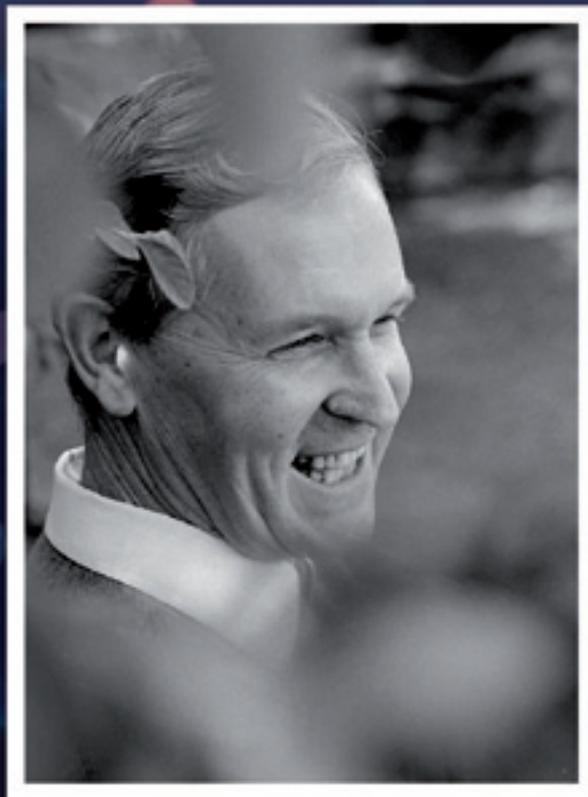


MICROBES TO MACROBES

The Story of Frank Fenner



PRESS KIT



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Short Synopsis

Microbes to Macrobes celebrates the life of Frank Fenner. A lively blend of family drama, scientific revelation, intimate interviews with friends, family, and some of the world's leading scientific minds, it combines rare archival footage, stunning visual effects, moving dramatisation and off the wall comedy.

Long Synopsis

Frank Fenner was one of Australia's greatest scientists.

In a career spanning over sixty years, he helped save Australia's troops from malaria in World War II; charted the course of myxomatosis as it decimated Australia's feral rabbit population; was one of the leading figures in the global campaign which eliminated smallpox, arguably the greatest collective medical achievement in human history; and was a pioneering environmentalist.

Frank's life was both charmed, and marked by significant tragedy. A man universally loved, with a profound insight into the workings of the natural world, he was unable to save the lives of some of those closest to him. Yet he helped save the lives of millions he never knew.

How did such a modest man, from humble beginnings, grow to become such a significant global figure?

Microbes to Macrobes celebrates the life of Frank Fenner. A lively blend of family drama, scientific revelation, intimate interviews with friends, family, and some of the world's leading scientific minds, it combines rare archival footage, stunning visual effects, moving dramatisation and off the wall comedy.

It is a remarkable film about a remarkable man.



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Key Crew Biographies

Richard Jasek - Writer/Director/Creative Producer

Richard Jasek has been a filmmaker since the age of fourteen. Aged nineteen, he was accepted into the Australian Film Television and Radio School and his groundbreaking graduate production won a swag of awards in Australia and overseas.

After graduating, Richard went on to create further award-winning works including *Son of Romeo* (a blue screen version of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*) as well as corporate, educational and television specials, and short films. He has directed commercial television drama since the nineties and has since clocked up many hours in television direction for a host of shows including *A Country Practice*, *Home and Away*, *City Homicide*, *McLeod's Daughters*, *Neighbours*, *Stingers*, *Blue Heelers*, *Heartbreak High* and more.

He wrote, directed, and was creative producer of *Driven to Diffraction*, which was the first in the five-part documentary series on Australia's greatest scientists. Like Fenner, William and Lawrence Bragg were also great sons of Adelaide, and Richard, a passionate South Australian himself, took to the role with much enthusiasm.

Richard Jasek has truly pioneered a unique way of story-telling in these documentaries. He has cleverly combined dramatisation, high-end computer generated imagery and animations, rare archival footage, goofball animation, and intense interviews with some of the leading minds on the planet, to tell this remarkable story. The result, is a cleverly crafted, thoroughly researched, accurate portrayal of not only a scientist who changed our planet forever, but the life of a very much loved and gentle man, in Frank Fenner.





Key Crew Biographies (continued...)

Linda Cooper - Executive Producer/Science Advisor

Linda Cooper has recently commenced a new position as Communications Manager for the national organisation Ninti One Limited. Ninti One is a research organisation that supports economic development and resource management in remote areas of Australia. Up until March 2011, she was Project Director for the Premier and South Australian Government establishing programs that promote innovation in science and science communication. The first being the Australian Science Media Centre in 2005, and most recently the Australian version of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, the RiAus in 2009.

She is also an Independent Producer for programs and policy for science collaborations with the arts, and cross-cultural initiatives. Linda has been the Chair of the Australian Network for Art and Technology, a member of the New Media Arts Board of the Australia Council of the Arts and the Australia Council's Multicultural Arts Committee, and Deputy Chair for the Experimental Arts Foundation.

Linda has a degree in Chemistry and English literature, postgraduate qualifications in science communication and has held exhibition and senior management positions in science centres and museums in Australia and Asian Pacific region, including the National Science and Technology Centre, The INVESTIGATOR and Petrosains in Kuala Lumpur. Linda has produced science exhibitions and programs which have toured Australia and internationally, favourite being Burrara Gathering: Sharing Indigenous Knowledge.

With her unique skills mix of both science and media, Linda is instrumental to both the commissioning and content of this series of documentaries. Linda supervised the Bragg documentary and will build upon this experience to ensure the success of the further programmes.



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Key Crew Biographies (continued...)

KOJO

Specialising in production, post production and distribution of prestige cinema, documentary and television programmes, KOJO supports films and documentaries by new and established artists.

With strong alliances worldwide, KOJO credits include: The Scott Hicks documentary, *Glass: A Portrait of Philip in Twelve Parts*, *Chronicles of the New World Parts 1 and 2: Driven To Diffraction & Microbes to Macrobes*, and feature films *2:37* (Official selection Cannes), *Beautiful*, *Spike-Up* (AFI Winner) and the French Australian co-production *The Tree* (Official Selection Cannes).

KOJO has a wide range of film, documentary and television production experience and has worked with every major Hollywood Studio in the area of post production and VFX.

James Moody - Producer

James worked as the Manager and Senior Producer at Kojo Productions. During his 7 years at Kojo, James produced work for high profile companies like BHPBilliton, Sonic Innovations, Cobham Aviation Services, Coopers, The SANFL, Austrade and an array of government agencies both in South Australia and also nationally.

Branching out into long form work a few years ago, James has recently completed work producing his second documentary, this time on world leading virologist Frank Fenner, who amongst other things helped eradicate smallpox and also developed the myxomatosis virus which helped control Australia's rabbit plague.

Felice Burns - Production Manager

Felice has worked in film, television and corporate production for over a decade. Her career began as a contemporary dancer performing in various major cities throughout Europe, US, Canada, South America and Asia. She worked on dance films and music clips, which led her to pursuing a career in TV and film.

Felice developed this passion while at University where she wrote, directed and produced several documentaries and short films while completing studies in Communications and Media. In 2001, she gained a position on the television series *Mcleod's Daughters*. Here she worked for 5 years learning the ropes and progressing in the field before independently working in a freelance capacity on film productions as well as working in the Marketing arena.

Joining Kojo Productions in 2008 as a Producer in the corporate area, Felice has produced video content for web, DVD and Corporate presentations for various companies and government bodies including Mitsubishi, Royal Institution of Australia, the Department of Trade and Economic Development, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and TMP Worldwide. Her previous experience also has her excelling in large-scale projects. She is extremely competent with producing long form documentaries and can production manage drama shoots of any scale.



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Key Crew Biographies (continued...)

Aaron Gully - Director of Photography

Aaron Gully is an Adelaide based highly-awarded DOP/Cinematographer of commercials, documentaries, music videos and drama. Coming from an art & design background, Aaron started his career as a graphic artist and commercial stills photographer before making a transition to cinematography in the early nineties.

Aaron has worked extensively across the world, indulging his passion for photography and the moving image. In his travels, Aaron has been involved in numerous documentaries, working with the likes of Sir David Attenborough, the Berbers of the Sahara, Masai Warriors and World Presidents. Aaron's work has been recognized by numerous cinematography awards, including three ACS Golden Tripods, twenty-two ACS Gold Awards, 2009 SASA Award for Best Cinematography for a short film, numerous AADC Awards and the Cliff Ellis Memorial Award.

Aaron shoots on all media formats, but specializes in HD capture with a preference for cameras such as the Arri Alexa and Sony F35. While he now works mostly in TV and cinema commercials, he continues to delight in filmmaking in all its many formats.

SAFC Attachment Scheme

Through the Digital Media Attachment Program, the South Australian Film Corporation enables professionals to have paid experience in a variety of specialist and generalist roles, effectively sponsoring the career development of an individual in their chosen field.

In support of the scheme, KOJO, with assistance from the SAFC, appointed upcoming documentary Writer/Director, Carly Maple, to be formally attached to Richard Jasek throughout the production. Carly found the experience nothing short of educational and inspirational as she witnessed a first class quality production in action. It also allowed her the rare opportunity to gain creative insight from one of the industry's leading professionals, Richard Jasek, as well as the very talented cast and crew.



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Interview with Richard Jasek

How can you best describe Frank Fenner?

Frank Fenner was one of Australia's greatest ever scientists- yet outside of scientific circles, one of the least-known. He was a pioneering virologist, teacher, administrator, mentor and environmentalist. Yet despite his vast list of achievements he was extraordinarily humble, approachable and universally loved.

Why haven't people heard much about such a great scientist?

It's always been one of the funny things about Australia that we celebrate our sports stars first and the people whose achievements are of the mind, much lower down the list. And Frank wasn't the sort of person to seek out his own publicity. He was a truly gifted man who just quietly got on and did things.

How does the Frank Fenner documentary differ from your standard documentary?

Microbes to Macrobes is a unique blend of storytelling techniques. Designed to reach out to a general audience who may know nothing of the science, it uses dramatisation to bring to life the Fenner family, who tell us directly the story of Frank's background and life. Merged with this is high-end computer generated imagery to take us into the heart of his science, rare archival footage, goofball animation, and interviews with some of the leading minds on the planet.



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Interview with Richard Jasek (continued...)

What challenges did you come across in the writing of the documentary?

Frank was not a man to speak of his emotions, yet to truly know a person one has to see into their heart. Also the science of microbiology can be a foreign land for many, yet Frank's work literally changed the world. So we had to work out ways to bring out not only Frank's mind, but also his soul, and it's a testament to the generosity of all the contributors to this film that we were given a glimpse of both.

How has it been working with Frank's family to produce this story?

Frank's family made the choice to trust us and gave us unparalleled access. Allowing us in like this, so soon after Frank's passing, was courageous and often emotionally challenging, and their remarkable generosity was truly humbling. We hope this celebration of Frank, which they made possible, honours not only him, but them as well.

What techniques in shooting and post production were used in the documentary?

The documentary uses a blend of cutting-edge technology to take us inside Frank's personal and professional world. Blue-screen techniques, advanced computer generated imagery, the latest camera technology, and advanced post-production techniques provided by Kojo all combine to make *Microbes to Macrobes* a unique film.

Will you be involved in the rest of the five part science documentary series?

I certainly hope so! It's a rare privilege to have the opportunity to create bespoke films which celebrate some of Australia's seminal contributors. We have put together a superb team over the course of the first two films, and we're a family now. Together, we look forward to the next three!

MP3 audio interview with Radio Adelaide's Behind the Screens show

<http://behindthescreensradio.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/richard-jasek-interview.mp3>



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Cast Biographies

Duncan Graham - Frank Fenner

Duncan Graham graduated as an actor from AC Arts, Adelaide in 2003. As a writer his work includes: Black Crow Lullabies (floogle 06); one long night in the land of Nod, (Old Fitzroy 09), Ollie and the Minotaur (B Sharp 09); Cut (Belvoir St '11); The Love Play (B Sharp/ABC/Malthouse '10); No Exit from the Roof (STC '11). Half-Real (The Border Project & Malthouse, '11). He was the recipient of the 2008 Jill Blewett Playwright's Award and Adelaide Fringe Award for Most Original Work in 2006.

As a director his works include, Macbeth & Asylum (ACArts), The Homecoming (floogle), The Emperor's New Clothes. As an assistant director Hamlet, Uncle Vanya (STCSA), The City & Measure for Measure (STC & Company B with Benedict Andrews), Our Town (STC, Iain Sinclair).

As an actor his credits include Penetrator, Bakehouse Theatre, Architektin for STCSA; several films, Alexandra's Project (Rolf de Heer), Closed for Winter (James Bogle); and Microbes to Macrobes: The Story of Frank Fenner (Richard Jasek).

In 2009 Duncan was an Associate Artist at STCSA. In 2012 Duncan will be a part of the Griffin Theatre Company's Studio and a PWA Associate Playwright at STC. With Sarah John he is a founding member of floogle, an award winning Independent Theatre Company whose work has played in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.



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Emily Branford - Bobbie Fenner

Emily's performance career began in 1989 with a lengthy stint with Adelaide University's Footlight's and Theatre Guild. In 1994 she joined ensemble theatre group impropriety inc, creating and performing satirical comedies for three Adelaide Fringe Festivals. In 1994 she also joined Ricochet Theatre Company as co-Artistic Director, writer and performer, touring original productions for schools audiences in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland for over six years.

Since leaving Ricochet Emily has worked as a free-lance writer and performer working for South Australian organisations in the role of actor, writer, MC and work-shop facilitator. Companies include: Brink Productions, Holden Street Theatres – Directors Choice, The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, The Adelaide Festival Centre, Windmill Performing Arts, Come-Out Youth Arts Festival, Wakakirri Schools Story Festival, Adelaide Festival Centre's Something On Saturday Programme, Carclew Youth Arts – Playfull Programme and The South Australian Museum.

Emily hosted and performed for Channel Nine's Here's Humphrey and worked as assistant producer for Channel Ten's Music Shop. Her television and film credits include ABC TV's Sun on the Stubble, feature film Black and White and MRC/Raw Nerve short-film Casual Living, for which she received a Best Performance nomination in the recent South Australian Screen Awards.

Emily also works as a voice-over artist for radio, TV and on-line and has appeared on local and national TV commercials. Currently she is performing the role of Lauren in the 'five star' sell-out season of Scarborough (by Fiona Evans, directed by Martha Lott) for the 09 Adelaide Fringe. Emily has been a proud member of Equity since 1990.



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Paul Blackwell - Charles Fenner

Paul Blackwell who plays Frank's father, Charles in "Microbes to Macrobes: The Story of Frank Fenner" is a seasoned Australian stage, television and film actor.

Paul is best known for his many roles in Australian theatre productions from some of Australia's best companies including Company B, Sydney Theatre Company, State Theatre Company of South Australia, Patch Theatre and Opera Australia.

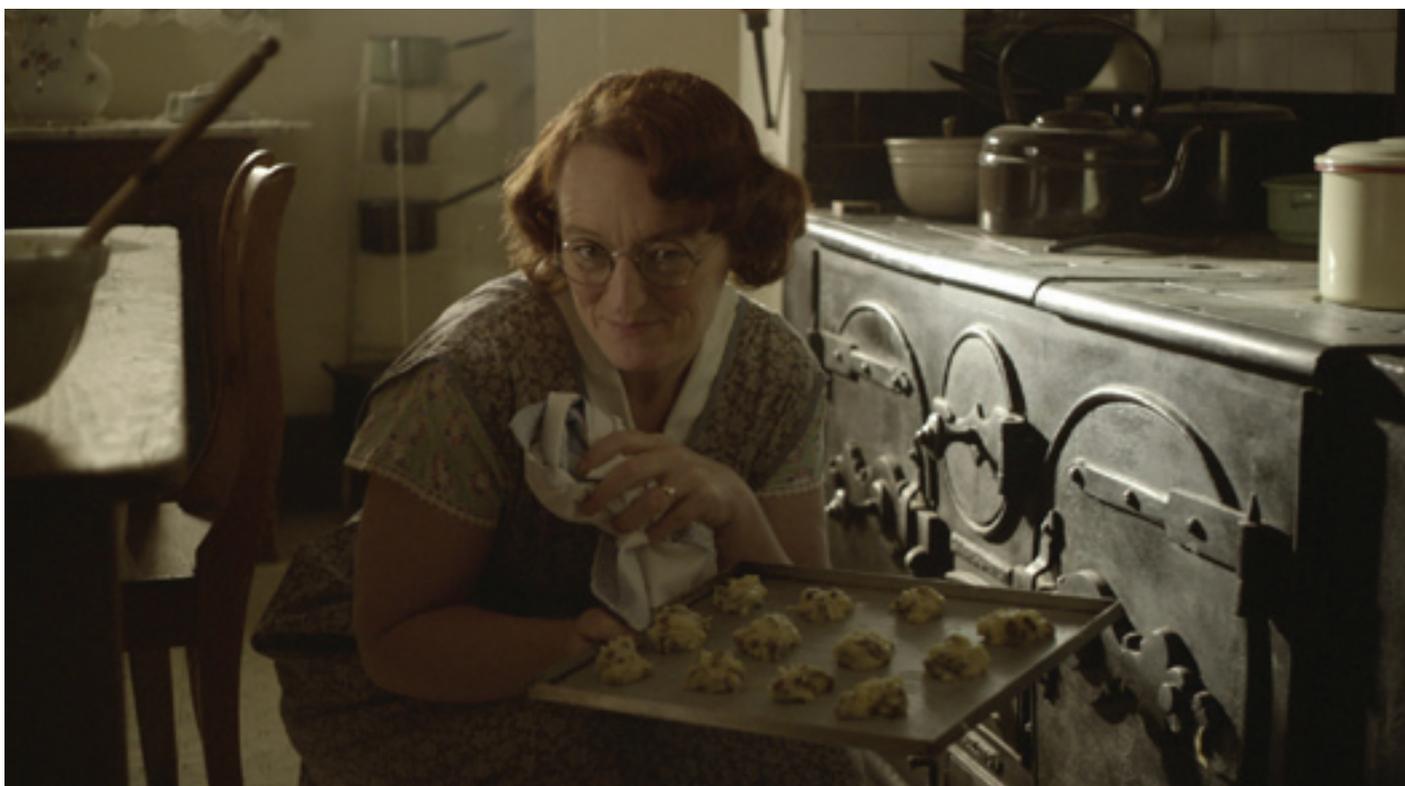
Paul has also had major and minor roles in feature films, including playing the Father in the critically acclaimed *The Quiet Room*, which was screened as part of the 1996 Cannes Film Festival.

His other film credits include appearances in *Candy*, directed by Neil Armfield and starring Heath Ledger, Geoffrey Rush and Abbie Cornish, *December Boys*, also starring Daniel Radcliffe, *Hey Hey it's Esther Blueberger*, *Red Dog*, and the silent film - *Dr Plonk*, his second collaboration with Rolf De Heer, following *The Quiet Room*.



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For interviews and further information, contact Melissa Wait at
melwait@graymanagementgroup.com.au / 08 8363 4496 / 0424 505 227
www.kojo.com.au



Eileen Darley - Peg Fenner

Eileen's experience in theatre and film performance spans twenty-seven years. On graduating from Flinders University Drama Centre in 1983 she joined the Troupe Theatre ensemble, appearances' including Gavin Strawhan's Floating Palais and Caryl Churchill's Top Girls. She was an ensemble member of Magpie Theatre Co for two years where her many performances included Hating Alison Ashley as Erica Yuk.

Eileen was a long-term collective member of Red Shed Theatre Co. Performances included Frank Mc Guinness' Carthaginians , the world premieres of Daniel Keene's All Souls and the nationally -toured Because You Are Mine, David Carlin's Frankenstein's Children and Dog Eat Dog for the Adelaide Festival of Arts, and Melissa Reeve's Sweetown and In Cahoots which both did extensive national tours). For Vitalstatistix Theatre Eileen's work includes Verity Laughton's Carrying Light and Tobsha Learner's Miracle. For Patch Theatre her work includes Who Sank the Boat and Pig's, Bear's and Billy Goat's Gruff (including international tours to New York, Singapore and NZ). For State Theatre Eileen's appearances include Don's Party, Morning Sacrifice, Three Bird's Alighting on a Field, Arabian Nights, Salt and The Misanthrope For the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust Eileen appeared in The Queen and I. Her feature film work includes performances as Amelia in Serenades and Shirley in Australian Rules.

Eileen has also worked as a professional singer crossing the genres of folk, jazz and cabaret. She has performed in many music theatre pieces including John Romeril/Alan John's Jonah for State Theatre and Melissa Reeve's Tough Girls for Vitalstatistix. Currently Eileen has recently performed "A Night With the Flying Horses" for the Adelaide Cabaret Festival. She is also a Feldenkrais Practitioner and mother of two.

MP3 audio interview with Radio Adelaide's Behind the Screens show
<http://behindthescreensradio.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/eileen-darley.mp3>



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Sam Davies - Young Frank Fenner

Sam Davies was born in Adelaide in 1999. He is proud to make his screen debut as Young Frank in *Microbes to Macrobes: The Story of Frank Fenner*.

Sam has been immersed in music, festivals and the Arts community in Adelaide all of his life. He has attended numerous workshops through school, Carclew Youth Arts, Cirkidz and Urban Myth Theatre of Youth.

Sam has been learning guitar for six years and has recently started playing the ukelele. He has a good sense of rhythm and loves singing. He has been an active member of the Allenby Gardens Primary School Choir for a number of years.

Sam has compered their dance concert for the last two years. He is also a keen tennis player and his team recently won the district grand final in their division.

Sam eagerly awaits further opportunities in the performing arts.



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Interview with Duncan Graham

How did it make you feel playing such a great scientist?

When I first auditioned for the role of Frank Fenner, and saw photographs of him as a young man, I was struck by how similar he looked to my grandfather, whom I never met. People say I look like my grandfather, so in some ways I felt like I was doing a generational exchange of sorts. The more I got to know about Frank, his fierce intelligence and inquisitiveness, his passion for knowledge and deep love for his work, the more I felt quite inadequate actually. It was very humbling to find out about his life and then try and embody the quiet but unwavering focus he possessed.

What was the best part of playing Frank?

There were several great things. Firstly understanding the scope of Frank Fenner's work and influence, which cannot be underestimated. And the second was working with Richard Jasek. His passion for honouring those achievements and getting to the bottom of what made Frank tick, I think rivals Frank's passion for scientific discovery.

Did you know who Frank was before this documentary?

Unfortunately I did not. And I don't think I'm alone. But I believe this film will help correct that general ignorance. He should be lauded as one of Australia's great thinkers.



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Interview with Duncan Graham (continued...)

How do you think the film will impact generations to come?

Well I don't think anyone could come in contact with Frank Fenner's life and not be immediately inspired to work harder, look deeper and aim higher. But Frank seemed to do this effortlessly, and without fanfare or even a hint of arrogance. I hope this film will encourage similar qualities and aspirations. But most importantly help to value thought and intellectual rigour in this country. Frank was indeed one of the greats and deserves, as do many of our past and present scientists, due recognition.



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www.kojo.com.au



Credits

Creative Producer, Director, Writer
Richard Jasek

Executive Producer, Science Advisor
Linda Cooper

Produced by
Kojo

Kojo Producer
James Moody

Production Manager
Felice Burns

Cinematographer
Aaron Gully

Editor
Sam Matthews

CAST (in order of appearance)

Charles Fenner
Paul Blackwell

Peg Fenner
Eileen Darley

Baby Frank Fenner
Eden Silver

Young Frank Fenner
Sam Davies

Adult Frank Fenner
Duncan Graham

Bobbie Fenner
Emily Branford

Casting Angela Heesom Casting



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Credits (continued...)

INTERVIEWEES

Professor Frank Fenner
Marilyn Fenner
Sally Fenner
Jasper Fenner
Bill Fenner
Monnie Fenner
Winn Fenner
Professor Suzanne Cory
Sir Gustav Nossal
Professor Peter Doherty
Professor Carola Vinuesa, MD PhD
Professor Stephen Boyden
Dr Gwen Woodroofe
Dr Max Day
Professor Graeme Hugo
Dr Philip Jones
Dr Rex Lipman

Professor D.A. Henderson

CREW

Director's Attachment Researchers	Carly Maple Linda Cooper Suzi Platt
Production Assistant Production Runner First Assistant Director	Matthew Byrne Mandy Keulen Travis Kalendra
Second Assistant Director Production Designer Set Decorator Art Department Assistant Camera Assistant Grip Sound Recordist Costume Designer Costume Assistant Makeup Artist Additional Makeup Unit Manager Stills Photographer Unit Publicist Music Composer Post Production Facility Post Production Producer Online Editor Animation Title Design Motion Design	Benn Joiner Tony Cronin Jen Drake Gareth Wilkes Russell Marrett Vivyan Madigan Will Sheridan Theo Benton Vicky Stimson Tracy Phillipot Marion Lee Steve Russell Simon Casson Mel Wait Sean Timms Kojo Post Kate Butler Mark McKenna Richard Coburn James Boorman Richard Coburn Sam Matthews James Boorman Matt Arnold Scott Heysen Sophie Roenfeldt Nicola Tate
Machine Room Technicians	Duncan Campbell Justin Astbury
Sound Producer	
Dialogue and Effects Editor Sound Mixer	



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Thanks To:

Professor Frank Fenner

Marliyn Fenner and Friends

The Fenner Family

John Chataway, Kojo Group

Viron Papadopoulos, South Australian Film Corporation

Pam Martin

University of Melbourne, Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Australian National University, Canberra

ANU Basser Library, Roseanne Walker

ANU Archives, Maggie Shapley

ANU University House

National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute

The Australian Academy of Science, Cecily Oakley

CSIRO, Adelaide, Richard Head & Alison Tuckfield

Botanical Gardens of Adelaide

Cummins House, Angela and Richard Castell

City of Port Adelaide, Enfield

Adelaide City Council

ABC Studios, Adelaide, Chris Moon & Lesley Buttle

Hero Frock Hire

Chaos Bazaar

Peter Martin

Major Barry Willoughby the Adelaide War Museum

ABC Resources, Charles Sammilt & Simon Kain

South Australian Museum, Mark Pharaoh & Leah Gardam

The Australian War Memorial, Canberra

National Film and Sound Archive, Melbourne

The World Health Organisation, Chris Black & Marie Villemain Partow

Thought Equity Motion

South Australian Tourism Commission

John Curtin School of Medical Research

The University of Adelaide, Barr Smith Library

Donna Gibbons

Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW

Rockefeller University, New York

Carol Moberg

Margaret Hogan

Public Health Image Library

Centre for Disease Control



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Links

KOJO

www.kojo.com.au

South Australian Channel 9 Postcards story about the documentary

http://www.postcards-sa.com.au/features_videos_pages/features2011/frank_fenner.html

AdelaideNow – “Science documentary no rash idea”

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/entertainment/confidential/science-documentary-no-rash-idea/story-e6fredq3-1226054232874>

Inside Film “Frank Fenner documentary begins filming in SA this week”

<http://if.com.au/2011/05/05/article/KQWBIERVIM.html>

Film Ink “Documentary Set To Honour A Magnificent Aussie Scientist - Frank Fenner”

<https://filmink.webworx.net.au/filmbiz/notice/3271/>

Screening

The Frank Fenner Documentary will have its premiere screening at the RiAus in Adelaide on Friday 23 September 2011 at 5:30pm.

To attend please email melwait@graymanagementgroup.com.au

Image Library

Please Visit KOJO’s FTP server for High-Res images. Go to:

<http://clientlounge.kojogroup.net/FTP/>

Username: Frank

Password: Fenner

(Case sensitive)

