

SCREEN AUSTRALIA AND BLACKFELLA FILMS PRESENT

# message STICKS

## INDIGENOUS FILM FESTIVAL

# 2008

NATIONAL TOUR



SEE THE BEST  
NEW INDIGENOUS  
FILMS PLUS TALKS  
AND DISCUSSION

ALL FILMS ARE FREE!

BLACKFELLA  
FILMS



SCREEN  
AUSTRALIA



Government of South Australia  
Department of Education and  
Children's Services



EMMA  
COLLISON

# WELCOME TO THE message STICKS 2008 INDIGENOUS FILM FESTIVAL

## FILM FESTIVAL CURATORS' MESSAGE

Our film program this year reflects the big questions being asked by Australians about Black Australia. Aboriginal filmmakers use the lens to capture the feelings and thoughts of our people, talking about their lives at a turning point in our nation's history.

From Arnhem Land to Noongar Land, see our people, listen to them speak, hear our stories and talk to the filmmakers who have opened the window to Indigenous Australia.

We are thrilled to also present Message Sticks Schools screenings for the first time, showcasing the best films screened at previous festivals and introduce school kids to the stories behind the scenes.

Darren Dale and Rachel Perkins  
Curators

COME ALONG AND SEE THE BEST NEW INDIGENOUS FILMS AS WE OPEN THE WINDOW TO BLACK AUSTRALIA

### DOCUMENTARIES



#### RIVER OF NO RETURN

Director: Darlene Johnson  
Australia (52:00) 2008

Like many young girls, Frances Djulibing dreamed of being a movie star. Her journey from tribal life to red carpets is unlike any other. River of No Return is a story of transformation as Frances learns to move between the ancient life of the Yolgnu and modern world of balanda\*.  
\* white culture



#### MAD MORRO

Director: Kelrick Martin  
Australia (52:00) 2008  
Debbie Morris has waited 13 years for her family to finally be reunited. Her son James has been behind bars for his entire adult life. In prison he has become

a hardened survivor of the system. Now he is only weeks away from release and has chosen to go home and stay with his Mum in Taree.



#### WANJA : WARRIOR DOG

Director: Angie Abdilla  
Australia (26:00) 2008

Auntie Barb is an elder of Redfern's community, who lived on the Block for twenty years with her family and dog, Wanja.

Wanja was an integral part of the community, known to all for her ability to sniff out the police in uniform and undercover "the Block's guardian angel".



#### SPIRIT STONES

Director: Allan Collins  
Australia (52:00) 2007

Noongar Elders reveal phenomenal events of the 1940s and 1950s in the south-west of Western Australia when mysterious stones fell for hours, days and weeks. Memories of the Noongar storytellers are linked with sensitivity and a lightness of touch to places of importance as exquisite images and sounds radiate feeling.



#### WHEN COLIN MET JOYCE

Director: Rima Tamou  
Australia (52:00) 2008

The marriage of Colin and Joyce Clague has been a forty year journey. They thrive on maintaining cultural teachings, breaking

down barriers, speaking out politically, and focusing on the bigger picture.

Their passions and struggles inspire a true sense of reconciliation.



#### COURTING WITH JUSTICE

Director: Debbie Carmody  
Australia (26:00) 2008

A former Norseman pub manager was charged with the manslaughter of Kevin Rule, a member of the Ngadju Nation, but later

found not guilty. The dead man's partner, Daniella Borg, is searching for justice.

Some sessions will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers.

### AUSTRALIAN & INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

#### 1. YOLNGU GUYA DJAMAMIRR

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

#### 2. WHO PAINTIN' DIS WANDJINA?

Taryne Laffar  
When hundreds of Wandjina images began to appear as graffiti around the city of Perth, people began to notice.

#### 3. BOLLYWOOD DREAMING

Cornel Ozies  
An African-American/Aboriginal teenager who doesn't conform to the norm does boxing, likes to skate and loves watching Bollywood movies.

#### 4. STORYTIME

Jub Clerc  
Two kids wander deep into the Mangroves at sunset, to find the campfire stories of the Gooyinbooyin Woman may not be myth after all...

#### 5. NIKAMOWIN

Kevin Burton  
Nikamowin is a deconstruction and reconstruction of Cree narrative that begs the question of how languages emerge, exist and persist.

#### 6. SIKUMI

Andrew Okpæaha MacLean  
An Inuit hunter drives his dog team out on the frozen Arctic Ocean in search of seals, but instead, becomes a witness to murder.

### MESSAGE STICKS ON TOUR

#### CANBERRA

12th & 19th of July  
The National Film and Sound Archive\*  
Ph (02) 6248 2000  
www.nfsa.gov.au

#### BRISBANE

17th - 23rd July  
Gallery of Modern Arts\*  
Ph (07) 3840 7303  
www.qag.qld.gov.au/goma  
http://www.qag.qld.gov.au/cinematheque/coming\_soon/message\_sticks

#### PERTH

24th - 26th July  
Cinema Paradiso\*  
Ph (08) 9227 1771  
www.lunapalace.com.au

#### MELBOURNE

1st - 3rd August  
Melbourne Museum  
Bunjilaka Centre\*  
Ph 13 11 02  
http://museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka/

#### ADELAIDE

7th - 10th August  
Tandanya\*  
Ph (08) 8 8224 3200  
http://www.tandanya.com.au/

#### DARWIN

21st & 22nd August  
Deckchair Cinema  
Ph (08) 8981 0700  
http://www.deckchaircinema.com/

#### MT GAMBIER

28th - 30th August.  
Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre\*  
Ph (08) 8723 8743  
http://www.countryarts.org.au/helpmann/index\_content.html

#### CONTACT US

For more info contact Blackfella Films on (02) 9380 4000

Please note - not all films will be screened at all venues. Please check local session guides for details.

\* School special screening.

We wish to advise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that this brochure and the films in Message Sticks may contain images and footage of people who are deceased. We do not wish to cause distress to any Aboriginal community members.

Program details are correct at the time of printing but are subject to change without notice. Cover photo of Frances Djulibing Photographer: Amanda James Stylist: Daniel Cater

The National Indigenous Documentary Fund (NIDF) is an initiative of the Indigenous Branch of Screen Australia in association with State film funding agencies and broadcasters ABC and SBS. River of No Return and When Colin Met Joyce were commissioned under the NIDF by SBS with funding assistance from the NSW Film and Television Office. Courting with Justice were commissioned as part of the NIDF by the ABC with funding assistance from ScreenWest and the NSW Film and Television Office.