



Film Australia Indigenous Studies  
2005-2006 Update

## Film Australia's Indigenous Studies Update features recently released programs and supplements the Film Australia Indigenous Studies Catalogue.

For a copy, visit [www.filmaust.com.au](http://www.filmaust.com.au) email [sales@filmaust.com.au](mailto:sales@filmaust.com.au) tel 02 9413 8634 fax 02 9416 9401

### Australian Biography

#### Joan Winch

Nurse, midwife, academic, educator... Joan Winch has overcome numerous professional and personal hurdles to make an extraordinary contribution to Aboriginal health. The innovative and internationally acclaimed education programs that she has established focus on preventative and holistic medicine and community participation, integrating Indigenous practices and values. In this interview, she talks about her work and philosophies, the discrimination experienced by her family and her people, and her own journey from isolation and loss to a sense of purpose and spiritual awakening.

#### Noel Tovey

Noel Tovey survived a childhood of poverty, neglect and sexual abuse to become a leading light in the arts as an actor, choreographer, writer and theatre director in England and Australia. In this interview, he speaks—with extraordinary candour and grace—about his complex sense of identity and the forces and events that shaped him, including the prejudice he's encountered as an Aboriginal and a gay man.

**Year:** 2003, 2005 (Series 9–10)  
**Duration:** each 26 mins (sold individually)  
**Executive Producer:** Mark Hamlyn  
**Producer/Director:** Rod Freedman  
A Film Australia National Interest Program

NOTES CLOSED CAPTIONED DVD AVAILABLE

### Blood Brothers

Four extraordinary stories of Aboriginal Australia are told in this acclaimed series.

#### Broken English

For 30 years, Arrernte man Rupert Max Stuart has maintained his innocence of the rape and murder of a young white girl. His story became the basis for the movie *Black and White* in 2002. In *Broken English*, we hear from Max and those personally involved in the case. Max Stuart claims he fell prey to prejudices in the white justice system and alleges he was beaten and verbally abused by police. He spent 14 years in prison and faced the gallows nine times for the crime he says he didn't commit. This film, which combines documentary and drama, recreates some of the events of his trial, appeals and subsequent Royal Commission. It features Hugo Weaving, Noah Taylor and Tony Barry with Lawrence Turner playing Max Stuart.

#### Freedom Ride

Outspoken leader Charles Perkins grew up on a reserve, separated from his relatives. He was shunned by white Australian society and his early experiences of racism spurred him to go on to university and to challenge racial inequality. One of the first Aboriginal people to graduate from university, he soon came to the forefront of direct action against oppression and injustice, leading the 1965 freedom rides that challenged apartheid practices in northern NSW. This film takes Charles Perkins back to Moree and Walgett and uses newsreel footage and dramatic reconstructions to retrace his story. The program was directed and produced by his daughter Rachel Perkins; his son Adam Perkins plays Charles as a young man.

#### From Little Things, Big Things Grow

Kev Carmody is a prolific songwriter and musician with a great sense of humour. He has performed with Paul Kelly and Billy Bragg, both of whom appear in this film. When Kev released his first album, *Pillars of Society*, in 1989, music magazine *Rolling Stone* described it as "the best album ever released by an Aborigine and arguably the best protest album ever made in Australia". Kev was propelled onto the national stage as a voice of protest for black Australia. This film looks at Kev up close—cattle mustering in southern Queensland, making music in suburban Sydney and playing Long Bay Jail.

#### Jardiwampa—A Warlpiri Fire Ceremony

Law man Darby Jampinjimpa Ross and other Warlpiri elders introduce us to their community's fire ceremony. Made with the close co-operation of the outback Warlpiri community of Yuendumu, the film follows the staging of the ceremony, involving hundreds of people, over several weeks—part of the process of retaining traditional law and culture within the community. Anthropologists describe the ceremony as a means of resolving personal conflicts in society; elders speak of paying tribute to their ancestors.

**Year:** 1993  
**Duration:** each 55 mins (sold individually)  
**Executive Producer:** Barbara Mariotti  
**Producers:** Ned Lander, Rachel Perkins  
**Directors:** Ned Lander, Rachel Perkins, Trevor Graham  
**Writers:** Ned Lander, Rachel Perkins, Trevor Graham, Marcia Langton  
Produced by City Pictures in association with SBS Indigenous Unit. Made with the participation of the Australian Film Finance Corporation. Developed with the assistance of the NSW Film and Television Office.

DVD AVAILABLE

### Dhakiyarr vs the King

The family of the great Yolngu leader Dhakiyarr Wirrpana is searching for answers. Seventy years after his controversial murder trial and subsequent disappearance, Dhakiyarr's body has still not been found. His descendants know that justice was not served. They want to restore what was denied to him: his honour. This is their story, told in their own words—of two laws, two cultures and two families coming to terms with the past.

**Year:** 2004  
**Duration:** 56 mins  
**Executive Producer:** Anna Grieve  
**Producer:** Graeme Isaac  
**Directors:** Tom Murray, Allan Collins  
**Writer:** Tom Murray

A Film Australia National Interest Program. Produced with the assistance of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and CAAMA Productions.

Winner, Audio/Visual History Prize, NSW Premier's History Awards; Rouben Mamoulian Award, Sydney Film Festival Dendy Awards. Highly Commended, Television Award, Human Rights Medal and Awards. Special Mention for an Outstanding Contribution to Australian Culture, Centre for Australian Cultural Studies National Cultural Awards. Finalist, Best Documentary, Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards; Short Film Grand Prix, Chicago International Documentary Film Festival; World Cinema Documentary, Sundance Film Festival.

NOTES CLOSED CAPTIONED DVD AVAILABLE

### Film Australia's Wilderness

Drawing on a selection of remarkable films from the Film Australia Library and Archives Office of Tasmania, this beautifully designed two-DVD set explores the concept of wilderness. It features some of the country's most significant documentaries from the early 20th century to the present day, including *Kakadu Man* and *Small Island Big Fight*. There's an award-winning animation and magnificent still photographs as well as interviews with contemporary commentators, including MakMak women Nancy Daiyi and Linda Ford, who talk about the land as their home. Combined with a website, providing access to additional materials such as transcripts and a study guide, this is an excellent teaching tool and a thought-provoking and visually stunning foray into the Australian wilderness—real and imagined.

[www.filmaust.com.au/wilderness](http://www.filmaust.com.au/wilderness)

**Year:** 2005  
**Duration:** 257 mins  
**Executive Producer:** Anna Grieve  
**Producers:** Steve Thomas, Kath Symmons  
**Writer/Director:** Steve Thomas  
A Film Australia National Interest Program in association with Roar Film.

Finalist, Best Multimedia, ATOM Awards.

NOTES DVD ONLY

## Lonely Boy Richard

Richard Wanambi is about to go to prison for a long time. He knows what it's like. He's been there before... In Australia's Northern Territory three-quarters of the people behind bars are Indigenous men. *Lonely Boy Richard* is an intimate account of one man's journey to jail. In Richard's home of Yirrkala, like elsewhere, alcohol abuse and violence are threatening family and community life. Although his people are doing what they can, it's not enough to save Richard from himself or his community from him.

**Year:** 2003

**Duration:** 55 mins

**Executive Producer:** Mark Hamlyn

**Producer:** Denise Haslem

**Co-Producer/Writer:** Rose Hesp

**Director:** Trevor Graham

A Film Australia National Interest Program. Produced with the assistance of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Finalist, Best Documentary, Australian Film Institute Awards; Best Achievement in Sound for a Documentary, Australian Screen Sound Guild Awards; Independent Spirit Award, IF Awards and in FIPA, France and Global Visions Festival, Canada.

NOTES CLOSED CAPTIONED DVD AVAILABLE

## Mr Patterns

In the 1970s in Australia's Western Desert, a teacher named Geoff Bardon helped start one of the most significant art movements of the 20th century. Working with the Aboriginal community at Papunya, he encouraged the people to paint their traditional dot designs using western materials. In defiance of white authorities, Bardon also encouraged the artists to value their work commercially as well as spiritually, believing that by selling paintings they could become independent of welfare and bring Indigenous art to the attention of the wider community. This is his story.

**Year:** 2004

**Duration:** 55 mins

**Executive Producer:** Penny Robins

**Producers:** Nic Testoni, Jo Plomley, Megan McMurchy

**Director:** Catriona McKenzie

**Writers:** Nic Testoni, Jo Plomley

A Film Australia National Interest Program in association with ReelWorld Productions. Developed with the assistance of the Australian Film Commission and the NSW Film and Television Office. Developed and produced with the assistance of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Winner, Best Documentary (under 60 minutes), Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards; Golden Maile Award, Hawaii International Film Festival; Emerging Australian Filmmakers Award, Melbourne Film Festival. Finalist, Script Writing Award, NSW Premier's Literary Awards; Best Documentary Human Story, ATOM Awards; Best Use of Footage in a History Factual Production, Focal Awards.

NOTES CLOSED CAPTIONED DVD AVAILABLE

SCHOOLS (NON-EXPLETIVE) VERSION AVAILABLE



Photo by Peter Eve

Dhakiyarr vs the King

## The Pilot's Funeral

When Adrian Wagg arrived in Arnhem Land in the 1970s, he fell in love with the place and its people, helping the Yolngu to build homes on their ancestral lands and establish their own airline. This moving documentary recounts the life of this gentle giant of a man. But more than this, it tells of the extraordinary ten-day funeral that followed his tragic death in a helicopter accident. Not performed since the arrival of missionaries in the 1930s, the traditional Yolngu ceremony celebrates a remarkable bond, connecting black and white, people and land, past and future.

**Year:** 2004

**Duration:** 26 mins

**Executive Producer:** Penny Robins

**Producer:** Denise Haslem

**Co-Producer:** Trevor Graham

**Writer/Director:** Rose Hesp

A Film Australia National Interest Program. Produced with the assistance of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Finalist, Brisbane International Film Festival.

NOTES CLOSED CAPTIONED DVD AVAILABLE

## Rosie

This docu-drama explores the troubled life of Rosalie Fraser. In 1961, at the age of two, Rosalie was taken from her Aboriginal family by the Western Australian Child Welfare Department and made a ward of the state. For years, she suffered physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her foster mother. As Rosalie recounts the key points in her relationships with her foster family, her sister and her husband, we experience her pain, anguish and finally joy at being able to confront and accept the past.

**Year:** 2004

**Duration:** 26 mins

**Executive Producers:** Brian Beaton, Celia Tait

**Producer:** Robin Eastwood

**Director:** Debbie Carmody

**Writers:** Debbie Carmody, Roy Morseu

An Artemis International Production. Developed and produced with the assistance of ScreenWest and the Lotteries Commission of Western Australia. Produced in association with the Indigenous Branch of the Australian Film Commission and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Winner, Golden Tripod, Dramatised Documentary Category, Australian Cinematographers Society National Awards. Finalist, Shanghai International TV Festival.

## Shifting Sands

Showcases six short films from Indigenous Australian filmmakers.

*Grace.* Grace returns to the mission for her sister's funeral.

*My Bed, Your Bed.* In an isolated desert community, a man and woman are promised under the traditional laws of marriage.

*Passing Through.* A young woman hopes to discover the secrets of her family's past.

*Promise.* An old woman is asked how she came to be betrothed at a young age.

*Tears.* A teenage couple leave the mission on their way to new lives.

*My Colour, Your Kind.* A young girl recollects the life and treatment she has endured.

**Year:** 1998

**Duration:** 6 x 10 minutes (sold as a compilation)

**Producers:** Owen Johnston, Justin Malbon, Penny McDonald, Helen Lovelock, Pauline Clague, Teresa-Jayne Hanlon, Steven McGregor

**Writers/Directors:** Wesley Enoch, Erica Glynn, Danielle Maclean, Mark Olive, Ivan Sen, Michelle Torres  
From the Australian Film Institute, Australian Film Commission, NSW Film & Television Office, Film Queensland, SBS, ScreenWest and Film Victoria

Winner, Best International Short Film, Murphy's Cork Film Festival (for *Tears*).

DVD AVAILABLE

## Ceremony— The Djungguwan of Northeast Arnhem Land

Through song, dance, art and ritual, the Yolngu people of north-east Arnhem Land pass on their sacred knowledge, binding their ancient past to their living present.

The Djungguwan is one of their most important ceremonies.

It tells the epic story of the Wawilak Sisters, two ancestral beings who helped create the Yolngu universe and gave the people their law. It is an initiation ceremony, bringing young boys into that law and teaching them discipline and respect. And it is a memorial to the dead.

Every performance of the ceremony is a unique event.

Now, this ground-breaking two-DVD set brings together three Djungguwan films—made in 1966 by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and in 1976 and 2002 by Film Australia at the request of Yolngu leaders who wanted to record their culture for future generations.

For the first time, Yolngu elders have also permitted secret-sacred footage to be seen, revealing some of the ritual preparations involved.

An introductory film and five mini-documentaries, including interviews with elders, academics and the filmmakers, provide invaluable information about the Djungguwan, the Yolngu and these remarkable films—helping us understand more about the role of ceremony in Indigenous Australia.

The result is a cultural record of extraordinary significance which, by documenting the past, speaks to the future.

**Year:** 2005

**Duration:** approx 360 mins

**Executive Producer:** Chris Warner

**Producer:** Denise Haslem

**Director/Writer:** Trevor Graham

A Film Australia Production. Made in collaboration with Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association.

**NOTES DVD ONLY**

One of the three films in this DVD is *Djungguwan at Gurka'wuy*, part of *The Yirrkala Film Project*.

For details of this series of 22 films by renowned ethnographic filmmaker Ian Dunlop, see the *Film Australia Indigenous Studies* catalogue, pp 16–17 or the Film Australia website.



© Dick Diegt

Land of the Morning Star

## Now on DVD

All new Film Australia programs are released on DVD.

In addition, we're releasing a growing number of backlist titles in this format.

Contact Film Australia or check our website for the latest titles on DVD, including:

### Australian Biography

Interviews with Faith Bandler, Neville Bonner, Charles Perkins, Rosalie Kunoth-Monks, Bill Harney, Ruby Langford-Ginibi, Jimmy Little, Lois (Lowitja) O'Donoghue.

### Black Chicks Talking

Performer and writer Leah Purcell talks with five dynamic Indigenous women about what it means to be Aboriginal in Australia today.

### Bobtales

A series of animated Aboriginal Dreamtime stories for young children that explain how some of Australia's native animals came to look the way they do.

### Boomalli—Five Koorie Artists

An Indigenous artists' cooperative, including Tracey Moffat, Bronwyn Bancroft, Fiona Foley, Raymond Meeks and Jeffrey Samuels.

### Buried Country

Reveals how Aboriginal Australians have long been inspired by country music and have used it to tell their stories

### Dreamings—

### The Art of Aboriginal Australia

Explores the meaning behind various Aboriginal artworks.

### Everyday Brave

Profiles of Indigenous Australians who have made a real difference to their communities and to society, featuring Bonita Mabo, Ray Cotti, Naomi Mayers, Steven Craig, the Thaiday brothers and Uncle Kiddo Taylor.

### Exile and the Kingdom

A comprehensive account of the experiences of a single group of Aboriginal people—the Injibarndi/Ngarluma people—from pre-colonial times to the 1990s. Extra material includes notes, songs and biographies.

### From Sand to Celluloid

A series of six short films from Indigenous Australian filmmakers.

### Land of the Morning Star

Known as Netherlands New Guinea, West Papua, Irian Jaya and Papua—the story of an extraordinary land with a turbulent history.

### Mabo—Life of an Island Man

A film about Eddie Mabo—the man whose name lives on in a High Court ruling that has forever altered Australian life.

### Namatjira the Painter

The life and work of late Aboriginal watercolour artist, Albert Namatjira.

### Selling Australia

Reveals how tourism is shaping Australia's identity overseas and at home.

### Sugar Slaves

The secret history of Australia's slave trade—the men and women enticed or kidnapped from South Pacific islands to work Australian sugar plantations.

### Two Thirds Sky— Artists in Desert Country

Five contemporary artists—Indigenous and non-Indigenous—reveal different ways of seeing the Australian desert.

### Uluru—An Anangu Story

The history of Uluru from an Aboriginal perspective.

### Who Killed Malcolm Smith?

The story of Malcolm Smith, one of the 99 cases investigated by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

## Film Australia

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