

IN PRODUCTION

AUSTRALIAN BIOGRAPHY SERIES 11

Screening on SBS, this on-going series profiles some of the most extraordinary Australians of our time. The 11th series will include interviews by Robin Hughes with David Williamson, Don Burrows, June Dally-Watkins, Dame Beryl Beaufort, May O'Brien and Professor Don Metcalf. Rod Freedman is series producer.

Executive Producer: Mark Hamlyn

CAPTAIN COOK—OBSESSION AND BETRAYAL IN THE NEW WORLD

Co-produced in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, this four-part series features high adventure, triumph and tragedy as we journey around the world with Cook expert and bestselling author Vanessa Collingbridge. It's a production of Film Australia, Cook Films and Ferns Productions, made with the assistance of Film Victoria, the Canadian Television Fund and NZ On Air. It will be broadcast on ABC TV, Prime NZ and History TV (Canada). Wain Fimeri is writer/director and Tony Wright is producer. Executive producers are Stephen Amezdroz (Cook Films), John Barnett (South Pacific Pictures) and Pat Ferns (Ferns Productions).

Executive Producer: Mark Hamlyn

DOWNUNDER GRADS

This four-part series about students at Australian universities is being produced with the Pacific Film and Television Commission and Big Island Pictures for SBS TV's *Inside Australia* program. Mark Chapman is producing, Phoebe Hart and Randall Wood are directing.

Executive Producer: Penny Robins

I LOVE A SUNBURNT COUNTRY

In this feature-length documentary acclaimed filmmaker Dennis O'Rourke journeys around Australia to meet with poets great and small. A Film Australia National Interest Program in association with Camerawork, it is being produced with the assistance of the Pacific Film and Television Fund, South Australian Film Corporation and SBSi. It will be released theatrically through Dendy Films and broadcast on SBS TV. Helen Pankhurst is co-producer.

Executive Producer: Anna Grieve

LIFE AT 3

Producer Jennifer Cummins of Heiress Films and writer/director Catherine Marciniak have begun work on the follow-up to the successful *Life at 1* series for ABC TV.

Executive Producer: Penny Robins

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

In this six-part series, well-known Australians go in search of their family history. Based on a successful UK format, this production from Film Australia, Serendipity Productions and Artemis International is being made in association with ScreenWest, LotteryWest and SBSi. Brian Beaton is EP for Artemis, Margie Bryant is EP for Serendipity and Celia Tait is producing.

Executive Producer: Penny Robins

MOVING HISTORY ONLINE

Drawing from the remarkable Film Australia archives, Moving History Online is a cross platform co-production between Film Australia and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

It features an interactive website with screen stories, records, interviews, stills and characters from 60 years of documentary-making corresponding with a season of outstanding Film Australia documentaries. Together they create a comprehensive gallery of faces and events that reflect the changes in post war society as Film Australia brought Australia to Australians and the world.

John Hughes and Tanya Curnow have been working on Moving History and, with the incredible assistance of the library, have been digging around in the vaults, archives, back blocks and secret rooms of Film Australia. They have gathered together an extraordinary wealth of information and material that celebrates over 60 years of government filmmaking and shows Film Australia in many surprising guises.

The project will culminate in a 10 week season on ABC 2 and broadband website that will stream 10 hours of completed programs with clips and comment from each decade.



CHANGE THE WORLD IN FIVE MINUTES PROJECTS ANNOUNCED

Film Australia named nine projects for their new cross-media initiative *Change the World in Five Minutes*, including concepts of fish finger energy consumption and shopping trolley makeovers.

The chosen submissions include five-minute documentaries, four-minute dramas and 30-second animations, all with a vision to make a difference to the world locally or globally.

The joint initiative, inspired by the book *Change The World For Ten Bucks**, has been made by Film Australia, SBS Digital Media, the Australian Film TV and Radio School (AFTRS) and the NSW Film and Television Office (FTO).

(**Change The World For Ten Bucks*, published by We Are What We Do, is available from most booksellers or from www.wearewhatwedo.org.au. Visit www.filmaust.com.au/changetheworld for more information.)

FilmAustralia

Leaders in documentary

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The nine projects are:

Saving Greywater

Director: Chadia Gedeon Hajjar
Producer: Cinzia Guaraldi

youCan2

Director: Richard Shepard
Producer: Luke Eve

Change the World Your Way

Director & Producer: Paul Scott

Where Does Your Food Come From?

Directors: Fiona McGee, Paul Bruce
Producer: George Mackenzie

Change the World in Five Minutes,

Every Day at School
Director: Tristan Bancks
Producer: Tristan Bancks

Donate

Director: Scott Pickett
Producer: Zyra McAuliffe

Sam & Marni

Director & Producer: Carmen Galan

The Thankyou Project

Director: Janine Googan
Producers: Michelle French, Janine Googan

Hot-up a Shopping Trolley!

Director: Michelle French
Producers: Michelle French, Janine Googan.

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following filmmakers for their recent successes.

Executive producer Penny Robins, producers Nic Testoni, Jo Plomley and Megan McMurchy and director Catriona McKenzie for winning the Special Prize of the Jury for *Mr Patterns* at the 2007 Pacific International Documentary Film Festival of Tahiti.

The Winners' Guide to the Nobel Prize executive producers Mark Hamlyn and Rod Freedman, executive producer for Electric Pictures and producer Andrew Ogilvie and director Mark Gould for being shortlisted for the 2nd International Science Film Festival in Athens, Greece.

Executive producer Chris Warner, producer/ editor Denise Haslem and writer/director Trevor Graham for *Ceremony—The Djungguwan of Northeast Arnhem Land*, shortlisted as one of the three Nominations for the Award for Best Use of Footage on Non-broadcast Digital Platforms at the 2007 FOCAL International Awards.

Producer Jennifer Cummins, writer/director Catherine Marciniak and executive producer Penny Robins for *Life at 1*'s recent selection as a finalist in the 13th Annual AIMIA Awards.

2007 FilmAustralia

Real2Reel

Vol 19 Issue 1

FEATURES

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AIDC

Production

CONSTRUCTING AUSTRALIA

Photo: Corey Piper. From Constructing Australia: A Wire Through the Heart.



CONSTRUCTING AUSTRALIA

Triumphs and tragedies in building a nation

Film Australia launches the Making History Initiative during March on ABC-TV, with three dramatic stories about Australia's past.

Produced with the ABC, 'Constructing Australia' documents the tragedies and triumphs of three major engineering feats that united the country and moulded our sense of identity. Through individual stories of hubris, conflict and determination to the point of death, 'Constructing Australia' is an epic series exploring the outback frontier, the era of Federation and the rise of modern Australia.

The first instalment, *The Bridge*, coincides with the 75th anniversary celebrations of the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and went to air on March 18 at 7.30pm on ABC TV.

"Financing big-budget Australian history

documentaries can be difficult," said Daryl Karp, Film Australia chief executive officer. "This is why this initiative is so exciting. It allows us to build a collection of programs that explore who we were and what we have become."

"Film Australia has always produced quality programs for our schedule. Now thanks to the History Initiative we will bring to our audiences this magnificent and world class documentary series Constructing Australia. We are proud to presently be in production with Film Australia on over \$10 million worth of independent production," said ABC Television director Kim Dalton.

The start of the series also marks the first Australian-made production to go to air on the ABC in High Definition.

First episode on air Sunday 18 March at 7:30pm on ABC TV.

Following *The Bridge*, and airing on 25 March, is *Pipe Dreams* about the Perth to Kalgoorlie Pipeline. The final instalment airing on 1 April, is *A Wire Through the Heart* about the struggle to overcome the physical boundaries of the distance through the overland telegraph across the continent.

"These are the great stories of heavy engineering, but they are about so much more than nuts, bolts, steel plate and wire. They embody some of the key struggles and central dramas in Australian history," said series executive producer Alex West.

The companion book: *Constructing Australia*, written by Richard Evans and Alex West, is available in bookstores nationwide.

FILM AUSTRALIA DIGITAL LEARNING

Film Australia launches its new education resource, the Digital Resource Finder, a quick and easy-to-use search engine for teachers and educators that features over 400 free Australian video clips to view or download combined with dedicated curriculum-based notes and class activities.

Film Australia's Digital Resource Finder covers disciplines including English and History as well as the social sciences, civics and citizenship, visual arts and media literacy with a particular focus on secondary education. It provides access to some of Australia's major social, political and historical events such as Mawson's expedition to the Antarctic, the Queen's 1954 visit to Australia, speeches by Billy Hughes, post war migration and the Vietnam War.

The site offers free view and download of bite-size video clips from Film Australia's extensive archive together with curriculum materials written by experienced teachers and educators from across the nation. There are clips on work and family life; Indigenous lives, the changing role of women, Australia and the Pacific together with biographies of distinguished Australians like Bruce Dawe and Charles Perkins, visual arts with Betty Churcher and

current topics that focus on environment and sustainability and civics and citizenship.

"Film Australia has been recording Australia's photo album over 60 years, and we have the nation's greatest collection of moving social history – we are extremely well placed to deliver quality educational resources online to the teachers and students of Australia," says Film Australia CEO Daryl Karp.

Film Australia has been working with the online education sector to produce the site. History Teachers' Association of Victoria executive director Michael Spurr says: "Film Australia's Digital Learning resources combine good design with practical teaching and learning activities for history and other disciplines. It is a valuable and timely addition to every teacher's repertoire."

Over 400 quality clips are now available online and are being regularly updated.



Screen shot from www.filmaust.com.au/learning.

"The digital space means we can deliver quality Australian material that suits educational needs and is always available. It is the way forward in the education arena and it is vital for Australian students and teachers that they have ready access to our own stories" she said.

To find out more go to: www.filmaust.com.au/learning.

DOCUMENTARY SOUND PIONEER WINS 2007 STANLEY HAWES AWARD

Michael Gissing, legendary sound engineer, received the 2007 Film Australia Stanley Hawes Award for outstanding contribution to the Australian documentary sector.

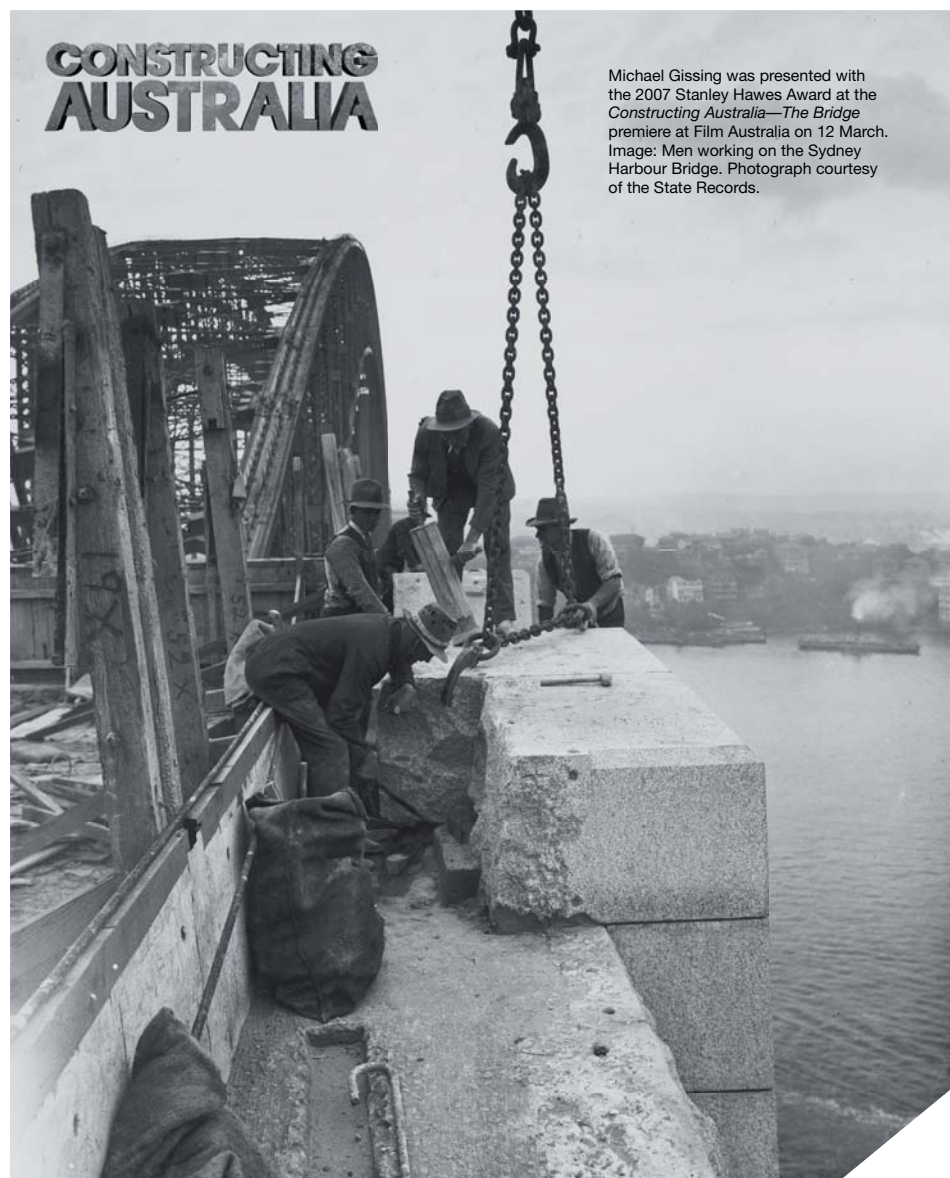
"This year it was clear that there was one 'quiet achiever' that had had a major impact on the sector through contributing his skill and expertise to over 720 Australian documentaries," said Film Australia CEO Daryl Karp as she presented the award.

Mike Gissing started his career in television and in 1984 he moved into digital sound post-production. Digital City Studios has remained at the leading edge of the sound industry specialising in documentary.

The \$5,000 Film Australia Stanley Hawes Award was established in 1987 to honour the first producer in chief of the Australian National Film Board and Commonwealth Film Unit. The award recognises the tremendous amount of support Gissing has given independent filmmakers in the documentary sector, including being price conscious and bringing his intelligence and sensitivity to the task.

In accepting the award at a screening of *The Bridge* at Film Australia, Gissing thanked his team at Digital City Studios, family and friends. He said: "It is the ability of documentary to spread knowledge that sets it apart from its flashier cousin—the drama. I nearly got side tracked by a TV drama series many years ago and count it as an important moment in my career when the job went to another studio. My enduring enthusiasm comes from both the content and the people I work with. Doco people are special."

Mike Gissing's speech can be downloaded at: www.filmaust.com.au/production/resources.



Michael Gissing was presented with the 2007 Stanley Hawes Award at the *Constructing Australia—The Bridge* premiere at Film Australia on 12 March. Image: Men working on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Photograph courtesy of the State Records.

ON TV IN AUTUMN

Constructing Australia: The Bridge

The first of three films about the triumphs and tragedies in the building of a nation screens at 7:30pm on Sunday 18 March on ABC TV. Celebrating the 75th anniversary of one of Australia's most loved icons, this is the definitive story of the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the vision of those who made it happen, despite their personal conflicts and political intrigues. Directed by Simon Nasht, produced by Simon Nasht and Renee Kennedy, it is executive produced by Alex West as part of Film Australia's Making History series.

Constructing Australia: Pipe Dreams

Part two of the *Constructing Australia* series screens on ABC TV on Sunday 25 March at 7:30pm. This is a story of personal tragedy, political rivalries, corruption and trial by media that nearly tore apart Australia at the moment of its birth. Directed by Franco Di Chiera and produced by Ed Punchard and Julia Redwood, it is executive produced by Alex West as part of Film Australia's Making History series.

Constructing Australia: A Wire Through the Heart

Screening on ABC TV on Sunday April 1 at 7:30pm, this is the story of the struggle to cross a vast continent and build the telegraph line that would bring Australia to the world and the world to Australia. Directed by Darcy Yuille, produced by Mike Piper, Simon Nasht and Corey Piper, it is executive produced by Alex West and Mark Hamlyn as part of Film Australia's Making History series.

NGA director Ron Radford, Betty Churcher, The Hon George Brandis SC and Film Australia CEO Daryl Karp.



Hidden Treasures

Screening for 15 weeks from February 22 at 6:50pm on ABC TV, Betty Churcher presents an insider's guide to the "hidden treasures" of the National Gallery of Australia that are rarely on public display. The series is directed by John Hughes, produced by Phillipa Campey and is executive produced by Anna Grieve for Film Australia.

The film recently premiered at the National Gallery of Australia, introduced by the Minister for Arts and Sport, Senator The Hon. George Brandis SC.

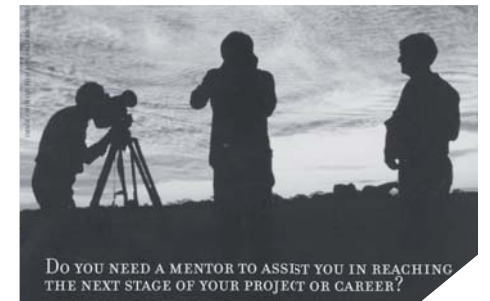
AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY CONFERENCE

The AIDC celebrates its 20-year anniversary in 2007, and again, Film Australia was pleased to be a major sponsor for the conference.

Alongside announcements of a range of new funding initiatives for documentary by broadcasters and agencies, there were reports and projects initiated by independent producers that bring new perspectives to the debate of how to grow a vibrant documentary sector in Australia.

Ian Darling, Mitzi Goldman and Susan MacKinnon introduced Documentary Australia, a newly-created organisation that will provide information for both the philanthropic sector and documentary filmmakers on joining together to achieve common goals of social change. The website will launch in mid-2007.

Cathy Henkel released the Mentoring Information Kit – a project supported by AFTRS, SPAA and Film Australia and available on all three organisation's websites. The Mentoring Kit



provides information for prospective mentors and "mentees" on what to expect from the relationship, and how to get the most out of it. The kit also includes information on mentoring programs run by state and federal agencies, as well as details on internships and fellowships and other professional development options.

Further information: www.documentaryaustralia.com.au www.filmaust.com.au/mentoring.

EXPLORING DOCO IN 2012 WORKSHOP

Today people access and interact with media very differently to five years ago.

New technologies in particular have profoundly altered the context in which documentary makers work, and by 2012, there will be more change.

Digital distribution creates opportunities to reach audiences in a more intimate and personalised way, to test ideas, create communities and stimulate debate. However there are also challenges as traditional markets and revenue streams fragment, and resources to create compelling material for new platforms are limited.

Film Australia hosted the Documentary 2012 workshop at AIDC to discuss this issue with filmmakers and agencies working in this area.

The workshop identified several priorities to position documentary in the future media environment, such as: identifying and developing new aggregators of content, building strategic



Marree Man

A Film Australia production in association with Rebel Films. From *MobiDocs—Confessions*, an anthology series of mini-mobile phone documentaries and animations. A Film Australia co-Production with the National Film Board of Canada.

partnerships, collecting data and publishing successful case studies and business models.

The outcomes will help shape Film Australia's next five-year strategic plan.

TERMS OF TRADE CHANGE

Prior to AIDC, Film Australia announced key changes to its Terms of Trade, which included an extension of the Producer's Revenue Stream from five to 10 years and the abolishment of interest charged on development buy outs.

Film Australia will now provide to producers, who have developed a project independently, 20 per cent of the nett returns due to Film Australia for 10 years from delivery of a project.

"The Producer's Revenue Stream was introduced in 2005 to provide the independent documentary sector with a source of income after production finishes to help develop their businesses. Doubling the offer means producers will have access to a share of returns throughout the

economic life of most documentaries," said Film Australia CEO Daryl Karp.

Film Australia consulted directly with the a wide range of independent documentary makers to consider revisions to its Terms of Trade, which resulted in another key change to support the sector: abolishing the 10 per cent premium on development funding. Producers will now only be required to buy out the cash component invested in the project. All Film Australia unit costs will also be absorbed.

"Our aim is to move projects into production as soon as possible, and if they are not produced with Film Australia, to give an independent producer the best chance to progress the idea in their own way," said Ms Karp.

To view Film Australia's Terms of Trade in full visit: <http://www.filmaust.com.au/production>.