as Harvie Krumpet

Geoffrey Rush as the Narrator . The filmmakers approached Rush with copies of Elliot 's three previous short films to ask him to be involved in Harvie Krumpet . Rush recorded the narration at the beginning of production on the film , so that his dialogue could be used to guide the animators in determining the length of each shot . When the animation was complete , however , Elliot found that " when we put his voice to the images , his voice came out a bit too cold " , so Rush re @-@ recorded his lines with a " more colourful , emotive performance " .

Julie Forsyth as Lilliana Krumpetzki . Forsyth , along with the Elwood Primary School choir , also provided vocals for the song " God Is Better than Football " , composed by Keith Binns .

Kamahl as the Statue of Horace

= = Production = =

Adam Elliot conceived the idea behind Harvie Krumpet over a ten @-@ year period , and wrote fourteen drafts of the script over three months . He also created a 300 @-@ panel storyboard to visualise the film before the animation began . He described Harvie 's character as " an amalgamation of many people I know " , in addition to being partly autobiographical . Elliot 's development of the plot began with small character details with which he could " work backwards and then find a rhythm to the piece " . Harvie Krumpet marked the first time that Elliot worked with a producer , Melanie Coombs . Financing for the film 's A \$ 377 @, @ 000 production budget was split

between three production companies : SBS Independent , the Australian Film Commission and Film Victoria .

Harvie Krumpet was filmed in Melbourne over 15 months between October 2001 and January 2003 . The film was shot in sequence in three @-@ month blocks , interspersed with three @-@ month blocks of building sets and models . Production began in Elliott 's garage and subsequently took place in three separate studios , moving three times in order to accommodate the growing size of the sets . It was shot on Super 16 mm film using a Bolex camera . Each individual frame was animated , meaning that an average of 3 ? 5 seconds ' worth of film was produced in each full day of filming .

The film was produced by clay animation using character models each about the size of a wine bottle . The models were first constructed using plasticine before pouring Carbog , a solid material used by mechanics , into moulds to form the bodies . They were then painted to appear like plasticine , and real plasticine around wire was used for the arms . Elliot said he chose to use Carbog since models made from just plasticine would require more maintenance . Some characters had replaceable mouths made of hardened Sculpey clay that were attached magnetically to the faces to reflect different facial expressions ; Harvie 's model had more than 30 separate mouth shapes . The design of the models was influenced by Elliot 's tremor , since he needed them to be relatively large and easy to manipulate . He made the models ' eyes particularly large " to fully express the character 's emotion " . He intentionally left fingerprints in the plasticine when manipulating the models to remind the audience that " what they 're seeing is tangible , tactile and it 's not generated through a computer " . He was assisted by Sophie Raymond and Michael Bazeley in constructing and modelling the characters . The sets were largely constructed from wood .

Harvie Krumpet was edited by Bill Murphy for eight days spread over several weeks . The original cut of 45 ? 50 minutes of footage was reduced to a final cut of less than 23 minutes . Over 2000 sound clips were added during the sound design process and the film was converted to 35 mm film in May 2003 .

= = Release and reception = =

Harvie Krumpet premiered at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival in June 2003 , where it won three of the festival 's four major prizes , the Prix FIPRESCI , Prix du public and Prix special du jury . Its Australian premiere was at the 2003 Melbourne International Film Festival , where it won the Best Australian Short Award . During 2003 ? 2004 , the film was screened at over 100 film festivals around the world , winning 40 awards . At the 76th Academy Awards , the film was awarded Best Animated Short Film , and in Australia it won the Best Short Animation prize at the 45th Australian Film Institute Awards and the Best Animation prize at the 2004 Inside Film Awards .

Rob Mackie awarded Harvie Krumpet 4 out of 5 stars in a review for The Guardian , describing it as " both fondly evocative and uproariously funny " . The Sydney Morning Herald critic Sacha Molitorisz summarised the film as " hilarious , moving and wonderful " , " a melancholy short that doesn 't put a foot wrong " . He praised Elliot 's " meticulous attention to detail and love for his characters " as well as Rush 's narration .