

Essential Viewing

Produced in association with the Australian Broadcasting Authority

Developed and produced in association with the Indigenous Branch of
the Australian Film Commission

Produced in association with NSW FTO And its Regional Filming Fund

Principal Investor Film Finance Corporation

WHEN THE NATIVES GET RESTLESS

(ABN: 64 510 815 283)

***“When will these whitefellas get it, we not like them, we will never be like
them, we live differently!”...***

Written + Directed by
ADRIAN WILLS

Co Writer + Director

ALBERT HARTNETT

Produced by

MELISSA JOHNSTON

Postal Address:

PO Box 257

Woollahra NSW 1350

melissafri@gmail.com

ph +61 413 613 626

Synopsis - short

On the infamous Gordon Estate in Dubbo, the entire community has been given an eviction notice. Within three years, all their homes will be demolished. In this powerful documentary, the community speaks for the first time about the issues they face and about being black in regional town.

SYNOPSIS

This film is about racism, a housing estate and inequality in a small country town. It is about life, family and overall disadvantage and frustration with not having the opportunities because of the colour of your skin. A small infamous housing estate in Dubbo, NSW, is under demolition. After a riot on New Years Eve 2006, the media dubbed the Gordon Estate the "Redfern of the Bush" and the housing department announced it's order for demolition. This predominantly Aboriginal community opens their doors for the first time, highlighting what they believe is a redneck racist town, where the colour of your skin determines the quality or lack of equality of life.

In a town where drugs, welfare and hopelessness, survives only to challenge the resolve of this community. We look at a white town through black eyes.

Technical specifications

Shooting Gauge: Mini DV

Length: 28 mins

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Screening Format: Digibeta

Duration: 28 minutes

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

This film is the blackfellas answer to 'Cunnamulla'..

"I was drawn toward people who were not officials or spokespersons in the town but who were, instead, emblematic of all the issues that confront and affect people who live in places like Cunnamulla".

-Dennis O'Rourke-

I promise this film will confront you, I promise this film will shock you, I promise this film will spark a strong debate about how Aboriginal people are living in Australia today, but most of all I promise this film will touch you to your inner most core.

On New Years Day, 2006 on the Gordon Estate, Dubbo complaints of Police brutality towards an Aboriginal youth sparked a riot, which immediately enforced the new riot and affray law available to the NSW police. This is where the story begins. Some of the families who have lived on the Gordon Estate for many years called me pleading for me to make a film about their side of the story, what they believe is really going on in Dubbo in relation to Black on White, this story has come from them.

I truly believe that my passion and commitment as a film maker is driven from telling stories like this, stories that challenge a society, stories that challenge an audience to think outside their own worlds if only for a moment. It is vital to give a voice to Aboriginal people so that they can speak for themselves and tell an audience what their lives are really like instead of hearing it from mainstream's columns and TV shows. Mainstream that have never spent a night or any time with the people they are reporting on and giving the audience a crafted point of view, an opinion which they carry on until it is challenged, challenged by a film like this, and stories like this.

The Gordon Estate is a housing estate in Dubbo, regional NSW it is a community in crisis. This film looks at the reality behind closed doors, and for the first time ever we speak with the people who are living the headlines.

“But on the Gordon Estate, where 30 houses have been burnt down in the past 10 years and others have been earmarked for demolition, prospects do not look good” ABC National 2006

When thinking about this project it is important to remember people who are living in the Gordon Estate represent a vast majority of Aboriginal people living in similar conditions all over Australia.

The themes that this film looks at are dispossession, poverty, alcohol and substance abuse and helplessness without a voice. WHEN THE NATIVES GET RESTLESS shows us how our koori youth are continually taunted by the police, it shows how a young family deals with the constant struggle of living on a low income, and having to face attitudes and personal opinions every time they use a Government service, and most importantly we will see what the elders of this community feel are the issues and the future outlook for the generations to come.

Pretty depressing so far, heh! But there is an upshot.

By making a film like this we are addressing the most pivotal role in our country, having a voice. Media and news report on areas like the Gordon Estate continually but never knock on the door and hear it from the “horses mouth”. That is what this film does- it takes the viewer into the homes and lives of the residents of the Gordon Estate and enables them to hear for the first time, their stories from their mouths.

Termed “the Redfern of the bush”, this community is facing demolition on a final scale. There is a call for areas like this, like The Block and like Macquarie Fields to be levelled and problem solved. But what is learnt by moving the problem out further? or by ignoring the fact that the people that live in the Gordon Estate feel that there are a more immediate problem, racism and increasing tension between the black and the white, between rich and poor!

In this film you will meet groups or types of characters that showcase the majority of people that reside in the Gordon Estate, known and named “Vegemite Valley” by the blackfellas, because it is where all the blacks live! In this film we follow a youth who represents the majority of the youth

living in this area, constantly complaining of civil rights being broken, harassment by police, their stories will chill you. We follow young mothers with large families and we look at what issues they deal with between government departments and services when trying to raise a young family. We sit with elders of this community as they speak of what they believe is the problem and potentially what could be the solutions facing their families in a place like the Gordon Estate.

“ We have got to set up an Aboriginal Training organisation in Dubbo, he says. The 18-19 year olds, we have probably lost. We have got to start with the kids”.

It is a controversial film because you may not agree with what the characters are saying or doing but you will hear it from their own mouths. You may believe that your own destiny is created by your own choices you make in life, but is that a reality for Aboriginal people in this country, and you may shake your head in dissolution as their stories are told. But the most important reason for watching this film is that you might actually see that this is really a film and story about every action having a reaction.

I believe that this film gives a voice that is real, a voice that needs to be heard.

The style and look of this film is similar in the intimacy and tone of a Dennis O'Rourke 'Cunnamulla', but it has the raw edge of 'Welcome to Sareajevo'. It is candid and at times pacy, as we travel into the night with the youth, it is shot with no judgement or apology but with humility. Moments of clarity will be intercut with moments of hard reality.

As the director I warmly invite you to sit back and watch out of the comfort of your theatres and lounge rooms to see why "The Natives get restless!"

Reference 1: Remember some of the reviews for Cunnamulla:

*“An amazing, jaw dropping excursion into territory which may not be pretty, but is dreadfully real” **Urban Cinefile***

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Writers (Adrian Wills and Albert Hartnett)

Albert Hartnett and Adrian Wills are brothers, both born in Bourke NSW. Adrian was adopted out to a white family at only three years of age, and grew up in Mosman, Sydney. Albert grew up on the mission at Bourke and on the Gordon Estate in Dubbo. Albert and Adrian were both born in the same world, but lived in complete opposite worlds until meeting again in 1996. This is the first time that they have banded together to make a film, but probably won't be the last. They both have similar political views; Adrian has grown up in a white man's world which gives another unique perspective. Albert and Adrian both have a lot of relations and family living in the Gordon Estate, and so their access and approach to this film will be very intimate, considered and respectful.

Melissa Johnston–(Producer)

Melissa studied at the Australian Film Television & Radio School. After graduating in 2003, she began working for RB Films working on a documentary series UNDER ONE ROOF.

Previous short films include INTO THE NIGHT, winner for best short film screen play at the AFI awards, TITUS THE GREAT, THE EXPLODING WOMAN, and the 30 minute documentary made for the ABC WHEN THE NATIVES GET RESTLESS.

The residence of the Gordon Housing Estate

The Dixon family
The Ebsworth Family
The Shillingsworth Family
The Gibson Family
The Hartnett Family
The Gillon Family

Crew

Director	Adrian Wills
Co – Director	Albert Hartnett
Producer	Melissa Johnston
Director of Photography	Hugh Miller
Sound recordist	Dan Miao
Editor	Andrea Lang a.c.e Suresh Ayyar a.c.e
Production Accountant	Leah Hall
Composer	Christopher O'Young
Music Mixer	Justin Kearin
Sound Design	Andrew Wright
Stills photographer	Simon Cardwell
Marshalls & Dent Lawyers	Shaun Miller
1 st AD	Daniel Syron
Online Intermediate Facility	2 Dogs Post Jeff Parker

Colourist
Frame Set Match Scott Maclean

Sound Facility Soundfirm

Final Mix & Dialogue Editor Andy Wright

Facility Producer Helen Field

FFC Investment Manager Julia Overton

NSW FTO Project Manager Nerida Moore

NSW FTO Administrator,
Development & Investment Karen Telfer

NSW FTO Regional & Industry
Services Officer Michelle Wilde

Australian Film Commission
Head of Development Sally Riley

ABC Legal Services John Millar

Music

“MADMAN”

Written and Performed by Glenn Skuthorpe
Produced by Martin Hailey and Glenn Skuthorpe
Published by Cinnabar Productions

Supervising Producer Catherine Marciniak

Produced in association with the Australian Broadcasting Authority

ABC Commissioning Editor David Jowsey

Developed and produced in association with the Indigenous Branch of
the Australian Film Commission

Project Manager Erica Glynn

Produced in association with NSW FTO And its Regional Filming Fund

Principal Investor FFC
Investment Manager Julia Overton

©2007 Essential Viewing, Melissa Johnston, Adrian Wills & Albert Hartnett,
Film Finance Corporation Australia Limited and the New South Wales Film
and Television Office

Resume
Adrian Wills

mobile 0423 662 987
email rusteddogs@hotmail.com
DOB 21 December 1975

career objective

Having worked across many Entertainment industry areas, Adrian now focuses mostly on Film and Television as a director, in Drama, Documentary and Music Video's.

education, interests and skills

education

- Australian Film Television and Radio School 2001 Graduate Diploma (Directing) 2002 Master (Directing Drama)
- UNSW BA Media and Communications First Year - deferred
- Sydney Opera House Arts Administration Traineeship 1998 - 12 months
- Eora College Chippendale (TAFE) Theatre Arts & Video Production 1997 - 12 months (Drama & Media Department)
- Make-Up Glamour, Bondi Junction Make-Up and Hair Stylist 6 months
- NAISDA Dance and Arts Industry Training
- Sydney Church of England Grammar School (SHORE) Higher School Certificate - 1993

interests

Music, Arts, Film and Drama / Theatre

career history and achievements

ABC Television Messagesticks 2005
Producer Once in a Lifetime
 The Vic Simms Story EP 36 Series 7
 Messagesticks 2005
 The Last Post / Series 8
 Lillian's Crombie - I Will Survive / Series 8
 Glenn Skuthorpe - No Poet Lives by the Rules (Music

Profile)

Australian Film Commission 2005 / 2006

Writer / Director "When the Natives Get Restless"
 Producer: Melissa Johnston
 RB Films 2006

25 Minute Documentary

Writer / Director " Jackie Jackie"
Producer: Kath Shelper
Filmdepot 2006
5 min Drama
"Bitu Black Business Series"

Writer / Director "BUSH WEDDING"
Pine Street Films 2005
52 Minute Documentary
2005 NIDF Documentary Series

ABC Television July 2003 - Oct 2003

Producer/Director MESSAGE STICK, 26min episodes, magazine style series
Bronwyn Bancroft Profile Story
Producing/Directing feature stories, 20min duration

SBS Television Nov 2002 - July 2003

Producer/Director LIVING BLACK, 10 x 26min episode series
3 x feature stories, 10 x segment stories

Australian Film Television & Radio School

Final Project

A SIMPLE SONG
Drama/Musical (17 minutes / 35mm)
Writer/Director

Directing Drama - Masters 2002

INASMUCH
Short Dance Film (10 minute)
Producer

Directing - Graduate Diploma 2001 Drama

Short Documentary Weeping Willow
10 minute MINI DV
Festivals: Flickerfest 2002, St Kilda,
Messagestick - Sydney Opera House Film Festival

Short Film 2001 ARCADIA
7 minute 16mm
A fairytale genre film, about a young boy overcoming
his fear of his father and the "hairyman".

ABC Television "Messagestick" - 2001 Summer
Series 3

other relevant achievements

Writer / Director /
Co-Producer "Dare to Dream"
Short Film (10 minute Digital)
Metro Screen Indigenous Mentorship Scheme 2000
Sponsored by Australian Film Commission

Writer / Director "Angel"
Short Film (5 minutes Digital)
Metro Screen Indigenous Mentorship Scheme 1999
Sponsored by SBS Television

Festivals

Angel – Flickerfest 2000

A Simple Song]

Our Bush Wedding

Messagesticks 2005
Melbourne International Film Festival 2005

When the Natives Get Restless

Messagesticks 2007
Melbourne International Film Festival 2007
Revelation Perth International Film Festival

Awards

Best Original Concept in a Short Film
Tudawali Film and Video Awards 2000

referees

Melissa Johnston Producer sECRET hEADQUARTERS - Sydney Mb:
0413613626

Pat Lovell Producer - "Gallipoli" "Picnic at Hanging Rock" Ph: (02)
9805 6111

David Jowsey Executive Producer - Messagesticks ABC TV Ph: (02)
8333 4153

Ph: 0413 613 626

EMPLOYMENT - FILM AND TELEVISION

2006 WHEN THE NATIVES GET RESTLESS NIDF
"BLACK ON WHITE" Series ABC TV
National Indigenous Documentary Fund 2006
Role: Producer

2006 KATOOMBA - AFC SHORT FILM
Director: Leon Ford Producer: Role: Producer
Winner: 2007 Best Fiction Dendy Awards

2006 ESSENTIAL VIEWING PICTURES
Drama Development Executive

2005 STEPFATHER OF THE BRIDE - Feature Film
Producers: Kylie du Fresne, Ian Collie
Role: Extra's Casting

2005 CANNES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Film Victoria Mentorship Grant. Mentor: Rosemary Blight

2005 GHOST RIDER – Feature Film
Producers: A Rad, M De Luca, G Foster. Sony Pictures
Role: Coordinator's Assistant, 2nd Unit

2004 REMOTE AREA NURSE - MONEYPENNY
Producers: Penny Chapman/Helen Pankhurst
Role: Accounts Assistant

2004 SECRET LIFE OF US Series 4 - MONEYPENNY
Producers: Peter Millington/Ross Allsop
Role: Accounts Assistant

2003 SPAA Mart – Pitching
Director: Duncan Thompson
Role: Assistant/Script evaluation

2003 RB FILMS – (Independent Production Company)
Producers: Rosemary Blight/Kylie du Fresne/Ben Grant
Role: Development of Production Slate

2003 WHITE COLLAR BLUE – (TV Series Channel 10)

EP: Sue Masters

Producers: Steve Knapman/ Kris Wyld

Role: Assistant Accountant

2002 RB FILMS: UNDER ONE ROOF – (Documentary Series & Feature Film Dev)

Producers: Rosemary Blight/Kylie du Fresne

Directors: Kay Pavlou & Ray Argall

Writers: Keith Thompson/Tim Pye

Role: Producer's Assistant/Production Manager

1999 BOOTMEN -(Feature Film)

Producers: Hilary Linstead/Antonia Barnard

Director: Dean Perry

Role: Producer's Assistant / Runner

1999 MY MOTHER FRANK - (Feature Film)

Intrepid Films Pty Ltd

Producers: Phaedon Vass, Susan Vass, John Winter

Director: Mark Lamprell

Role: Runner

1998 THE MATRIX - (Feature Film)

Warner Bros. Worldwide release

Producers: Joel Silver and Andrew Mason

Directors: Larry and Andy Wachowski

Role: Production Assistant responsible for wrapping up the office.

1998 BAYWATCH DOWN UNDER - (Two Hour TV special)

The Down Under Production Company

Producers: Greg Bonann, Graig Kwasizur

Director: Greg Bonann

Role: Production Assistant

1998 THE MATRIX - (Feature Film)

Feature Film: Warner Bros. Worldwide release

Producers: Joel Silver and Andrew Mason

Directors: Larry and Andy Wachowski

Role: Directors Driver, Projectionist, Personal Assistant, and additional 3rd Assistant Director.

1998 TAB - (TVC)

Gas Films

Producer: David Kelly

Role: Props/2nd Assistant Director

2001 Into the Night: 15 minute Drama

Director: Tony Krawitz

Producer: Rachel Clements

Winner Best Screenplay in a Short Fiction Film (Cath Moore), AFI Awards, Australia, 2002

Finalist Best Short Film, AFI Awards, Australia, 2002

Winner Gold Hugo for Best Student Narrative over 15', Chicago International Film Festival, USA, 2002

Winner Best Short Film, Cinéma des Antipodes Film Festival, St Tropez, France, 2002

Winner Merit Award, Shorts Film Festival, Adelaide, Australia, 2003

Festival screenings

"My Queer Career", Mardi Gras Film Festival, Sydney, Australia, 2002

San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, USA, 2002

Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia, 2002

Locarno International Film Festival, Switzerland, 2002

North Carolina Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, USA, 2002

Mill Valley Film Festival, USA, 2002

Reel Affirmations Film Festival, Washington, USA, 2002

AFI Awards, Australia, 2002

Chicago International Film Festival, USA, 2002

Image+Nation Film Festival, Montreal, Canada, 2002

Sacramento Film Festival, USA, 2002

Cinéma des Antipodes Film Festival, St Tropez, France, 2002

Camerimage International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography, Torun, Poland, 2002

Bilbao Film Festival, Spain, 2002

Exposures Film Festival, Manchester, UK, 2002

Flickerfest, Sydney, Australia, 2003

Shorts Film Festival, Adelaide, Australia, 2003

2001 Versus: 10 minute Drama

Director: Chris Houghton

Winner of the Kodak Award

Festival Screenings

Brief Encounters, Bristol, UK, 2002
2001

2001 Lillian & I: 7 minute Drama

Director: Jonathan Wald

Winner Silver Award (Kerri-Lee Hammelswang), Student category,
ACS (NSW) Awards, Australia, 2002

Festival screenings

Mill Valley Film Festival, USA, 2002

My Queer Career, Mardi Gras Film Festival, Sydney, Australia, 2003

Newport Beach Film Festival, USA, 2003

Philadelphia International Film Festival, USA, 2003

Golden Gate Awards, San Francisco International Film Festival, USA, 2003

Worldfest, Houston, USA, 2003

2001 Born to Bungie: 30 sec TVC

Director: Andrew Murray

2000 The Exploding Woman: short animation

Director: Nancy Allan (MA Digital Media)

Nominated AFI, Best short animation.

2000 Titus the Great: 7 min Drama

Director: Jennifer Perrott

Winner of the ATLAB Australia Award

2000 Scar Stories: Documentary

Director: Jennifer Perrott

Co-Producer

1999 Sydney Film Festival Trailer

Producer/Director: Kate Riedl

Associate Producer

1998 Let's Wait: short drama

Producer: Kate Riedl, Writer/Director: Stephen Sewell

REFERENCES

Antonia Barnard

Ph: 0418 471 799

Email: abarnard1@bigpond.com

Rosemary Blight

Ph: 0408 819 550

Email: rosemary@evg.com.au

Hilary Linstead

Ph: 0414 596 920