

Black Screen

FILM LISTS & SYNOPSIS

Compile (1)

1) B.L.A.C.K (M) (26:00 min)

Director, Producer, Sound Designer, Production Designer: Grant Leigh Saunders

Cinematographer: Jason Ramp

Music Score: Wire MC

Short synopsis:

B.L.A.C.K is not just about a skin colour – it is a celebration and understanding of the Aboriginal voice in hip-hop. This is a film with rhythm, rhyme and reason.

2) Road Home (M) (26:30 min)

Writer/Director: Kelrick Martin

Synopsis:

Roy Read was raised an orphan and told he wasn't Aboriginal-just "darker than others". At Kinchela Boys' Home he was subjected to the horrors of institutionalised life. Now 49 years later, he returns to face the demons of his past – and reconnect with the family he never knew he had.

3) Your Brother My Tidda (PG) (18:30 min)

Writer/Director: Kelrick Martin

Synopsis:

"Coming out" to family, living with HIV and religion-some of the life changing situations faced by two Aboriginal gay men, Sam Barsah and Aaron Clark.

Sam has "come out" twice; first to his family about his sexuality and then about his HIV status. Like other indigenous gay men, he wants respect and understanding and only now, almost ten years later, does he feel able to speak openly about his story. Aaron is young and relatively new to Sydney. Growing up as a Jehovah's Witness, he is looking for an alternative gay Christian group.

Using a contemporary blend of semi-observational filming, photos and animation, this short documentary about race and sexuality describes two very different stories of being Aboriginal and gay.

N.B. "Tidda" is an Aboriginal word for "sister".

Compile (2)

No longer available.

Compile (3)

1) The Djarn Djarns (M) (25:00 min)

Writer/Director: Wayne Blair

Producer: Kylie Du Fresne

Synopsis:

The Djarns Djarns is the story of friendship between four boys, the responsibility they feel for their culture and the love a young boy has for his father.

2) Green Bush (MA 15 +) (26:00 min)

Writer/Director: Warwick Thornton

Producer: Kath Shelper

Synopsis:

"Green Bush is a celebration of an era of music, working for the cause and getting things done. But not in the way you would expect. DJ Kenny realises that his job at an Aboriginal community radio station is about more than playing music."

3) Plains Empty (M) (26:00 min)

Writer/Director: Beck Cole

Producer: Kath Shelper

Synopsis:

Sam has recently moved to an isolated mining camp with her husband, Dusty. While her husband works Sam questions whether she really is alone.

4) SA Black Thing (PG) (26:00 min)

Writer/Director: Rima Tamou

Producer: Pauline Clague

Synopsis:

For brash young salesman Clinton Spice, life is looking up. He has been sent to a tropical Paradise, all expenses paid to close the deal of a lifetime. But on the eve of his all important pitch his documents are stolen by Crystal, a vivacious young thief, and he sets out to track her down all before his deadline. But what he gets is the last thing he ever expected.

Compile (4)

1) Shit Skin (PG) (11:37 min)

Writer/Director: Nicholas Boseley

Producer: Kimba Thompson

Synopsis:

An Indigenous Grandmother, Nina, and her Grandson, Luke, travel to Central Australia to find long lost family, culture and the truth of Nina's history. Without the truth, Luke's mission is fruitless and Nina's opportunity to resolve her life is missed.

2) Flat (M) (13 min)

Writer/Director: Beck Cole

Producers: Rachel Perkins & Darren Dale

Synopsis:

Marnie is given a hot Handycam by her Dad. In the 24hrs that follow she set out to capture on tape, life in the commission flats she calls home.

3) Black Talk (M) (12 min)

Writer/Director: Wayne Blair

Producer: Kylie du Fresne

Synopsis:

Two cousins reunite one last time.

4) Turn Around (12 min)

Writer/Director: Samantha Saunders

Producer: Jenny Day

Synopsis:

A teenage guy heads to Sydney for a hot date. He's held up on the way and realises the real meaning of this journey.

5) Mimi (M) (14 min)

Writer/director: Warwick Thornton

Producers: Rachel Perkins & Darren Dale

Synopsis:

Once you buy black you can't go back.

Compile (5)

1) Angel (M) (7 min)

Synopsis:

A complex and multiple layered exploration on the effects of suicide, and on the concentric disturbances affected on the human relationships within the "event's" circle of induction. "Angel" could be regarded as a physic investigation of the cause and effects of suicide though dislocation and dispossession.

The films uses mixed subjectivity as its speaking position, it deliberately confuses temporality with familiarity and trauma. It is a strong and hauntingly delivered entreaty encouraging the denial of the spirit of self-annihilation and engaging with the transcendent power of self, family and the spirit of survival

2) Weeping Willow (PG) (10:30 min)

Synopsis:

She once described his dancing as being like the wind through the willow trees. She was his mentor and his best friend. She was his mum.

Weeping Willow is the story of a to terms with the death of his closest friend and biggest fan.dancer coming It documents their journey to the present and into the future.

Awards and recognitions:

Highly student category (Hugh Miller), ACS (NSW) Awards, Australia, 2002 Commended

Festival Screenings:

Flickerfest, Sydney, Australia, 2002; "My Queer Career", Mardi Gras Film Festival, Sydney, Australia, 2002; Melbourne Queer Film Festival, Australia, 2002; St Kilda Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia, 2002; "Out on Screen", Vancouver Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Canada, 2002; Pink Film Days, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2002 Exhibition; "Message Stick", ABC Television, Australia, 2002.

3) Dare to Dream (M) (9:03 min)

Synopsis:

Daniel (Lee Willis) is in love with someone he can never have. During a night of surreal happenings, he comes into contact with Zenit (Earl Rossas), a being that does things that Daniel would never dream of, or would he? In the end what is real and what is the truth?

Compile (5) continued

4) Arcadia (PG) (9 min)

Synopsis:

'I know that you're there, because I can feel you. Why don't you come out and play with me. In the dark I hear you breathing. Watch out for the Hairy Man...'

In Arcadia nothing is what it seems.

Festival Screenings:

Auburn International Film & Video Festival for Children & Young Adults, Australia, 2002 St Kilda Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia, 2003

International Film & Video Festival for Children & Young Adults, Isfahan, Iran, 2003

5) Simple Song (PG) (16 min)

Synopsis:

The age-old struggle for understanding between generations is captured in this musical about finding the courage to be yourself.

Awards and recognitions:

Winner Gold Award, Fictional Drama Shorts category (Helen Carter), ACS (SA) Awards, Australia, 2003

Festival Screenings:

Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia, 2003 Rencontres Internationales de Cinéma des Anitpodes, St Tropez, France, 2003 "Panorama", Camerimage International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography, Lodz, Poland, 2003 St Kilda Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia, 2004.

Compile (6)

1) My Brother Vinnie (M) (25 min)

Director: Steven McGregor

Producer: Sarah Bond

Synopsis:

Aaron and Vinnie Pedersen are two brothers who have been each others shadow. Aaron has established a successful career as an actor, all the while being responsible for the care of Vinnie who has mild intellectual disabilities and cerebral palsy. My Brother Vinnie intimately explores a relationship full of humour and charm. The characters will touch you with their wit and honesty.

2) Footy The La Perouse Way (M) (25 min)

Director: Michael Longbottom

Synopsis:

The story of a small Aboriginal community located in bustling multicultural Sydney. It is the journey of a community, whose beginnings were marked by racial division and the suffering it brought, and its embracing of football as a starting point to put these historic differences behind it. Forging what has now become, a unique and prosperous mix of black and white cultures, working together side-by-side in all aspects of life, with respect, honour, integrity and trust.

3) Island Fettleers (G) (25 min)

Director: Kelrick Martin

Synopsis:

In the late 1960's, Torres Strait Islander men made the epic journey to the Pilbara in Western Australia to build railways between remote mines in the desert and ports on the coast. Tom Saylor was one of the first wave of island fettleers; both he and his son Thomas have waited over 25 years to embark on a cultural pilgrimage back to the islands to reconnect, to reconcile, and to ultimately realise just what it means to be from the Torres Strait.

Compile (7)

1) Auntie Connie (PG) (25 min)

Director: Ivan Sen

Synopsis:

Connie McDonald is a woman who has been liberated by love. Born in the Kimberley with a debilitating bone disease, Connie's first baby steps broke both her legs. Rejected by her father, and haunted by the teenage death of her mother, Connie spent her life looking for belonging & acceptance. It came in the shape of an old beau, a German man who reappeared in her twilight year. This is the story of how their romance gave them both the courage to laugh, cry, forgive & forget all the hardships in between.

2) Shifting Shelter 3 (PG) (52 min)

Director: Ivan Sen

Synopsis:

A documentary in the vein of Seven Up, award winning filmmaker, Ivan Sen, recorded the lives of four Indigenous teenagers growing up in small towns in north western NSW. Shifting Shelter 3 catches up with our four subjects, now in young adulthood. The portraits painted are deeply poignant, totally vulnerable and all of their dreams are on a knife-edge. Screening will be followed by an Artists Talk with director Ivan Sen and a performance by one of the films subjects, Ben Ballangarry.

Compile (8)

1) Nigger Lovers (PG) (27 min)

Director: Rhonda Hagan

Synopsis:

Known internationally for trying to get the word 'Nigger' removed from a sign in Toowoomba, Stephen Hagan is now being taken to Bankruptcy Court by the Toowoomba Sports Trust. Nigger Lovers follows one man's resistance against bigotry and prejudice in the face of over whelming odds.

2) A Sister's love (M) (52 min)

Director: Ivan Sen

Synopsis:

This very personal documentary follows the Indigenous actor, journalist and festival director, Rhoda Roberts, as she travels home to confront the brutal murder of her twin sister, whose body was found eight years ago in a remote forest near Lismore, NSW. A Sister's Love is the latest film from award-winning director Ivan Sen.

Compile (9)

1) Destiny in Alice (PG) (27 min) 2007

Director: Sonja Dare

Synopsis:

Welcome to Alice Springs, the lesbian metropolis of outback Australia, a place where black and white women mix and mingle. Satirical and funny, this revealing documentary asks the question: is it hard to sustain love when racial and cultural gaps seem insurmountable?

2) Flour Sugar Tea (PG) (27 min) 2007

Director: Lee Willis

Synopsis:

In Australia in 2007 the life expectancy for Indigenous men is 59. For non-indigenous men it is 77. Why? Within this context Flour, Sugar, Tea goes behind the statistics to tell the personal story of John DeSatge, an inspiring Aboriginal man who should not have died so young.

3) When the Natives Get Restless (M) (27 min) 2007

Director: Adrian Wills

Synopsis:

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 a regional town like Dubbo.

4) Sunset to Sunrise (G) (25 min) 2007

Director: Allan Collins

Synopsis:

An 'Inkata' (senior law man) gives an oration in the desert that begins at sunset and ends with sunrise. A simple but extraordinarily compelling film, in the traditional storytelling style of the desert people. From the series Nganampa Anwernekenhe – the longest running indigenous created TV show in Australia.

Compile (10)

1) Footprints in the Sand (G) (27 min) 2007

Director: Glen Stasiuk

Synopsis:

Footprints in the Sand tells of the extraordinary journey in search of Warri & Yatungka, believed to be the last of the Gibson Desert people who 'came in' out of the desert for the first time in the late 1970's. This is the sad love story of Warri & Yatungka and the uplifting story of their survival and rescue.

Compile (11)

1) Bollywood Dreaming (G) (7 min) 2007

Director: Cornel Ozies

Synopsis:

Bollywood Dreaming is a story of an Aboriginal /African-American teenager who doesn't conform to the norm. Jedda Rae Hill does boxing, likes to skate and strangely enough likes watching Bollywood movies. We follow her everyday life and explore her dreams of being a Bollywood actor.

2) Who Paintin' dis Wandjina? (G) (8 min) 2007

Director: Taryne Laffar

Synopsis:

Anonymously, a non-Indigenous graffiti artist speaks about the hundreds of Wandjina stencils and graffiti around the city of Perth, Western Australia. Traditional owners of the sacred Wandjina - an ancient creator spirit - respond and explain the inappropriateness of this being graffitied without "proper" knowledge.

3) Yolngu Guya Djamamirr (G) (Chooky Dance) (5 min) 2008

Director: Frank Djirrimbilpilwuy

Synopsis:

Since uploading the Chooky Dancers performance of Zorba the Greek - Yolgnu Style, to YouTube, it has become an overnight sensation. This is the story behind the dance.

4) Storytime (PG) (7 min) 2007

Writer/Director: Jub Clarke

Synopsis:

A film about two adventurous Kimberley kids wander deep into the Mangroves at sunset, only to find the terrifying campfire stories of the Gooyinbooyin Woman may not be myth after-all.

5) Kathy (M) (7 min) 2003

Writer/Director: Wayne Blair

Synopsis:

A woman, who believes she has no identity, takes on the identity of one of her heroes, Cathy Freeman. A funny and touching journey through the tension her adopted identity causes in her relationship and how she rediscovers herself. Wayne Blair won the Channel 7 Award at the Colourised Film Festival for Best Director of Short Film for *Kathy*.

WARNING: Contains infrequent coarse language and staged violence

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