



# NYIRR-MARIE

Evelyn Hall (Nyirr-Marie), a leader of her community in the campaign for land rights, returns to her country to say goodbye for the last time.



## SYNOPSIS

### ONE PARAGRAPH SYNOPSIS

Evelyn Hall (Nyirr-Marie) is a strong Kitja/Miriwoong woman who travels back to her homeland country to say goodbye for the last time. In December of 2009 Evelyn passed away. It was her strong desire for her story to be told and gave special clearance for this documentary to be shown 3 months after her remains are to be returned to country.



### ONE PAGE SYNOPSIS

In July of 2009 Evelyn Hall, a strong Kitja/Miriwoong woman of the country called Mandangala, and her family start preparations to go back to country. It is a trip filled with lots of sadness because Evelyn knows she is not well enough to take this trip again to walk and live on her country and this will be her last time she will walk, sit and sleep on her country.

Her journey back home will be a time to recall stories from her childhood passed onto her from her grandfather and her mother. Stories of creation of the country, in particular 'The Barramundi' story and the Two Pidgeon story of the ranges that run next to where the famous Argyle Diamond Mine sits today. As a Traditional Owner of the country Evelyn has access to many stories of the land that she has shared with her family but on this trip she wants to be sure they understand and keep them strong after she is gone.

Evelyn is very sick and can only travel back this last time to show her own children and grandchildren their heritage which she has always done since they were small but she wants to ensure everything is recorded and cannot be disputed by others.

When Evelyn visits her family cave where her ancestors have been buried, her son asks her if they can paint her hand on the family gallery so they will have a special place to come back and visit her when she has passed.

This is the story of one woman's love for her country from the stories passed onto her and her fear that she is unable to give the same information to her family in time before she passes.



## CREDITS

Director / Writer ..... **MITCH TORRES**  
Producer ..... **EILEEN TORRES**  
Production Manager ..... **ALISON TORRES**  
Photography / Sound ..... **CORNEL OZIES**  
**CLINTON FERSTL**  
Editor ..... **CORNEL OZIES**  
Composer ..... **PETRIS TORRES**  
Translator / Narrator ..... **JODIE HALL**  
Series Producer ..... **TANYA FRASER**  
Executive Producer ..... **RAY LILLIS**

Featuring **EVELYN HALL** (Nyirr Marie)

ISAN 0000-0002-8690-0003-Z-0000-0000-6 (Nganampa Version)  
ISAN 0000-0002-8690-0003-Z-0000-0001-4 (International Version)

**2010 | 24 mins | Colour | Warlpiri [English subtitles] | DigiBeta 16:9**

A CAAMA Production for Imparja TV, in the Nganampa Anwernekenhe series. Principal investor: Screen Australia.



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## THE FILMMAKERS

### Director / Writer - MITCH TORRES

*A highly successful writer and director, Mitch Torres has directed a range of dramas and documentaries. Her credits include **Whispering in our Hearts** winner of the 2002 Tudawali Awards Best Documentary, and the Human Rights Award for Best Documentary at the Montreal First Nations Film Festival – **Case 442, Saltwater Bluesman, The Healing Sounds of the Bungarun Orchestra, Behind the Ball, Memories of Iwany**, and the highly successful plays **One Day in 67** and **Muttacar Sorry Business**. Mitch has just completed directing the 6 x ½ series **Milli Milli Nganka** for NITV and finished the writing of her episode for the next series of **The Circuit** with Media World which recently was nominated and won the 2009 Awgie Award for Television series.*

When you are given access to a person's life such as Evelyn and her family gave to us as a film crew you feel very privileged, and something magic happens: you are given a place to follow a story from a very different point of view than you had at the beginning and really the story takes over and what you thought the story was going to be just falls by the wayside. Such is the case with this film. From the beginning of meeting with Nana Evelyn she wanted me to document very important aspects of her life and she felt she was not well – little did she know or us as the crew that she would be diagnosed after our filming with pancreatic cancer and that her time would be a waiting game.

Evelyn never wavered from the fact that it was important to document her connection to her land starting at Mandangala and by her re-telling of the story of her grandfather: Jangarranun. We did that but then something changed – and that was her illness – it proved to move the story in another direction that of making sure she was telling her story to her children and grandchildren to archive it for the future as she knew her time on earth would be shorter than she thought – time had run out for her literally.

So we went back to country, she told us her stories those that were of most importance to her, we camped with her, wept with her when she said goodbye for the last time to her country, and watched with happiness as her daughter and son painted her hand into the family art gallery in their own cave deep in their country at Barlow. It is a beautiful but sad journey and when she tells me she is 'tired and ready to die' I know there is no more for her to tell and that I was given special access into this beautiful woman's life. Thank you Nana Evelyn.

### EVELYN HALL [NYIRR-MARIE]

Miriwoong woman Evelyn Hall, who died in late 2009 was a senior elder in women's law in the Miriwoong region and a staunch advocate for Indigenous land rights for the Mandangala community. When her children were young, Evelyn started to pursue an education so she could begin to understand the white man's world. Eventually Evelyn and her brother J Toby (deceased) went back to their country Mandangala (Glen Hill Station) to look after the country and the stories. They signed agreements with CRA and the Argyle Diamond Mine went into operation. With the agreement in 1980 the Kimberley Land Council was able to secure the land in the Federal Court, Evelyn joined forces with other senior Miriwoong women elders to secure land tenure, which they did by the mid 1980's. Evelyn was a Member of the Order of Australia.

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## THE FILMMAKERS

### Producer - EILEEN TORRES

*Eileen has been in the forefront of setting up many Indigenous organisations: Goolarri Media, Magabala Books, Broome Aboriginal Media Service, Mamabulanjin Resource Centre, First Nations Credit Union to name a few. Eileen has now worked as a Producer on three projects: **The Healing Sounds of the Bungarun Orchestra, Jarlmadangah – Our Dream Our Reality and Milli Milli Nganka.***

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### Series Producer - TANYA FRASER

*Tanya Fraser is an experienced Producer in a wide range of genre, from prime-time historical documentary, to comedy drama, sketch comedy and short film. She has worked throughout Australia and New Zealand. She was the Series Producer on the 5 documentaries that form Series 22 of the Nganampa Anwernekenhe series.*

I am proud to have had a part in creating the 5 documentaries that make up the 22nd Series of Nganampa Anwernekenhe. To help these wonderful filmmakers to give voice in the medium of documentary film, and sustain an Aboriginal sensibility and respect for country throughout the process, is a rare opportunity that I'm grateful to have been allowed to take part.

The Nganampa Anwernekenhe Series of documentaries is surely one of Australia's National Treasures.



PHOTOS



EVELYN HALL



EVELYN HALL AND HER DAUGHTER



EVELYN HALL



EVELYN HALL'S VIEW FROM HELICOPTER



## CAAMA PRODUCTIONS

**CAAMA Productions** is located in Alice Springs, Central Australia, is part of the CAAMA media group and is the largest Indigenous production house in the country. Our primary purpose is to represent Indigenous people, culture and language in film and television.



Established by the CAAMA Group in 1988, **CAAMA Productions** is now 22 years old. Over the years the company has established a vast knowledge and understanding of the Indigenous film making industry.

**CAAMA Productions** continues to focus on the important role of maintaining, documenting and preserving Indigenous culture, language and histories and our unique slate of productions reflects this ongoing commitment.

**CAAMA Productions** was the recipient of the 2005 Film Australia Stanley Hawes Award for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Documentary.

## NGANAMPA ANWERNEKENHE

Nganampa Anwernekenhe is a combination of a Pitjantjatjara/Warlpiri word (Nganampa) and Arrernte word (Anwernekenhe) both meaning 'ours': our language, our culture and our stories.

Produced by **CAAMA Productions** since 1988 the Nganampa Anwernekenhe series is one of Australia's longest running documentary series, and is produced to provide remote communities and urban language based speakers with television programming in touch with their own cultural and language identity.

