

DRAMA SCHOOL – The Film Makers

Hilton Cordell Productions

Hilton Cordell is an Australian film and video production company based in Sydney, producing quality documentary programs for Australian and International television. Their award winning programs are shown throughout the world on such prestigious stations as PBS and National Geographic (USA), BBC and Channel Four (UK), Canal Plus, FRANCE 3 and TF1 (France) and NHK (Japan).

Michael Cordell - Series Producer

With a background as a print and television journalist Michael's best known credit after launching into independent production was the critically acclaimed documentary feature **Year of the Dogs**. The film, which follows a year in the life of the Western Bulldogs football club, had a wide cinema release in Australia and sold to the prestigious *Storyville* strand on BBC. Since the establishment of Hilton Cordell Productions Michael's credits as director include the ABC/Channel Four series Bondi and senior director on **The Track - A Story of Good Breeding and Bad Behaviour** for ABC TV. His documentary **Music and Murder**, which features three convicted murderers and looks at issues of remorse and rehabilitation, will be released later this year.

Chris Hilton - Executive Producer

Chris has a long career as an independent producer and director with experience across a variety of genres from travel and adventure to social documentary, history and docu-soap. Chris has made programs for the worlds premiere broadcasters including BBC, Channel 4, PBS, National Geographic and Discovery. Before teaming up with Michael Cordell to create Hilton Cordell Productions Chris produced, among other films, **The Last Husky**, **Advertising Missionaries** and **Dealing with the Demon**. He has acted in various roles on Hilton Cordell productions with major credits being **Renzo Piano - Piece by Piece**, **The Irish Empire**, **Bondi**, **Hacktivists**, and his current project as director **Shadowplay**.

Rachel Landers - Director

Rachel Landers is a directing graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art where she returned to co-direct the series *Drama School*. She also holds a first class Honours degree from Sydney University & has completed a PhD on Actor Training.

After graduating from NIDA, she spent 5 years working as a theatre director, directing a dozen productions including those at the Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir St theatre, the Australian Opera and the Australian Theatre for Young People. Rachel then moved into film & television, writing drama for ABC TV & writing & directing a number of award winning short films including *Revisionism* which was nominated for two AFI awards and won the gold Hugo at the Chicago Film Festival and a number of Cinematography awards. Her first documentary, *Whiteys Like Us*, won best documentary at the UN Media Awards and the Melbourne Film Festival.

Kate Bannatyne - Director

Before returning to Australia two years ago, Kate Bannatyne worked in television for over ten years in the UK. She has directed and produced 12 of her own observational documentaries - subjects ranging from synchronised swimming for Channel 4, New York super-models, children's comics, playwrights, poets, best selling romantic novelists and a pirate radio station in *The Outer Hebrides* - all for the BBC. She was also a director for BBC1 docu-soap *'Holiday Reps'*, covering a summer of tourist hell in Spain.

Kate produced and directed two series - a children's drama series for the BBC and an education series for the ABC. She has also directed many segments for a variety of lifestyle, travel and adventure television series, both here and in the UK. Kate did an Arts honours degree at Sydney University and went to Film School at Bristol University in the UK. She has grown up, lived and worked in both countries.