



real2reel

Film Australia Library now online

The Film Australia Library—one of the largest and most historically significant sources of archival, documentary and stock footage in the country—can now be accessed online, making this unique record of Australian life readily available to local and international film and television producers.

“Australia is fortunate to have such a collection, managed in the national interest by an Australian Government owned company,” said Senator Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts and Sport, when announcing the new online service.

Three years ago there was minimal database access to the Film Australia Library collection. Since then, with the support of the Australian Government’s 2001 Film Industry Package, Film Australia has embarked on a major archival project to ensure that its collection is preserved and made more accessible.

Currently, there are more than 12,000 records available online, with new catalogue records and titles being added regularly.

Film Australia’s Library of film, video and sound materials has more than 5,000 completed programs reflecting Australian life from the early years of the 20th century to the present day. Film Australia manages the copyright in all programs in its collection, so that materials can be speedily researched and just as efficiently licensed to clients.

Highlights from the archive range from events such as royal tours and centennial celebrations to a world-renowned ethnographic film collection from Australia and New Guinea.

Among the Library’s treasures are classic films from Australian film pioneers such as Bert Ives, Stanley Hawes and John Heyer, and works by acclaimed filmmakers including Gillian Armstrong, Jane Campion, Chris Noonan, Phillip Noyce, Bruce Petty, Fred Schepisi, Dean Semler and Peter Weir.

The collection records how people have lived, worked and played for more than a century. It also features stock footage of native plants and wildlife and locations in Australia, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The Film Australia website enables researchers to search this extensive collection and make an online order enquiry about specific footage.

Users can search by title to find specific productions, use keywords to search titles, synopses, shot descriptions, locations and subjects, or search by subject. This subject search uses terms from the industry-standard Australian Pictorial Thesaurus.

In addition to these search and enquiry facilities, the website provides details of licensing rates for various rights and uses from interactive cd-rom to television broadcast.

“Film Australia’s Library has always been a rich resource for Australian program makers, but it was difficult to access. Now, thanks to Australian Government funding and the commitment of Library staff, a treasure trove of material is readily available to producers here and internationally,” said Sharon Connolly, Film Australia CEO.

Producer and broadcaster Peter Luck is one of a number of Film Australia Library clients asked to comment on the new online service: “Great content, very user friendly to access—an impressive site all round.”

Visit www.filmaust.com.au/library



Lucy Milne

New Director of Sales

Lucy Milne has joined Film Australia as the company’s new Director of Sales.

Lucy comes to the position with a substantial background in television production, education and marketing. In 17 years with Newfilms in Adelaide and then Sydney, she gained significant experience in commercials and documentary production management. She then spent some years teaching at secondary and tertiary levels, before becoming national campaign manager for Jeans for Genes® and then Director, Marketing with the Benevolent Society. Lucy has a MA (Hons) and Certificate of Marketing from the University of Western Sydney, and a Graduate Diploma in Arts Management.

“I’m delighted that Lucy will bring such breadth and depth of experience to Film Australia,” said CEO Sharon Connolly. “Film Australia’s sales and library operations are among the important community services which the company offers and they stand to benefit from Lucy’s experience in marketing in the ‘not for profit’ sector. The company is also fortunate to secure a Director of Sales whose familiarity with the production industry and the educational sector will assist her in meeting the needs of such significant users of Film Australia’s distribution and library services.”

Lucy replaces Augustus Dulgaro, who has taken up a position with the ABC. “Augustus achieved a great deal in his three years with the company and we wish him all the best in his new role,” said Sharon Connolly.





Bruce's brilliance

Human Contraptions, Film Australia's recent ten-part series of animated shorts, has attracted critical acclaim for its creator, Academy Award winner Bruce Petty.

Broadcast weekly on ABC-TV from 2 December to 3 February, each episode takes a satirical look at one of the "contraptions" that shape our lives.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* has described the series as "utterly brilliant", "extremely engaging" and "precisely the sort of illuminating whimsy that TV needs".

Michael Shmith in *The Age* wrote: "How, in five minutes, Petty can mechanise something as labyrinthine, arcane and slippery as the history and practice of law and, moreover, wittily and cynically render it understandable, is nothing short of miraculous... The series accepts Petty's challenge—'to imagine what could be said about massive subjects in five minutes of animation'—and wins it brilliantly, potently and memorably."

Human Contraptions won Best Music for a Short Film for composer Alan John at the 2003 APRA-AGSC Screen Music Awards. Already a hit at local and international festivals, it was recently nominated for Outstanding Film Comedy at the Australian Comedy Awards, was a finalist at the Australian Effects and Animation Festival and Spain's Bilbao International Festival of Documentary and Short Films, and won a series award at Cinanima International Animated Film Festival in Portugal.

The series was launched at the Museum of Sydney on 24 November. Pictured above are (left to right): Bruce Petty, Film Australia CEO Sharon Connolly, guest speaker Mungo MacCallum, Film Australia Executive Producer Anna Grieve and series producer Deb Szapiro.

Wildness voted Best Documentary

The Film Australia National Interest Program *Wildness* won Best Documentary at both the 2003 AFI Awards and the LEXUS IF Awards.

The one-hour program also received an honourable mention at the Centre for Australian Cultural Studies National Cultural Awards (where the ninth series of Film Australia's *Australian Biography* received a special mention).

Directed by Scott Millwood and produced by Michael McMahon, *Wildness* recently screened at Semarang International Film Festival in Indonesia. It has been invited to screen in competition at the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival in Greece and—with *The Trouble with Merle* and *Human Contraptions*—at the Mumbai International Film Festival in India, which will feature a special package of Australian films including *Welcome to the Waks Family*, *Lonely Boy Richard* and *Ted's Evolution*.

Wildness and *Ted's Evolution* also screened at Go Figure, Quebec's International Science and Film Festival along with *Silent Storm*.

Silent Storm won Best Achievement in Sound for a Documentary for Julian Ellingworth at the Australian Screen Sound Awards and a silver award in Drama and Documentary category at the Australian Cinematographers Society State Awards (NSW) for Calvin Gardiner. It also received a jury special award at the Sichuan TV Festival in China.

Silent Storm and *Slow Food Revolution* have been invited to Taiwan's Green International Film Festival in April. *Slow Food Revolution* will also screen at the Food in Film Festival in Italy in March. In January, it featured in Canada's Open Cinema Festival.

The series *Plumpton High Babies* was a runner up in the Issues in Education category of the 2003 Japan Prize, and *Muddy Waters* was awarded a special jury prize at the Earth Vision Tokyo Global Environmental Film Festival this month.

Several Film Australia titles screened in China's Guangzhou International Documentary Festival in December, including *Sadness*, which was awarded a special prize, and *Lonely Boy Richard*.

Lonely Boy Richard screened in competition at the FIPA International Audiovisual Programmes Festival in France in January while *Fearless—Stories from Asian Women* and *Land of the Morning Star* participated in the FIPATEL market.

Film Australia's Immigration DVD

When Australia embarked on its mass migration program after World War Two, it was with a movie camera in hand. Film Australia, as the Government's then film unit, made films to attract migrants and to change attitudes to new arrivals. More recently, it made films about how migrants themselves were changed by coming here and the impact they had on shaping the nation.

Film Australia's Immigration presents a selection of films from this historically significant collection. Edited versions of eight key productions form the backbone of the DVD, along with contemporary interviews with some of the people who made the films and some who were in them.

In addition, there are six "clip shows"—excerpts from various films organised into topics: racial exclusion, communication, food, work, identity and cultural pressure. A brief introduction provides an insight into why these films were made and the attitudes of the times.

The DVD will be accompanied by a study guide and a website containing further background information, full interview transcripts and links to other immigration resources.

Film Australia's Immigration, which will be released in mid 2004, is written, directed and produced by Penelope McDonald and journalist, film critic and former Sydney Film Festival director Paul Byrnes. Franco di Chiera and Penny Robins are executive producers.

(Top) Filming *Mike and Stefani* in Europe just after World War Two. The film follows a family of displaced persons from their refugee camp in a devastated Germany to their new home in Australia.

(Bottom) Made in 1969, *Toula* explores the conflict faced by a young girl growing up in a Greek migrant family in Sydney.



In production

Australian Biography Online

Video, transcripts and study notes have been finalised for 28 *Australian Biography* episodes that will appear on the website when it is launched later this year. Hosted by the National Library of Australia, *Australian Biography Online* has been produced by Ron Saunders with Thomas Ashelford as web director.

Executive Producer: Mark Hamlyn

The Capitalist Drive

Editing is well underway on this one-hour documentary from writer/director/producer Barbara Chobocky. Following stories of Barbara's family over three generations, this will be a very personal reflection of life in Australia and the Czech Republic since World War Two. Co-produced by Damien Parer, the program will screen on ABC-TV.

Executive Producers: Anna Grieve and Penny Robins

Film Australia's Wilderness DVD

The Australian wilderness—real and imagined—will be captured in a diverse and fascinating selection of films from the Film Australia and Tasmanian archives. This innovative DVD, made in association with Roar Films, will include some of the nation's most acclaimed documentaries from the early 20th century until now, as well as an award-winning animation, magnificent still photographs and interviews with commentators. Director Steve Thomas is co-producing with Kath Symmons and co-writing with Matthew Newton.

Executive Producer: Anna Grieve

The Last Great Amateurs

After a year filming the champion Melbourne Phoenix netball team through the highs and lows of their elite-level amateur sport, director Sue Thomson and producers Richard Keddie and Andrew Wiseman are now editing this one-hour documentary for ABC-TV with editor Uri Mizrahi.

Executive Producers: Franco di Chiera and Anna Grieve

A Matter of Choice

Filming started in December on this one-hour documentary, which will follow the progress of Australia's first "designer baby" and explore the complex issue of genetic medicine. Written and directed by Sean Cousins and produced by Stuart Menzies and Tony Wright of December Films, the program was developed with the assistance of Film Victoria and the Australian Film Commission, and produced with the assistance of Film Victoria, in association with SBS Independent.

Executive Producer: Mark Hamlyn



Mr Patterns

This one-hour documentary will tell the story of Geoff Bardon, a teacher working with the Aboriginal community at Papunya in Australia's Western Desert in the 1970s, who was the catalyst for one of the most significant art movements of the 20th century. It is being written and produced by Nic Testoni and Jo Plomley with Megan McMurchy as co-producer and Catriona McKenzie directing. Made in association with ReelWorld Productions, it was developed with the assistance of the Australian Film Commission and the NSW Film and Television Office, and produced with the assistance of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Executive Producer: Penny Robins

The Pilot's Funeral

Produced for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's *Compass* program, this half-hour documentary recounts the life of pilot Adrian Wagg and his devotion to Arnhem Land and its people. But perhaps even more significantly, it tells of the extraordinary funeral ceremony that followed his tragic death in a helicopter accident. Rosemary Hesp is writing and directing, with Denise Haslem as producer and Trevor Graham as co-producer.

Executive Producer: Penny Robins

The Safe House

Pictured above is a frame from Lee Whitmore's half-hour animation for SBS-TV. The award-winning animator will draw on her own childhood experience to provide an unusual take on the infamous Petrov Affair of the 1950s. Denise Haslem is producer.

Executive Producer: Anna Grieve

Troubled Minds—The Lithium Revolution

Writer/director Dennis Smith and producer John Lewis of Omar Khayam Films are in the final stages of production on a one-hour dramatised documentary about John Cade. It tells the little known story of how this Melbourne scientist discovered lithium as a treatment for bi-polar disorder in the 1940s and, in so doing, revolutionised our approach to mental illness. Developed with the assistance of Film Victoria, the program will screen on SBS-TV.

Executive Producers: Franco di Chiera and Penny Robins

Woomera

Woomera has been famous for its rocket range, as a home to Americans from the Nurrungar base and, most recently, for its refugee detention centre. A one-hour documentary from writer/director/producer Steve Thomas and producer Kim Anning will tell the story of ordinary people in a small town caught up in big events. Editing is soon to commence on the program, which is being produced with the assistance of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Executive Producer: Anna Grieve

Welcome to the Waks Family screening

Welcome to the Waks Family will screen on SBS-TV at 8.30 pm on Thursday, 25 March in the new Storyline Australia timeslot. Winner of a Real:Life on Film award for excellence in documentary filmmaking, and a finalist in the Dendy and AWGIE awards, this one-hour program introduces one of the largest families in Australia—17 children to the same two parents, all raised within an orthodox Jewish community. It was directed and produced by Barbara Chobocky with Rod Freedman as co-producer.



Mark Worth on location in 1993

Mark Worth's legacy

Film Australia CEO, Sharon Connolly, has expressed the company's sadness on learning of the death, after an illness, of filmmaker and journalist, Mark Worth, writer/director of the documentary, *Land of the Morning Star*.

After graduating from Swinburne Film and Television School in 1984, Mark began making documentaries in the Asia Pacific region with an emphasis on his birthplace, Papua New Guinea. Since then, his work on Papua and PNG has been aired on programs such as *Dateline* (SBS), *Foreign Correspondent* (ABC) and *Hindsight* (ABC Radio National), on the UK's Channel 4 and in publications such as *The Australian*.

During those years of reporting and recording tumultuous events in Papua, Mark had been keen to make a documentary film that dealt with the causes and realities of the continuing troubles in the western half of the island of New Guinea.

That film, *Land of the Morning Star*, had its Australian television premiere on ABC-TV on Monday 2 February.

Written and directed by Mark, it was produced for Film Australia by Janet Bell. "It was my privilege to help Mark bring to fruition the film he'd been wanting to make for more than a decade—a documentary about Papua and its epic story; a story taking place on Australia's doorstep," she said.

"Mark Worth made an enormous contribution to Australians' knowledge of Papua and PNG. It is tragic that *Land of the Morning Star* is his last work, but Film Australia is proud and grateful to have supported his fine and important documentary," said Sharon Connolly.

New digital projector in Roxy Theatre

Film Australia's Roxy Theatre has a new digital projector of exceptional quality.

Projecting sharp, bright, colour-accurate images, the NEC DLP projector is compatible with high-definition television.

The unit provides for a huge variety of screen sizes and shapes to cater for differing client needs.

Allowing high-quality double-head screenings from Avid fine-cuts or Digital Betacam in all possible aspect ratios, it adds another level of flexibility to the Roxy.

The new addition complements the 35mm film projection and Dolby Digital sound system, and maintains the facility as Australia's benchmark preview and presentation theatre.

Melbourne office move

Film Australia's Melbourne office has relocated from South Melbourne to new premises in Fitzroy, which it shares with the Australian Children's Television Foundation.

The postal address and telephone and fax numbers have also changed.

The new details are:

Level 3, 145 Smith Street
Fitzroy VIC 3065
PO Box 1220 Collingwood VIC 3066
telephone 03 9416 4825
fax 03 9416 4826

Sales update

For Australian pay television, *Celluloid Heroes* was licensed to Ovation, *Rats in the Ranks* to World Movies and *Risky Business* to XYZ Entertainment.

Diverted to Delhi, *Fearless—Stories from Asian Women*, *Hired Assassins—Political Cartooning in Australia* and *Wildness* were licensed to Qantas In-flight Entertainment.

Umbrella Entertainment licensed several titles for DVD distribution in Australia:

Amazing Scenes, *Australian Biography Series 8*, *Three Directions in Pop* from *Australian Colour Diary*, *Snowy Mountains—Thredbo Village is Alpine Playground* from *Australian Diary*, *Celluloid Heroes*, *The History of Australian Cinema*, *Punch Lines*, *Saturday*, *Michael*, *Walkabout*, *Whatever Happened to Green Valley* and two episodes of *Our Century*.

In Europe, *Ted's Evolution* and *Silent Storm* were licensed to VRT for free-to-air broadcast in Belgium. *Silent Storm*, *Muddy Waters—Life and Death on the Great Barrier Reef* and *Hired Assassins* were licensed to YLE for free-to-air in Finland; *A Calcutta Christmas*, *Diverted to Delhi*, *East Timor—Birth of a Nation*, *Land of the Morning Star* and *Surviving Shepherd's Pie* to RTE for free-to-air in Ireland; *Wildness* to LRT for free-to-air in Lithuania; and *Muddy Waters* to Capital Video Produzioni for free-to-air in Italy. *From Korea With Love* and *The Mascot* were licensed to Documania for pay and free-to-air television in Spain.

In Canada, *Slow Food Revolution* was licensed to the Knowledge Network for free-to-air broadcast, *Cunnamulla* to the Documentary Channel for pay television, and *Copyrites*, *Fearless*, *An Imaginary Life*, *No Sex No Violence No News*, *The Post*, *Sadness* and *Uncle Chatzkel* to booktelevision for pay TV.

Muddy Waters was licensed to Innowave for free-to-air television in Malaysia, and *Silent Storm* and *Wildness* to Open University Channel for pay television and non-theatrical distribution in Israel.

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Film Australia is an Australian Government-owned company which supports production and distribution of documentaries in the national interest.

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ABN 19 008 639 316

Real2Reel is published quarterly by Film Australia.

Online edition ISSN 1445-1485

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