Mabo

Media Kit

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As at 14.4.12
The true story of the love that sustained one man’s epic battle to change a nation.

A two-hour film for ABC TV

"My wife is the most important person in my life, has stuck by me over many hardships and hurdles in life but somehow we made it, perhaps better than others. To me my wife has been the most adorable person, a friend closest in my life, a most wonderful lover, and we loved every minute of our lives together."

Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo
Behind his fight for justice, was a love that would fight for him.

In 1973 Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo was shocked to discover that the ownership of the land his ancestors had passed down on Murray Island in The Torres Strait Islands for over 16 generations, was not legally recognised as theirs.

Rather than accept this injustice, he began an epic fight for Australian law to recognise traditional land rights. Eddie never lived to see his land returned to him, but the name Mabo is known in every household throughout the country.

In January 1992, at only 55, Eddie died of cancer. Five months later the High Court overturned the notion of terra nullius. Underscoring this epic battle is Eddie’s relationship with his wife Bonita. MABO is as much a love story as a document of one man’s fight to retain what he believed was legally his.

MABO traces Eddie’s life - from a carefree young man of seventeen, through his courtship and marriage to his one true love, up to his death and the handing down of the High Court decision on that historic day - 3rd June 1992.
# Key Cast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Actor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo</td>
<td>Jimi Bani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonita Mabo</td>
<td>Deborah Mailman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan Keon-Cohen</td>
<td>Ewen Leslie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg McIntyre</td>
<td>Tom Budge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benny Mabo</td>
<td>Charles Passi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Killoran</td>
<td>Rob Carlton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice Moynihan</td>
<td>Colin Friels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret White</td>
<td>Miranda Otto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Castan</td>
<td>Felix Williamson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noel Loos</td>
<td>Matthew Whittet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Reynolds</td>
<td>Leon Ford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maiga Mabo</td>
<td>Merwez Whaleboat</td>
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## KEY CREATIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writer</strong></td>
<td>Sue Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Director</strong></td>
<td>Rachel Perkins</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Producers</strong></td>
<td>Darren Dale Miranda Dear</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Casting</strong></td>
<td>Anousha Zarkesh</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Director of Photography</strong></td>
<td>Andrew Commis ACS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Production Designer</strong></td>
<td>Felicity Abbott APDG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Editor</strong></td>
<td>Rochelle Oshlack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Composer</strong></td>
<td>Antony Partos</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Costume Designer</strong></td>
<td>Margot Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hair &amp; Make Up Designer</strong></td>
<td>Anita Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supervising Sound Editors</strong></td>
<td>Wes Chew Luke Mynott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Producers</strong></td>
<td>Carole Sklan David OgilvySally Riley</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural Consultants</strong></td>
<td>Gail Mabo Charles Passi</td>
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Mabo

About The Production

Marking the twentieth anniversary of the historic High Court decision, MABO is the story of one of Australia’s national heroes: Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo - the Torres Strait Islander who, despite leaving school at fifteen, spearheaded the High Court challenge that once and for all overthrew the fiction of terra nullius.

MABO is also the tender love story of Eddie and Bonita - the woman he met as a teenager, and loved over three decades and the raising of ten children. It tells of the deep love and partnership that fuelled their unflagging fight to change the face of Australia forever.

Written by Sue Smith (Bastard Boys, RAN, Brides of Christ), and directed by Rachel Perkins (Bran Nue Dae, First Australians, One Night The Moon), the film traces Eddie's life, through his early exile from his beloved Murray Island, to his years of working on the trochus trawlers and the outback railways as a blackfella in a whitefella world - to his eventual decision to embrace activism.

The largely unknown true tale tells of Eddie’s struggles to begin a school specifically for Aboriginal and Islander children, and then of the acute pain of rejection by the gatekeepers of his own homeland, Murray Island.
Considered a “troublemaker” by the white authorities, Eddie found that when he applied to return to Murray to visit his dying father, the Murray Island Council denied him entry – not once, but four times.

But Eddie was not cowed, and when he learns, to his horror, that the Mabo family land on Murray Island, (that has been passed down over 16 generations) is not legally his - and is in fact legally gazetted as Crown Land - Eddie resolves to fight. This propels him into a life or death struggle against three mighty foes: the Queensland Government, the Commonwealth Government (as well as the Opposition), and the fear and conservatism of the authorities on Murray Island itself. So began the David and Goliath battle to get Australian law to recognise traditional land rights. The ten-year struggle came at great personal cost to both him and his family.

Eddie, his fellow plaintiffs, their supporters and their legal team had shockingly few financial resources. The all-powerful Queensland Government used every tactic in its arsenal to defeat them. Yet year after year the struggle went on – with Eddie feeding his family with fish from the river and yams from a secret veggie patch he built in the bush - all the while giving his money, his strength, his health and, ultimately, his life to the titanic battle.

Following their award winning production First Australians, it became apparent to award winning Indigenous production company BlackFella Films that the little known story of the love that sustained Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo’s epic battle had to be told.

It is true and fitting that the film be directed by one of Australia’s leading filmmakers Rachel Perkins - herself the daughter of renowned and respected Indigenous activist Charles Perkins AO. Rachel with her business partner - producer Darren Dale, and fellow producer Miranda Dear approached the ABC who immediately commissioned the making of the film with assistance from Screen Queensland and Screen NSW.

In research, writer Sue Smith spent extended periods of time with Eddie’s family, and specifically Bonita - hearing the many stories of what went on at home and behind the scenes of Eddie’s epic fight.
With her recollections and many tales, Bonita’s contribution, as well as the support of the entire Mabo family, has made the telling of this powerful story not only very true, but extraordinarily real. Both Eddie’s eldest daughter Gail Mabo and Charles Passi, the son of Eddie’s friend and co-complainant Dave Passi, came on board as cultural consultants - assisting the production with knowledge and guidance as well as sourcing many of the extras, singers, dancers and actual personal items to dress the Mabo home.

The project attracted the who’s who of the Australian acting fraternity - all wanting to participate in what many believe is one of Australia’s greatest stories. As a result MABO features an outstanding ensemble cast including Jimi Bani (The Straits, RAN) as Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo, Deborah Mailman (Offspring, Rush, The Secret Life of Us) as his wife Bonita, alongside Colin Friels (The Eye of the Storm, Bastard Boys), Miranda Otto (The Lord Of The Rings: The Return Of The King, Cashmere Mafia, South Solitary), Rob Carlton (Paper Giants, Underbelly: The Golden Mile, Chandon Pictures), Ewen Leslie (Love My Way, Kokoda) Leon Ford (The Pacific, Beneath Hill 60), and Tom Budge (Bran Nue Dae, The Pacific, East of Everything).

The film also called for literally hundreds of extras, and with that, serendipity played a major part. Many of the Mabo family members happily volunteered to participate - with eldest son Eddie Mabo Jnr walking along side Jimi Bani’s Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo in the May Day march, Gail Mabo as the woman who tells Deborah Mailman’s Bonita there is a man to see her during the wedding, daughter Celuia as one of the party extras in the wedding scene, and Bonita Mabo herself in the church scene at the beginning of the film.

As the film spans three decades, the Mabo children were played at various ages by many of the descendants of Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo. In a twist of fate when the little boy who was to play the youngest version of Eddie Mabo Jnr was unable to at the last moment, an urgent call was made to family members and Eddie’s great nephew Luis (aged just 3) stepped in with only 30 minutes notice.
With the real Eddie Mabo Jnr looking on, Luis wowed cast and crew alike and his astonishing debut can be seen where ‘Eddie Mabo Jnr’ accidentally swallows kerosene and the ensuing scenes of rejection from the hotel in the middle of the film.

To further cement family involvement, the film’s stills photographer Matt Nettheim doubled as his father Garth Nettheim with the real Noel Loos in the lecture scenes at James Cook University, and Charles Passi, acted not only as a cultural consultant, but also beautifully portrayed the role of Eddie’s father Benny throughout the film.

Beautifully shot on the picturesque Murray Island, and in Townsville, Magnetic Island, Brisbane and Canberra, by director of photography Andrew Commis (The Slap, Beautiful Kate), a creative decision was made to use 16 mm film to both give the production a filmic quality as well as do absolute justice to the spectacular landscape, sea and skies of the Torres Strait. As original footage of the era was shot on 16 mm, shooting on film also allowed seamless editing of actual news footage into the final production.

Many of the locations used in the film were the actual places where the action occurred - with scenes shot at the Black Community School Eddie and Bonita established in Townsville; in the gardens of James Cook University where Eddie worked as a gardener, in the actual lecture theatre where he gave his first lecture, and most notably in the exact Brisbane court room where the original legal battle took place. To ensure authenticity, production designer Felicity Abbott drew upon the family’s recollections for the design of the Mabo family home in Hibiscus Street, with original Eddie Mabo paintings adorning the walls, and actual family photos and paraphernalia dressing the set.

One of Australia’s leading costume designers Margot Wilson (Bran Nue Dae, The Road, Proposition, The Thin Red Line, Japanese Story) designed and had made 25 individual dresses and outfits for Deborah Mailman’s Bonita Mabo with each outfit faithfully representing the fashion of the 60s, 70s and 80s.
With many of the actors undertaking research into their real life characters, families of those they were playing were actively involved - with the daughter of Ron Castan loaning Felix Williamson the actual robes her father wore during the historic court case for him to wear in the film.

As both Jimi Bani and Deborah Mailman took their characters from their late teens to early fifties, three period looks were designed for each of the actors with wigs and make up assisting in the transformation.

So alike were they to the historically recognisable Eddie and Bonita, that Jimi ensured that Eddie Mabo Jnr was with him whilst the finishing touches were being put on to the third and final look for the first time. It was during that process that Eddie Jnr assisted with the placement of the grey on the wigs and beard ensuring that Jimi’s depiction of his father was all the more real.

With music being such an important part of the Torres Strait Islander culture, multi award winning composer Antony Partos (The Slap, Animal Kingdom, Unfinished Sky, Homesong Stories), conducted extensive research into authentic music from the area and the era. Travelling to the Torres Strait, and Murray Island specifically, he worked with local musicians and singers in the creation of the outstanding soundtrack that accompanies the film.
Wanting to be true to the sounds of the island, Partos eschewed a studio recording, and recorded the songs in situ on set during the filming. One such song was that performed during the opening sequence of the film, where Jimi Bani as the young Eddie participates in a traditional dance during the ill fated communal celebration - a song which is later heard during the haunting moments of his abject homesickness later in the film. Utilising instruments indigenous to the Torres Strait including the large drum known as the warup, as well as voices and strings, Partos has underscored the film beautifully.

Produced by Darren Dale and Miranda Dear, executive produced by the ABC’s David Ogilvy, Carole Sklan and Sally Riley, written by Sue Smith, photography by Andrew Commis, music by Antony Partos and beautifully directed by Rachel Perkins, MABO is an iconic story in the tradition of great Australian tales – how a man and his wife and mates profoundly changed the nation with the bloody-minded belief that the truth would prevail.
ABOUT BLACKFELLA FILMS

For twenty years Blackfella Films has created innovative and high quality content across documentary and narrative in both short and feature formats for theatrical, television and online platforms. Its award winning productions have distinguished its team as creators and curators of distinctive Australian content.

The company was founded in 1992 by writer/director/producer Rachel Perkins who was joined by producer Darren Dale in 2002. In 2010 Blackfella Films was a recipient of Enterprise Funding from Screen Australia. In 2011 Rachel Perkins and Darren Dale as directors of Blackfella Films were ranked number 16 in the Encore Power 50. In 2010, former ABC Head of Fiction, Miranda Dear joined Blackfella Films as producer on the company’s drama slate.

A standout achievement for the company was the award-winning documentary series First Australians, which was awarded Australia’s top honours for documentary including the AFI and IF Awards, the UN Media Peace Prize, TV Week Logie and Screen Writers and Directors Guild of Australia Awards. First Australians has sold throughout the world and is the highest selling educational title in Australia.

The feature documentary The Tall Man, produced by Darren Dale with executive producer Rachel Perkins, received the inaugural Walkley Award for Documentary and was nominated for four AACTA Awards including Best Feature Documentary. It was released in cinemas nationally in November 2011 and was shown on SBS in February this year. In 2012, Blackfella Films is producing the 6 x 55 minute drama series Redfern Now for the ABC, developed in collaboration with renowned UK scriptwriter Jimmy McGovern.

In addition to its film and television productions, from 2002 -2011 the company produced the annual Indigenous Film Festival Message Sticks at the Sydney Opera House which toured to 13 venues nationally, and reached an audience of 15,000 Australians.

Rachel Perkins has been a board member of Screen Australia since 2009 and prior to that was a Commissioner of the Australian Film Commission from 2004 to 2008. Darren Dale is a member of the board of Screen NSW and the Council of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School.
JIMI BANI is EDDIE ‘KOIKI’ MABO

A graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Jimi Bani’s credits include the SBS series RAN (Remote Area Nurse) which was shot in northern Australia, and most recently a leading role in the ABC drama The Straits directed by Peter Andrikidis, Rowan Woods and Rachel Ward.

Since graduating from WAAPA he has performed in several theatrical plays including the lead role in Jandamarra for Black Swan Theatre Company in WA, Romeo and Juliet for the Sydney Theatre Company, Yibiyung for Company B Belvoir in association with Malthouse Theatre in Melbourne, and Krakouer! for Deckchair Theatre in Perth. He has also performed in the theatrical play The Sapphires, for both the Black Swan Theatre Company and Company B, touring to both London and Korea.

Jimi has received acclaim for his performances, including a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor for Yibiyung and a WA Equity Foundation Award nomination for Best Actor for his performance in Jandamarra.
One of Australia’s most celebrated actors Deborah Mailman received national acclaim in 1998 winning both the AFI and Film Critics’ Circle Award for Most Outstanding Actress for her portrayal of ‘Nona’ in the film *Radiance*. Since then she has worked extensively in film, television and theatre and is most recognised for her role as ‘Kelly’ in the television series *The Secret Life of Us*.

Currently filming the third season of Southern Star’s highly acclaimed production *Offspring*, Deborah’s other television credits include lead guest roles in *Rush*, *The Alice* and Bryan Brown’s *Two Twisted*. Deb was also a regular television presenter, hosting *Playschool* and *Message Sticks* for the ABC and Lonely Planet’s *Going Bush* with Catherine Freeman for SBS.

*MABO* is Deb’s third collaboration with director Rachel Perkins, having also appeared in *Bran Nue Dae* and *Radiance*. Deborah’s extensive film credits include *Dear Claudia*, *The Monkey’s Mask*, Phillip Noyce’s *Rabbit Proof Fence*, Ana Kokkinos’ *The Book of Revelation*, and *Lucky Miles*. In 2011 Deborah completed production of PJ Hogan’s *Mental* and Wayne Blair’s *The Sapphires*, both due for release this year.

Deborah’s most recent theatre credits include the role of *Antigone* for Company B and performances in *Mother Courage and her Children*, *The Lost Echo*, *The Bourgeois Gentlemen* and *Tales from Vienna Woods* for the STC Actors Company. Other credits include *As You Like It*, *The Small Poppies*, *Aliwa*, and *The Sapphires* for Belvoir St Theatre, Barrie Kosky’s production of *King Lear* for Bell Shakespeare, *One Woman’s Song* and *Radiance* for QTC and *The Taming of the Shrew* for La Boite Theatre. Her one woman show *The Seven Stages of Grieving* co–devised with director Wesley Enoch, toured both nationally and internationally to the London International Festival of Theatre and Zurich Arts Festival to critical acclaim.

Deborah recently made her directorial debut with the short film *Ralph* which premiered at the 2009 *Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival* and won *The Holding Redlich IF Award* for Best Short Film in the same year.

Deborah’s outstanding performances have been acknowledged, amongst many others, with two TV Week Silver Logie Awards for Most Outstanding Actress in a television series for *The Secret Life of Us*, the Matilda Award for her stage performances in both *Radiance* and *The Seven Stages of Grieving*, the Helpmann Award for Best Supporting Actress in the STC production of *The Lost Echo*, a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Actress in the theatre production of *The Sapphires*; the 2007, 2010 and 2011 Deadly Award for Best Female Actor and in 2003 was named NAIDOC Person of the Year. Deborah was the recipient of the 2010 InStyle Women of Style Award for her contribution to Arts and Culture. In 2010 Deborah won AFI Awards for her roles in *Offspring* and *Bran Nue Dae*. 
COLIN FRIELS

One of Australia’s best-known actors, Colin Friels has extensive Australian film credits including the crime comedy Malcolm (1986) - a role that earned him the Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award for Best Actor and remains one of his best loved roles; A Heartbeat Away (2010); Tomorrow When The War Began (2009); Matching Jack (2009); The Informant (2007); The Nothing Men (2007); Tom White (2003) for which he was nominated for an Inside Film Award and Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award; director Mark Joffe’s hit comedy The Man Who Sued God (2001) with Judy Davis and Billy Connolly; Alex Proyas’ sci-fi thriller Dark City (1998), the critically acclaimed Angel Baby (1995); the heart-warming Cosi (1996), which also stars Toni Collette and Rachel Griffiths, Rolf de Heer’s Dingo (1991), Gillian Armstrong’s High Tide (1988), the Maralinga story Ground Zero (1987); the adaptation of the D.H. Lawrence classic Kangaroo (1986), and the critically acclaimed adaptation of author Helen Garner’s Monkey Grip (1982) with Noni Hazlehurst. Most recently Colin has appeared in The Eye of the Storm (2011) alongside Judy Davis, Geoffrey Rush and Charlotte Rampling.

Colin’s international films include Bruce Beresford’s A Good Man in Africa (1994); A Class Action (1991), in which he stars opposite Gene Hackman; Spider-Man director, Sam Raimi’s Darkman (1990); and Prisoners (1981), opposite Tatum O’Neal.

Very well known to television audiences in Australia, in the 1990s Colin spent several years on screen in one of his familiar roles as Frank Holloway in the popular television series Water Rats, a role that earned him the 1998 People’s Choice Award for Best Actor in a Television Drama. In more recent years Colin again appeared in a leading role in the Network 10 series of tele-movies Blackjack, Killing Time alongside David Wenham, Wild Boys and the soon to be released ABC tele-movie Jack Irish: Bad Debts alongside Guy Pearce.

Other memorable television appearances include Halifax fp (for which he received the 1995 AFI Award for Best Actor in a Television Drama); the 2001 ABC miniseries The Farm, with Greta Scacchi; Stark (1993), based on Ben Elton’s novel of the same name, and My Husband My Killer (2001). Included in Colin’s work on stage are his performances for the Sydney Theatre Company in the successful 2002 production of Copenhagen; Judy Davis’ production of The School For Scandal in 2001, the title role in Macbeth (1999); and Richard Wherrett’s 1994 production of The Temple. Colin has most recently appeared on stage opposite Bryan Brown in the Sydney Theatre Company production of Zebra.

COLIN FRIELS is JUSTICE MOYNIHAN

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MIRANDA OTTO is MARGARET WHITE

Recognised internationally as the Warrior Princess Eowyn from Peter Jackson’s acclaimed Lord of the Rings Trilogy, Miranda Otto is also known for her role in the Steven Spielberg remake of War Of The Worlds, in which she stars with Tom Cruise and Tim Robbins.

Miranda’s other film credits include the critically acclaimed New Zealand drama In My Father’s Den, the action/adventure The Flight Of The Phoenix, opposite Giovanni Ribisi, What Lies Beneath and The Thin Red Line. Miranda also played a scheming Frenchwoman in Charlie Kaufman’s Human Nature.

Her other credits include the title role in Julie Walking Home for renown female Polish director Agnieszka Holland, the English thriller Doctor Sleep opposite ER’s Goran Visnjic, and Italian director Sandro Dionisio’s La Volpe A Tre Zampe (The Three Legged Fox).

It was at home in Australia that Miranda first made her mark. Shortly after graduating from the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Art, she starred in The Last Days Of Chez Nous directed by the highly acclaimed Gillian Armstrong, Love Serenade which won the 1996 Caméra d’Or at Cannes and The Well which screened in competition in the following year. Miranda’s other Australian credits include The Nostradamus Kid, True Love And Chaos, Doing Time For Patsy Cline, Dead Letter Office and In The Winter Dark. Miranda also teamed up with her Human Nature co-star Rhys Ifans for the romantic comedy Danny Deckchair.

Miranda’s latest Australian films include Blessed by acclaimed Australian director Anna Kokkinos, and South Solitary directed by Camera d’Or winning director Shirley Barrett, which premiered on opening night of the 2010 Sydney International Film Festival. In 2011, Miranda appeared in the Steven Spielberg produced pilot, Locke & Key, which screened at the 2011 San Diego Comic-Con International.
EWEN LESLIE is BRYAN KEON-COHEN


Ewen was a member of the STC’s Actors Company in 2008 and performed in *The War Of The Roses, Gallipoli* and *The Serpent’s Teeth*. Other theatre credits include *Paul* (Company B), *Riflemind* (STC), *Dead Caesar* (STC–Push Production), *Shakespearealism* (The Naked Theatre Co.), *Cross Sections* (Tamarama Rock Surfers Co.) and *This Blasted Earth* (Old Fitzroy Theatre).

Ewen’s film credits include *Sleeping Beauty, Three Blind Mice, Katoomba, Kokoda* and *Jewboy*. He will next be seen in Tony Krawitz *Dead Europe*.


In 2010 he received the Helpmann Award and the Green Room Award for Best Actor for *Richard III* and a Sydney Theatre Award and Helpmann Award for his performance in *The War Of The Roses* in 2009. Ewen also received an AFI nomination for his performance in *Jewboy* in 2005.
TOM BUDGE

Tom Budge made his feature film debut in Paul Goldman’s *Australian Rules*, and since then has appeared in numerous films including *Bran Nue Dae* directed by Rachel Perkins, John Hillcoat’s *The Proposition*, *Kokoda*, *$9.99*, Neil Armfield’s *Candy* and *The Honourable Wally Norman*.

Receiving an AFI Nomination for *Best Supporting Actor* for his performance in *Last Train to Freo*, Tom has also appeared in the outstanding television production *The Pacific* and the ABC series *East of Everything*. 
One of Australia's most outstanding actors, Rob Carlton has starred in a long list of Australian television series including *Underbelly III - The Golden Mile*, *Chandon Pictures*, *The Hollowmen*, *All Saints*, *Blue Heelers*, *Water Rats*, *Roar*, *A Country Practice* and *E Street*. His recent portrayal of Kerry Packer in *Paper Giants – The Birth of Cleo* has been heralded by critics and audiences alike.

With feature film credits including *Any Questions For Ben*, *Strange Bedfellows*, *You Can’t Stop the Murders*, *Muggers*, and *The Year My Voice Broke*, Rob will be seen in the upcoming *Mental* due for release later this year.

A graduate of Sydney University in English Literature, Rob is also a producer, director and writer. His production company *Shadowfax TV* produced two series of the award winning comedy *Chandon Pictures*, seen on both Movie Extra and ABC TV. Rob co-directed as well as taking creator, writer and acting credits in the series. *Chandon Pictures* is now shown in over 15 territories around the world, including the USA and UK. Both *Chandon Pictures* and Rob Carlton have been nominated for numerous awards for the show, with Rob winning the *Australian Writers Guild Award* for Best Narrative Comedy in 2008. Rob’s play *A-Framed* was first produced by his production company in 1998 to critical and box office success. *A-Framed* has since been produced in Sydney and Melbourne by various theatre companies.

In February 2006, Rob’s short film *Carmichael and Shane*, which he starred in, co-directed and co-produced, won Tropfest. Rob won Best Actor at the Festival for his performance both in his own film and as the lead actor in the film *How Many Doctors Does it Take to Change a Lightbulb* which won Best Comedy at the Festival the same year.

In 2012 Rob will be seen in the new Jungleboys comedy series *The Christmas* on ABC TV.
FELIX WILLIAMSON is RON CASTAN

One of Australia’s most versatile actors, Williamson has an incredibly diverse list of credits spanning the last two decades, having worked with many of the country’s foremost directors including Cherie Nowlan, Stephan Elliott, Dr. George Miller, David Caesar and Baz Luhrmann.

Career highlights include the television productions *Underbelly: Razor, Lost, My Brother Jack, Farscape, Go Big, Ran: Remote Area Nurse*, the international production *Me and My Monsters* and *Hawke* in which he portrayed former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating. Felix will shortly be seen in *Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries*.

His many feature film credits include, *Welcome To Woop Woop, The Thin Red Line, Babe II, Strange Planet, Me Myself and I, Mr. Accident, Dirty Deeds, The Rage in Placid Lake, The Wannabes* and *Happy Feet*. Felix is currently working with a stellar international cast on the feature *The Great Gatsby*.

A graduate of NIDA, Williamson has also starred in theatrical productions for Sydney Theatre Company, State Theatre of SA, Bell Shakespeare, Railway Street Theatre, Group Theatre Company and Naked Theatre Company, where he has also directed several productions.
Leon Ford impressed audiences and critics in his portrayal of Hamlet in John Bell’s 2003 production. His performance earned him a Green Room nomination for Best Male Actor in a Leading Role.

Leon has appeared in several other Bell Shakespeare productions including The Soldier’s Tale (presented with the Australian Chamber Orchestra), Hippolytus, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Henry V and Henry IV Parts I & II. He has worked with a number of other major theatre companies including the Griffin Theatre Company (Presence) and the Melbourne Theatre Company (Macbeth).

Leon’s television performances include the Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks mini-series The Pacific, the Golden Globe nominated HBO mini-series Tsunami: The Aftermath and Hex for Sky UK. He has played lead roles in the telemovies Go Big, Stepfather of the Bride and Emerald Falls and the Penny Chapman-produced series The Cooks for Channel Ten. He also starred in ABC TV’s critically acclaimed Changi.


Leon has published one novel, the critically acclaimed What Doesn’t Kill You and is the writer and director of the feature film Griff, The Invisible, starring Ryan Kwanten, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in 2010 and opened the Generation section of Berlinale in 2011. The film opened to rave reviews in Australia and had a limited theatrical release in the US in August 2011.
An independent director and producer, Rachel Perkin’s Australian Aboriginal heritage (Arrernte/Kalkadoon nations) has informed her filmmaking in documentary and drama over her twenty year career. She has been an executive producer at SBS and ABC TV and has directed three dramatic features: **Radiance**, **One Night the Moon** and **Bran Nue Dae**. Her most recent feature **Bran Nue Dae** (2010), which she both directed and co-wrote. **Bran Nue Dae** screened at Sundance, Berlin and Toronto Film Festivals and achieved a box office of $7.5m in Australia. Rachel’s films have screened at over 75 film festivals around the world.

Her most recent documentary work, the seven-hour series **First Australians** (2009), which she wrote, directed and co-produced, was awarded Australia’s top documentary honours including the AFI and IF Awards, UN Media Peace Prize, TV Week Logie, Screen Writers and Directors Guild of Australia Awards.

Most recently, Rachel was honoured to receive the inaugural **Contribution To Television IF Award** at the 2011 Jameson IF Awards.

**First Australians** has sold throughout the world and is the highest selling educational title in Australia.

Rachel’s other documentary productions include the series **Blood Brothers** on which she was one of the writers, directors and producers as well as **Spirit to Spirit** - an international co-venture of indigenous partners from New Zealand, Scandinavia, Canada and Australia.
DARREN DALE

Darren Dale has been a company director of Blackfella Films, Australia's premier Indigenous production company, for over ten years. In 2008 Darren, together with Rachel Perkins, produced the landmark multi-platform history series First Australians, broadcast on SBS to over 2.3 million viewers and accompanied by an internationally acclaimed interactive website. Amongst First Australians many accolades were AFI, TV Week Logie, AWGIE and Director’s Guild Awards.

In 2011, Darren produced the feature documentary The Tall Man for SBS, based on the award-winning book by Chloe Hooper. Premiering at the 2011 Adelaide Film Festival, the film screened at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) and was awarded the AWGIE Award for Best Broadcast Documentary, the inaugural Walkley Award for Documentary and received 4 AACTA nominations including Best Feature Documentary. The Tall Man was released theatrically by Hopscotch Films in November 2011.

Darren has produced a number of acclaimed short films and documentaries that between them have screened at the Sundance, Aspen, Edinburgh, Toronto and Palm Springs International Film Festivals. The 2010 SBS documentary Lani’s Story was the recipient of a United Nations Media Peace Award, the second consecutive year Darren was awarded this prize.

With his Blackfella Films business partner, Rachel Perkins, Darren co-curated the film program for the Message Sticks Indigenous Festival at the Sydney Opera House from 2002 until 2011. Currently in production, in collaboration with Emmy Award-winning UK writer Jimmy McGovern, is Redfern Now, the first drama series on Australian television to be written, produced and directed by Indigenous Australians which will air on the ABC late in 2012.

Darren currently serves on the board of Screen NSW and the Council of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School.
MIRANDA DEAR PRODUCER

Producer Miranda Dear began her career with UK public broadcaster Channel 4 Television moving from Music & Arts through to Acquisitions where she became Senior Film Buyer. In 1997 she moved to Australia as Acquisition and Production Consultant and negotiated the Channel’s involvement in a number of film funding and acquisition initiatives.

In 2000 Miranda joined SBS Independent as Senior Commissioning Editor Drama. Her commissions included Harvie Krumpet, RAN (Remote Area Nurse), and the first long form drama features from directors Jessica Hobbs, Tony Krawitz, Rachel Ward and Matthew Saville (So Close to Home, Jewboy, Martha’s New Coat and Roy Hollsdotter Live). She was the SBS Commissioning Editor for the feature films Look Both Ways, Ten Canoes, Somersault, Australian Rules, Walking on Water, and Tracker. And also for a number Indigenous drama initiatives which included Warwick Thornton’s Mimi and Green Bush, Beck Cole’s Flat and Plain’s Empty, and Wayne Blair’s Black Talk and Djarn Djarns.

In 2005 Miranda joined ABC TV first as an Executive Producer and then as Head of Drama. There she executive produced a number of programs including Rake, Sisters of War, 3 Acts of Murder, Curtin, Dirt Game, Bed of Roses, The Librarians, Rain Shadow, East of Everything, Bastard Boys, Valentine’s Day, and The Silence. She was the ABC commissioning editor for the feature films Samson & Delilah, Bran Nue Dae, Here I Am and Eye of the Storm and the short film series The New Black. And she also commissioned the series The Slap, The Straits, Paper Giants and Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries.

Since 2010 Miranda has worked with Blackfella Films and is currently in production for the new 6 x 1 hour drama series Redfern Now, with story producer Jimmy McGovern, which Blackfella Films is producing for ABC TV.
SUE SMITH WRITER

Sue Smith is a multi-award winning screenwriter, script editor and playwright. Her credits include the ABC miniseries Bastard Boys (which won the AFI Award for Best Screenplay in Television), the feature film Peaches (nominated for an AWGIE Award) and the SBS miniseries RAN, which Sue co-wrote with John Alsop and Alice Addison, receiving another AFI Award for Best Screenplay in Television. Her other credits include the telemovies Temptation and The Road From Coorain, and, in partnership with John Alsop, the ABC series Bordertown, and miniseries The Leaving of Liverpool (which won the AFI Award for Best Screenplay in Television) and Brides of Christ.

Her first stage play Thrall, was produced by Tamarama Rock Surfers in 2006 and In the Violet Time was showcased at the National Play Festival 2008. Sue’s professional theatre debut, Strange Attractor, received a very successful premiere at the Griffin Theatre in 2009.

Sue also wrote the libretto for Rembrandt’s Wife, which premiered at the Victorian Opera, for which she won the 2010 AWGIE Award for Music Theatre.