

FILM FINANCE CORPORATION AND EDWARD STREET FILMS PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCREEN TASMANIA

THE PASSIONATE APPRENTICES



A NEW FILM BY **ROGER SCHOLES** AND **LYNDA HOUSE**



**Down in Tasmania, there's a little valley under
Sleeping Beauty Mountain where no-one goes cold
or hungry - how's it work for heaven's sake?**



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THE PASSIONATE APPRENTICES

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COVER PAGE – PRESS KIT

THE PASSIONATE APPRENTICES **- A 75 MINUTE FEATURE DOCUMENTARY -**

ONE LINE SYNOPSIS

Modern dreams meet ancient skills when four young apprentices meet their masters.

Producer – Lynda House

Director – Roger Scholes

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THE PASSIONATE APPRENTICES
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12 Devon Walk Taroona 7053 Tasmania Australia

ONE PARAGRAPH SYNOPSIS

In a hidden valley in southern Tasmania, three men have spent decades mastering the ancient crafts of knifemaking, beekeeping and breadmaking. Now each has found an apprentice. Skills are being taught, secrets shared, and passions passed on.

ONE PAGE

In the shadow of Sleeping Beauty mountain in southern Tasmania, John the Knifemaker uses stone age techniques to forge blades from recycled steel. With handles made from antler or bone, and sheaths crafted from local timbers, they're sought after by world class chefs, local hunters and household cooks alike. But getting hold of one is not just a matter of money. John prefers trading to selling - swapping a blade for a side of venison, a cheese, or a case of wine. Often, customers become guests, and stay to share a meal. The Knifemaker is a striking host: with his work-worn hands, long hair and beard he could be mistaken for a Viking warrior. After 25 years of trial and error, John is now sharing the secrets of folding Damascus steel with two boys from the Valley. Merlin and Linden visit him in his old hut in the forest. Tying leather aprons over surf shop t-shirts, they get to work in the two forges set up in a tin shed. Long hours are spent learning how to hammer molten steel, and grind metal into sharp edges. It's a serious business, and the boys take in every word that their master offers them – whether it be about working metal or playing with fire - or just life...

Not far away, Yves the Beekeeper prepares fine honeys using the traditional methods of his French homeland. He learnt beekeeping as child from two master honey makers – a blind old man, and a deaf woman, who lived in a converted cave in the side of a cliff. Now, here in Tasmania, Yves has found the source of the finest honey he's ever tasted – a white honey collected from late-blooming heather in the highlands. He plans to build new hives and take his bees up for the winter flowering. A Woodworker friend called Forrest salvages the rainforest timber that is needed, from clear-felled logging coups. Yves' apprentice is his nine year old daughter Marlin. Through her eyes, the complex mysteries of beekeeping – from dipping hives to culling spare Queens - are explored. Father and daughter are joined in their passion for bees by Marlin's school teacher, Damon. The three work together, blending the rare 'snow honey' and taking turns to savour its taste.

Their neighbour John makes some of the best bread in Tasmania. Taking his inspiration from some of the earliest baking techniques, he uses ingredients like sprouted wheat and spelt flour. Every Saturday, along with three of his five children, he rises before dawn and drives into Hobart sell his loaves at an outdoor market stall. Stock soon runs out. But John isn't content to settle for what he can already do well. With his fellow baker, Shannon, he builds a wood-fired oven, so that his bread can taste even better.

During the film, the links that bind an old-world community are uncovered: Merlin the Knifemaker's apprentice turns out to be the Baker's oldest son; Marlin goes to school with his siblings, and Linden does as well. Knives created in John's forge end up in the Bakery kitchen - and so it goes on. The film offers an intimate portrait of a close-knit group of inspiring people, who share a passion for perfection.



THE PASSIONATE APPRENTICES
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40 River Walk, TASMANIA 7050 Tasmania, Australia

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

At a time when formal apprenticeships are hard to find, when government interest in supporting mentor-based education is at the whim of spin-doctors, small-town communities continue this vital passing on of skills and inspiration to their young.

This is who we are as a human community. Will we, can we, pass on a passion for life and the fight to find a place on the planet - that we can keep? This is our great species endeavour. Poetic? Abstract? No, I don't reckon. No, let's do some making, trading and pass on our passions!!



**THE PASSIONATE APPRENTICES
EDWARD STREET FILMS**

40 River Walk, Torquay 3220 Victoria, Australia

BIO'S OF THE PRINCIPALS

LYNDA HOUSE - PRODUCER

| | | | | |
|------|--------------------|----------|---------|--------------------|
| 2007 | KANYINI | 50mins | Doco | Producer |
| 2006 | SEPTEMBER | 90mins | Feature | CO-Producer |
| 2006 | KOKODA | 100 mins | Feature | Executive Producer |
| 2003 | NED KELLY | 100 mins | Feature | Producer |
| 2000 | POZIERES | 52mins | Doco | Producer |
| 1996 | RIVER STREET | 100 mins | Feature | Producer |
| 1994 | MURIEL'S WEDDING | 100 mins | Feature | Producer |
| 1991 | PROOF | 100 mins | Feature | Producer |
| 1991 | DEATH IN BRUNSWICK | 100 mins | Feature | Producer |

ROGER SCHOLES - WRITER, DIRECTOR, CINEMATOGRAPHER

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------|---|
| 2005 | CABLE | TV Drama | Writer /Director |
| 2004 | LAST PORT OF CALL | Doco | Director/ Cinematographer |
| 2004 | FUTURE SHACK | Doco | Director/ Cinematographer |
| 2003 | STORIES FROM THE STONE AGE | TV Series | Director/ Co- Writer |
| 2001 | RETURN TO THE BIG WITCH | Doco | Cinematographer |
| 2000 | THE HUMAN JOURNEY | TV Series | Director /Co-Writer |
| 1996 | THE COOLBAROO CLUB | Doco | Director /Co-Writer |
| 1992 | HOME OF THE BRAVE | Doco | Director /Co-Writer/ Editor |
| 1991 | THE VALLEY | Doco | Director/Co-Writer/Cinematographer/Editor |
| 1990 | THE LAST TALL FORESTS | Doco | Writer/Director/Cinematographer/Editor |
| 1988 | THE TALE OF RUBY ROSE | Feature | Writer /Director/Editor |

MELANIE SANDFORD – EDITOR

Credits include:

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| 2007 | FERRETS | Doco | Editor |
| 2007 | PARENT RESCUE | Series | Editor |
| 2006 | MATERNITY UNIT | Doco | Editor |
| 2005 | DIVORCE STORIES | Doco | Editor |
| 2004 | MYTHS OF CHILDHOOD | Doco | Editor |
| 2003 | FLIGHT CLUB | Doco | Editor |
| 2003 | STORIES FROM THE STONE AGE | Series | Editor |
| | CHINESE TAKEAWAY | Doco | Editor |
| 2002 | THE STORY OF EQUUS | Doco | Editor |
| | HARD CHOICES | Doco | Editor |
| 2001 | AUSTRALIANS AT WAR | Series | Editor |
| | DREAM BELIEVERS | Doco | Editor |
| 1999 | MACQUARIE ISLAND | Doco | Editor |
| 1998 | THE PITCH | Doco | Editor |

MARTIN KENNEDY – COMPOSER

| | |
|------|---|
| 2005 | TRAVELS IN FRANCE WITH MY NOSE - documentary - Finalist Tropfest 2005 |
| 2004 | FUTURE SHACK – documentary – ABC TV |
| 2004 | LAST PORT OF CALL – documentary – ABC TV |
| 2004 | ALL INDIA RADIO 4 – ARIA FINALIST 2004 |



THE PASSIONATE APPRENTICES
EDWARD STREET FILMS

40 River Walk, Torquay 3220 Victoria Australia

PRODUCTION TEAM AND BIOGRAPHIES

ROGER SCHOLES - Writer, Director, Cinematographer – ‘The Passionate Apprentices’

Roger Scholes has been an independent film and television maker since 1983. He's worked as a producer, director, writer, script editor, cinematographer and editor in drama and documentary projects for cinema and television. Roger graduated from the Swinburne Film and TV School (now the VCA Film School) in 1971 and worked at Fred Schepisi's Film House in Melbourne. During the 70's he worked in France, Switzerland, U.K. and USA. In 1982 he returned to Swinburne for the post-graduate course and awarded Best Director at his graduation.

During the 80's he worked with his writer/ film producer partner, Katherine Scholes, on a number of documentaries before writing and directing his first feature film **THE TALE OF RUBY ROSE**. The film won 4 critics prizes at the Venice Film Festival in 1987 including Best Actress and Best Director.

In 1988 Roger and Katherine formed their production company, Edward Street Films. Together they produced numerous documentaries including **THE VALLEY**, **THE LAST TALL FORESTS** and **HOME OF THE BRAVE** which won First Prize at the International ITVA American Film Awards in 1993.

In 1996 Roger co-wrote and directed **THE COOLBAROO CLUB**, a dramatized documentary for cinema and television release. It won the 1996 Human Rights Award for Media. In 1998 he co-wrote and directed **THE HUMAN JOURNEY**, a 3 hour documentary series for ABC TV and Discovery Channel, which won the 2000 Eureka Prize for Science Media. Since then he has written and directed a 3 hour tele-series **STORIES FROM THE STONE AGE** for S4C UK and ABC TV, two documentaries – **LAST PORT OF CALL** and **FUTURE SHACK** - and a short feature film, **CABLE** for Showtime and SBSi.

He is currently finishing the television series **THE PASSIONATE APPRENTICES** shot in the Huon Valley for SBSi and preparing 2 new projects for production - his new feature film **SECRET COVE** and a feature documentary **CAPE BARREN**

LYNDA HOUSE – Producer – ‘The Passionate Apprentices’ House & Moorhouse Films Pty Ltd

Lynda House has worked in the Australian film industry since 1981. Her first crew position was on Peter Weir's 'The Year of Living Dangerously'. In 1991 she produced one of Australia's best known films, 'Proof', directed by Jocelyn Moorhouse and starring Hugo Weaving and Russell Crowe. 'Proof' opened the Directors Fortnight Section of the Cannes Film Festival,

Lynda produced 'Muriel's Wedding' directed by P.J. Hogan and starring Toni Collette and Rachel Griffiths which was also invited to screen at Directors Fortnight at Cannes. Lynda continues to develop and produce films in Australia she produced the award winning documentary 'Pozieres', directed by Wain Fimeri. 'Secret Bridesmaid's Business' a telemovie directed by Lynn-Maree Danzey, which won many awards internationally, 'Ned Kelly' (with Nelson Woss) starring Heath Ledger and Orlando Bloom for Working Title.

Lynda was executive producer on 'Kokoda' and co-producer of the first Tropfest feature film 'September' which will be released in November 2007.

MELANIE SANDFORD ase - Picture Editor - ‘The Passionate Apprentices’

Melanie Sandford is one of Australia's most experienced documentary film editors having worked in the industry for more than 20 years. Her work includes 'An Imaginary Life – David Malouf' (Winner Golden Spire USA), 'Myths of Childhood' (Winner Gold Medal Human Relations NY U.S.A), 'Australians At War' (AFI nomination for Best Editing).

Melanie also edited the multi award winning 'Stories From the Stone Age' (Roger Scholes director). Melanie regularly travels to Burma to teach in 'The Art of Documentary Filmmaking' workshop in Yangon.

EDWARD STREET FILMS PROFILE - AWARDS, REVIEWS

2004 LAST PORT OF CALL

ABC Television – May 2004 Reality Bites – Rated 21 – 1 million viewer 2nd screening October 2005

'Must-see TV..' - SUNDAY MAIL 'an enchanting film' - WHO MAGAZINE

'an insight into a most alternative man..' - The Green Guide Critic's View THE AGE

Pick of the Day - SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

2004 FUTURE SHACK

ABC Television – May 2004 Reality Bites – Rated 22 – 1.2million viewers

2003 STORIES FROM THE STONE AGE

Pick of the Day – SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

'A primer on the origins of farming, cities, traffic jams and pork belly futures - fascinating.' THE AGE

Critic's Pick – THE AGE Green Guide

2000 THE HUMAN JOURNEY

January 2000 ABC TV– Rated 19 2000 - Discovery Channel International

Winner of the 2000 Eureka Prize for Science Media

Winner - 2000 ATOM Awards - Best Film - Secondary Education

1996 THE COOLBAROO CLUB

1997 - ABC TV true Stories, Ronin Films - Australian cinema release

Winner of the 1996 Human Rights Award for Media

1997 Critics Honorable Mention - Columbus Film Festival

'This film should be compulsory viewing for every Australian' - Robert Drewe THE AUSTRALIAN

'lifts the lid on postwar race relations in Australia' - THE AGE

1993 HOME OF THE BRAVE

1993 United States International Television Awards, Chicago

Winner - First Prize 'Golden Camera' for Best Documentary

Winner - 'Silver Camera' for Best Social Documentary

1993 International Television Awards, London

Winner - Best Film Soundtrack

1992 Australian Mobie Awards -

Winner - Grand Prix

Winner - Gold Mobie

1992 International Human Rights Awards - Highly Commended Documentary

1991 THE VALLEY

1997 - ABC TV True Stories, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Canada, USA

1992 Atom Awards - Winner - Best Film – Media Resource

1992 United Nations Media Peace Awards - Shortlisted

1992 United Nations North/South Media Award - Shortlisted

1990 THE LAST TALL FORESTS

1990 - AFI release, Country Road - USA, UK Winner - ACF Critics Award - Melbourne Film Festival 1991

1991 Mobie Awards - Highly Commended Documentary

1988 THE TALE OF RUBY ROSE

Theatrical Australia, Canada, US, Germany, France The Nine Network, Fox Television

Venice Film Festival - Main competition 1987 - Critics' Awards

Winner - Francesco Pasinetti Prize for Best Actress

Winner - Elvira Notari Prize for Best Director

Winner - Elvira Notari Prize for Best Actress, SIDP Critics Award

Australian Film Awards 1987 – Winner - Best Music, Best Film, Best Director, Best Music Nominations

Smithsonian Film Premiere, Washington DC. 1987 Santa Barbara Film Festival 1987 Pacific International Film Festival, Tokyo 1988 Indian Film Festival 1988 Australian Film Week, Jakarta, Indonesia 1988 Australian Film Retrospective, Los Angeles 1988 Trento Film Festival - Italy 1989

'a masterly evocation' Christine Cremen, THE AUSTRALIAN

'an artistic gem' Keith Connolly, THE AGE 'intensely poetic and mystical' THE AUSTRALIAN

'a savagely strong portrait' THE AGE 'RUBY ROSE is outstanding', IL GIORNO, ITALY

'visually magnificent – 4 out of 5' David Stratton. THE MOVIE SHOW



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40 River Walk, Toronto, 1050 Toronto, Australia

DOCUMENTARY CONTENT QUESTIONNAIRE

DIRECTOR'S Q & A

QUESTION ONE: What was the inspiration behind this documentary, and how did it come about?

I've known the main characters in this series for many years and in particular I have worked with John Hounslow the knifemaker, on two 3-hour history series for TV - THE HUMAN JOURNEY ABCTV and STORIES FROM THE STONE AGE ABCTV.

John lives in the shadow of Sleeping Beauty mountain in Southern Tasmania. He uses stone age techniques to forge blades from recycled steel. With handles made from antler or bone, and sheaths crafted from local timbers, they're sought after by world class chefs, local hunters and household cooks alike. John played a hunter gatherer and later on an Iron Age bladesmith in the films. His skill with stone and metal, crafting blades for hunting, food preparation and fighting, together with his ability to live the lifestyle of his characters – living rough, using his hands and wits to survive - lead me to consider a film with him – in the real world.

Once I spent time with John, I began meeting his friends and saw a unique community of families who ate fabulous foods, lived rich and varied lives and valued what they knew enough to pass it on to their young ones. In this world, young people were constantly being offered the wisdom of their elders. These people came from across the globe, artists, craftspeople and food producers. Traditional practices continued alongside blended experience. Family craft secrets were traded. Passions were passed on. It's wasn't a fixed ideology, but rather a loose way of living - which offered children a unique opportunity to find mentors.

I began filming 4 years ago and the project took off. At a time when formal apprenticeships are hard to find, when government interest in supporting mentor-based education is at the whim of spins-doctors, small-town communities continue this vital passing on of skills and inspiration to their young.

This is who we are as a human community. Will we, can we, pass on a passion for life and the fight to find a place on the planet - that we can keep? This is our great species endeavour. Poetic? Abstract? No, I don't reckon. No, let's do some making, trading and pass on our passions!!

QUESTION 5 What would your ideal viewer response to the doco be?

I would hope that our viewers enjoy the series, particularly the opportunity each person in the film has given us to visit their lives. It's not a simple thing to allow a film maker to follow you around with a camera for 3 years. I hope viewers are inspired by the zest for life these people have and their desire to pass it on.

QUESTION 6 What is your next project?

CAPE BARREN – an 80 minute dramatized documentary

If television viewers are asked about the history of the Tasmanian Aborigines, two facts are regularly offered.

The first is that almost all Indigenous Tasmanians died of European diseases or were killed by British settlers in the 19th century. And this is largely correct.

The second is that those who survived - Aboriginal women who married British men – they and their children adapted to European colonial life, leaving behind all trace of their own Tasmanian Aboriginal culture.

In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

In film the Palawa Aboriginal People of Cape Barren Island tell the story of their 200 year struggle for survival, as their world was overtaken and changed forever by waves of European settlement.

It is a story that began with the courageous resistance of the stone-age hunter-gatherer Tasmanians against the ever-expanding Europeans who with their gunpowder-savvy iron-age farming culture, had finally reached the Antipodean shores. In the face of ever increasing odds the original Tasmanians tenaciously held onto their culture. They survived a series of bungled Government policies – which at one moment denied their existence, yet at another determined to break up their community. Though stressed by continued misunderstanding in the broader Tasmanian society and the toll recent history has exacted – their identity as a people remains unbroken.

Now, the first Tasmanians want to tell their story. Today, sixteen children make up the small school on remote Cape Barren Island in Bass Strait. Together with their two teachers, an island musician and an artist, they are working to bring back an old island tradition that goes back to the 19th century – the performance of a Christmas Nativity Play - for the 60-odd Tasmanian Aboriginal people that make up the island community. Work on the play awakens a desire among the children and their families to perform a play about the rest of their history.

The Passionate Apprentices Contractual Credits List

Card 1:

Produced in association with (SBS logo)

SBS Independent Commissioning Editor: Jennifer Crone

Card 2:

**Produced with assistance from
Screen Tasmania
(Screen Tasmania logo)**

Card 3

Developed with the Assistance of Australian Film Commission (logo)

Card 4

**Principal Investor:
(FFC logo)**

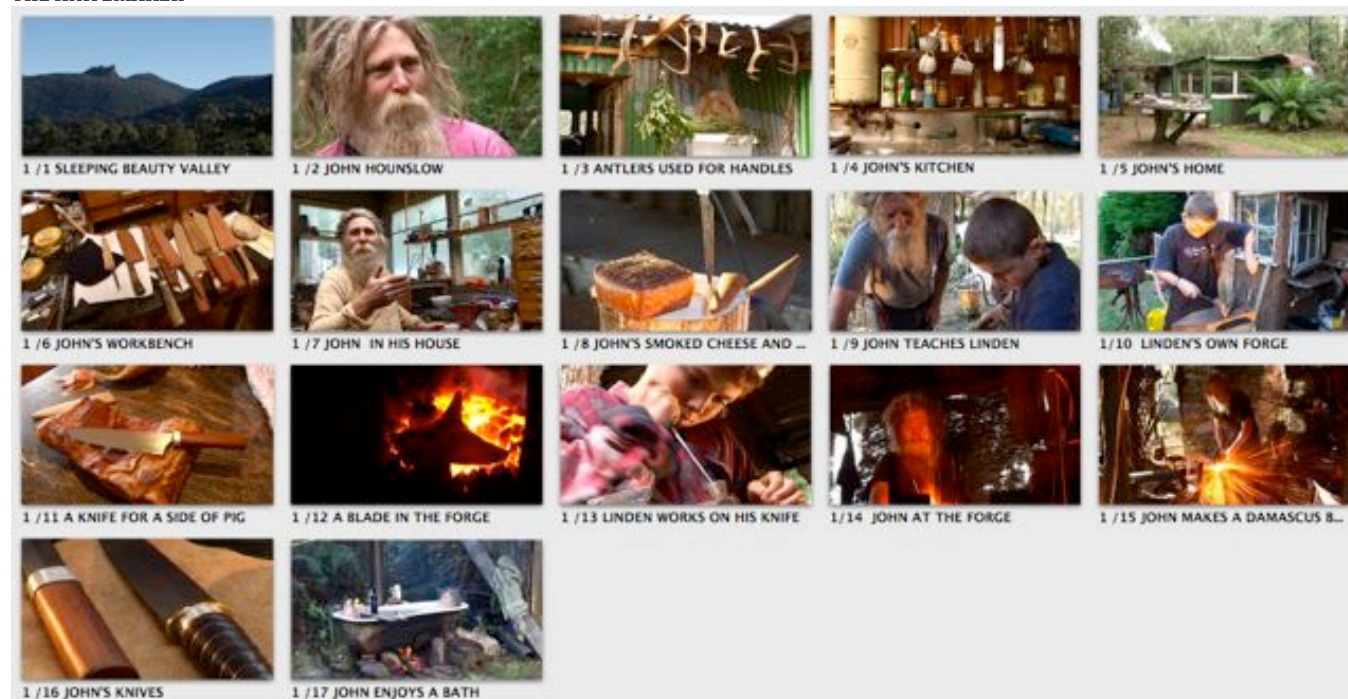
Card 5

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PRODUCTION STILLS GALLERY

THE KNIFEMAKER



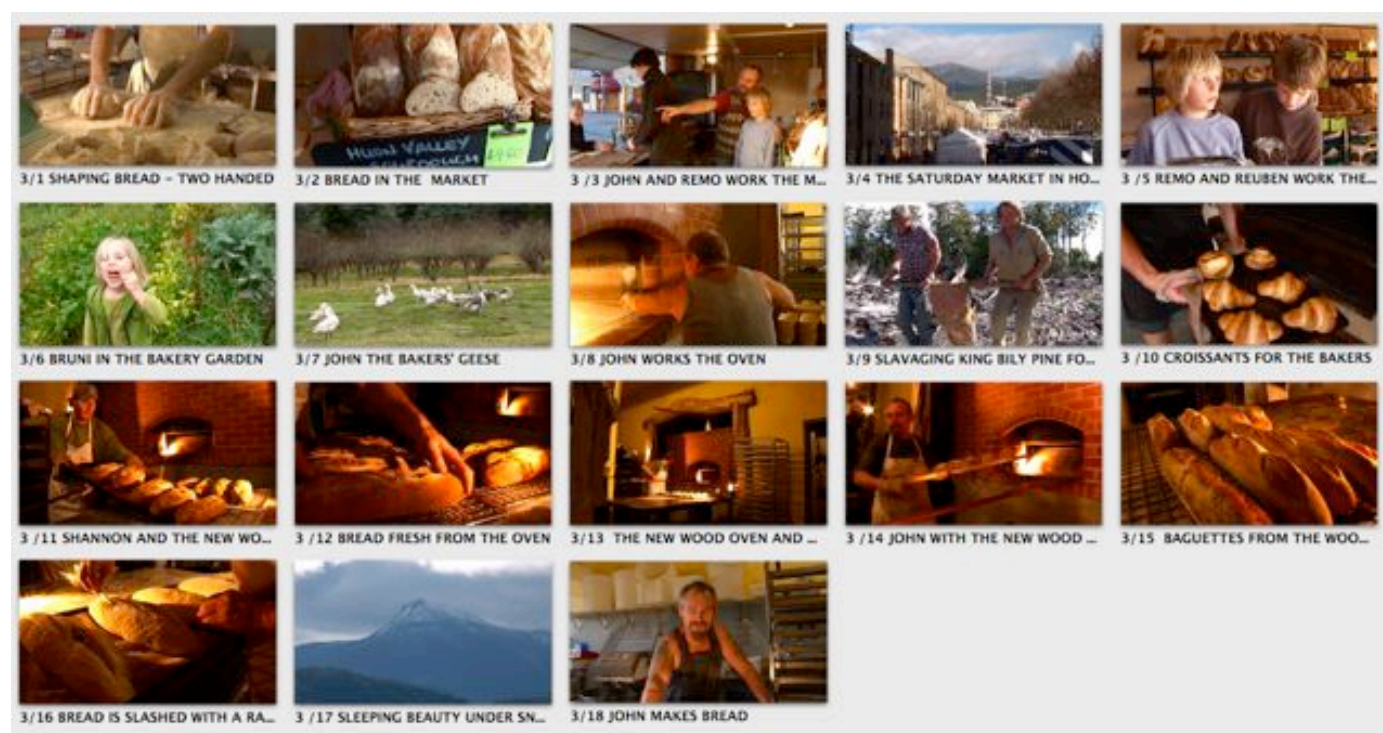
THE BEEKEEPER



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THE BAKERS



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