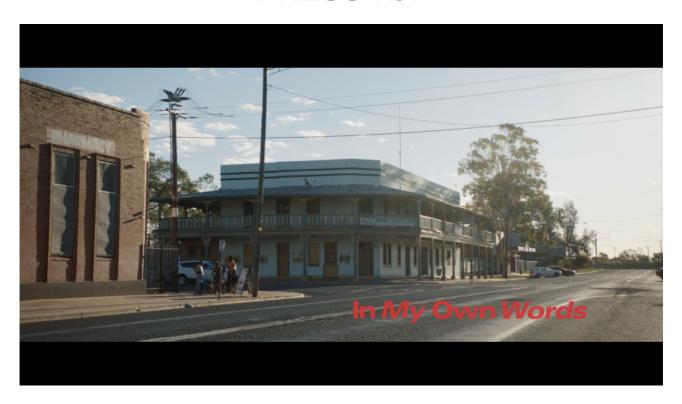
PRESS KIT



DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT

Blackfella Films Helen Lovelock

Tel: +61 2 9380 4000

Email: info@blackfellafilms.com.au

PRODUCTION CONTACT

Blackfella Films Darren Dale

Tel: +61 2 9380 4000

Email: info@blackfellafilms.com.au



blackfella films

10 Cecil Street Paddington NSW 2021 Tel: +612 9380 4000 Fax: +612 9252 9577 Email: info@blackfellafilms.com.au www.blackfellafilms.com.au

Production Notes

Writer and Director Erica Glynn **Producer** Darren Dale **Production Company** Blackfella Films Genre Documentary Language English 16:9 FHA **Aspect Ratio Duration** 01:02:41 Sound 5.1 and Stereo **Shooting Gauges** Arri Amira 2K Digital

Logline and Synopsis

Raw, heartfelt, sometimes painstaking but often funny, *In My Own Words* follows the journey of adult Aboriginal students and their teachers as they discover the transformative power of reading and writing for the first time in their lives.

Director's Statement

For years I've rolled along accepting the fact that many of my Aboriginal family, friends and colleagues struggle with reading and writing or simply can't read and write at all.

But about two years ago, armed with a niggling sense that something was wrong, I began to look more closely at the issue of Indigenous adult illiteracy.

Almost immediately the research confirmed my hunch - illiteracy amongst our adult population was a huge issue. In fact it revealed that between 45 - 65% of Aboriginal adults were functionally illiterate – a shocking and sobering statistic that compelled me to move on the subject fast.

By May 2016 a film crew and I are standing in an empty classroom in the small NSW town of Brewarrina thrilled to be shooting in a place that rarely gets a gig on Australian screens, but anxious to see if any of the 30 or so Aboriginal adults who have signed up for the basic literacy course are actually going to show.

Brewarrina is 10 hours drive from Sydney and is like so many small, rural north west NSW towns. It has a majority Aboriginal population. There are limited employment opportunities and plenty of 'social issues', and programs to fix these issues regularly come and go.

But the Cuban 'Yes I Can' method that the Literacy for Life Foundation uses to teach basic literacy insists that the local community take responsibility for running and teaching the program, and it's this, in tandem with the students learning journey, that we are here to film.

We are keen to give audiences the opportunity to witness the progress (or not) of the students and teachers over the extent of the thirteen week course so filming in the classroom every day is a must.

We also want audiences to get to know a little about these women and men, and why they have courageously taken the step to learn to read and write later in life. Of course it's important that they express this in their own words so there will be no outside narrator speaking on their behalf.

But most important is that amongst the realities of remote living, poverty and all the hardship that this brings, audiences get to witness a positive and empowering episode in the lives of people not often given this kind of opportunity.

In My Own Words is the raw, heartfelt, sometimes painstaking but often funny journey of a bunch of blackfellas who discover the transformative powers of reading and writing for the first time in their lives.

ERICA GLYNN – Writer and Director Biography



A Drama Directing graduate of AFTRS in Sydney, Erica cut her teeth working for the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) in Alice Springs.

Erica's award-winning short film **My Bed, Your Bed** was an international success. She's also made many documentaries including **A Walk With Words** with Romaine Morton, and **Ngangkari** about traditional healers of the Central Desert Region.

Erica was the Head of the Indigenous Department of Screen Australia from 2010 to 2014. Her most recent work includes writing for a children's animation series and directing **Black Comedy** for the ABC.

DARREN DALE - Producer Biography



Darren has been a company director of Blackfella Films, Australia's premier Indigenous production company, since 2000.

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 the many accolades for **First Australians** were AFI, TV Week Logie, AWGIE and Australian Director's Guild Awards. 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.

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) and the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA). **The Tall Man** received the AWGIE Award for Best Broadcast Documentary and the inaugural Walkley Award for Documentary, and was released theatrically by Hopscotch/eOne.

The acclaimed telemovie **Mabo**, which Darren produced with Miranda Dear for the ABC, screened at the Sydney Film Festival in 2012 ahead of its national broadcast to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the landmark High Court decision.

In collaboration with Emmy Award-winning UK writer Jimmy McGovern and Miranda Dear, Darren produced two 6 x 1 hour series of the ground breaking **Redfern Now** for the ABC, the first drama series on Australian television to be written, produced and directed by Indigenous Australians. In 2013 and 2014 it won the TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Drama Series, and in 2014 the AACTA Award for Best Television Drama Series. A final telemovie installment of **Redfern Now** titled **Promise Me** was broadcast in 2015.

In 2014 Darren produced **First Contact**, a 3 x 1 hour documentary series for SBS, which received the 2015 TV Week Logie for Most Outstanding Factual Program.

Next up was **DNA Nation**, a 3 x 1 hour documentary 'big science' series for SBS. Darren was Executive Producer on the 14 x half hour ABC3 teen drama series **Ready for This**, winner of the 2015 AACTA Award for Best Children's Television Series and the 2016 TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Children's Program.

In 2016 Darren produced the feature documentary **Deep Water** - **The Real Story** which investigated the gay hate epidemic of crimes in Sydney during the 1980s and 1990s, and, with Miranda Dear, the companion 4 part SBS crime drama series **Deep Water**, starring Noah Taylor and Yael Stone. Also for SBS, Darren produced a further series of the award winning *First Contact*. Due for release in 2017 is the major 3 part documentary series **Filthy Rich & Homeless** for SBS which explores the issue of homelessness in Australia.

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, and in 2012 presented the curated program of Indigenous films **Blackfella Films Presents** in partnership with the Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane International Film Festivals.

Darren currently serves on the board of Sydney Festival, the Sydney Film Festival and the Council of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, and in 2012 was the recipient of the prestigious AFTRS Honorary Degree. He was on the board of Screen NSW from 2011 to 2015.

In My Own Words

Key Crew Biographies



SIMON MORRIS: Director of Photography

Simon began making films at the early age of 12, shooting his friends in small short film roles on his grandmother's VHS camera, then cutting them together with two VCRs. Simon later moved on to splicing reels of film as a projectionist, always pursuing his passion for cinematography and filmmaking.

Since then, Simon has become an established Director of Photography in the Australian film and television industry with experience in commercials, feature drama, documentaries and shorts. Notable recent works include the feature documentary **Tender**, which screened at many festivals including the Sydney, Adelaide, New York and London BFI Film Festivals, receiving rave reviews. **Tender** also went on to win the 2015 AACTA Award for Best Television Documentary.

Other notable works include two series of the 3 part ABC1 documentary series **Changing Minds** which set out to de-stigmatise and shed light on mental health issues in Australia. It was shot in the mental health wards of Liverpool and Campbelltown Hospitals in Sydney, a first of its kind in Australia, and was nominated for the 2015 TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Factual Series.

In 2015 Simon was Director of Photography on the Blackfella Films' series **DNA Nation** which took him to the far corners of the earth re-tracing the footsteps of ancient human migration with lan Thorpe, Julia Zamero and Ernie Dingo.

Simon's scripted drama works include various short films, notably **My Constellation**, which was a Tropfest 2013 finalist. It went on to screen at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) Kids, and won a Silver Award from the Australian Cinematographers Society. The Screen Australia funded short film **Alone** screened at the 2015 St Kilda Short Film Festival and received a nomination for Best Cinematography amongst numerous other awards.

Simon continues to have a driving passion for visual storytelling with a cinematic style.

Key Crew Biographies



KARRYN DE CINQUE ASE: Editor

In 1993 **KARRYN de CINQUE** realised the fastest way to get her break as an editor, was to apply for funding to direct a short film... and then hire herself to cut it! **Michelle's Third Novel** was selected to open the 32nd New York Film Festival screening before the US premiere of Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*.

After graduating in 1999 from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School with a Masters degree and the Frameworks Editing prize, Karryn has worked primarily in documentary and her films have screened worldwide, including the selection of **Making Samson and Delilah** for the 2009 Telluride Film Festival.

Karryn has received multiple nominations for her work including an AACTA nomination for Best Editing in a Feature Documentary for **Tender**, directed by Lynette Wallworth. **Tender** was nominated for a Grierson award and received the 2014 AACTA and ATOM awards for Best Documentary and the Grand Jury Prize at FIFO 2015. Karryn has edited more than 20 short films including **Nulla**, directed by Dylan River, which was nominated for a Crystal Bear at the 2015 Berlin International Film Festival and won the 2015 AACTA award for best short film.

Karryn recently cut her first feature drama **Girl Asleep** which won the Foxtel Audience Award for Best Feature at the 2015 Adelaide Film Festival, both the Grand Jury Prize and Youth Jury awards for Best Feature at Seattle International Film Festival, and was the film chosen for the opening night ceremony of the Generation section at the 2016 Berlin International Film Festival. **Girl Asleep** won the Cinefest Oz prize and was nominated for numerous AACTA and FCCA awards including best editing. **Girl Asleep** won the 2017 AFCA Award for Best Film and The Age Critics Prize for Best Australian Feature Film at the 2016 Melbourne International Film Festival.

Karryn has also edited a virtual reality film with Lynette Wallworth entitled **Collisions** that launched at the World Economic Forum and 2016 Sundance Film Festival and is still screening all around the world.

In My Own Words



MICHAEL YEZERSKI: Composer

Michael's first feature film scores were the critically acclaimed **The Black Balloon** (dir. Elissa Down) and **The Waiting City** (dir. Claire McCarthy). Michael has written the scores for over fourteen feature films and has been nominated four times for the Australia's highest film honor - the AACTA award for Best Original Score. He has won numerous industry and quild prizes.

Recent film scores include Sean Byrne's explosive horror metal epic, **The Devil's Candy**, which won Best Original Score at Fantastic Arts 2015 and Peer Pedersen's **We Don't Belong Here**, starring Catherine Keener and Anton Yelchin. **Only The Dead See The End of War**, the searing documentary feature from Michael Ware and Bill Guttentag, premiered at Telluride followed by a successful season on HBO.

Other career highlights include the Academy Award winning animated short, **The Lost Thing**, Josh Lawson's riotous **The Little Death** (Audience Award SXSW) as well as additional music for **Transformers: Age of Extinction** (under renowned composer Steve Jablonsky).

Several of the most acclaimed Australian television productions of the last few years feature a score by Michael Yezerski. A Place to Call Home (now entering its fifth season) is fast becoming a cult hit around the world, screening in over one hundred and fifty countries. The acclaimed mini-series Peter Allen: Not The Boy Next Door won multiple AACTA awards and the true crime thriller Catching Milat shocked the country (the highest rated drama series of 2015).

Michael studied musical composition under Peter Sculthorpe and Ross Edwards at the University of Sydney graduating with first class honours. Michael then graduated with distinction in audio technology from the Australian Institute of Music and completed Film Music studies at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. He began playing the clarinet at age 7 before teaching himself to play the piano at age 12 and composing a year later.

Michael works from Los Angeles and Sydney.

Blackfella Films Company Profile

For over twenty years Blackfella Films has created innovative and high quality content across factual and drama in both series and feature formats for theatrical, television and online platforms. Its award winning productions have screened at the premier international film festivals including Sundance, Berlin and Toronto, and 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 and former ABC Television Head of Drama **Miranda Dear** joined Blackfella Films as a producer with a brief to develop the company's drama slate. In 2011 Rachel Perkins and Darren Dale as directors of Blackfella Films were ranked number 16 in the **Encore Power 50**. In 2013 producer **Jacob Hickey** was appointed Head of Factual, based in the company's Melbourne office.

A standout achievement for the company was the award-winning 7 part documentary series **First Australians**. The landmark multi-platform history series, broadcast on SBS Television to over 2.3 million viewers, was accompanied by an internationally acclaimed interactive website. First Australians was awarded Australia's top honours for documentary including the Australian Film Institute (AFI) and IF Awards, the UN Media Peace Prize, TV Week Logie and Australian Writers and Directors Guild 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 and directed by Tony Krawitz, received the inaugural Walkley Award for Documentary and was nominated for four Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards including Best Feature Documentary. It screened at the Toronto Film Festival in 2011, was released in cinemas nationally by Hopscotch/eOne, and broadcast on SBS Television in 2012.

The Tall Man was followed by the telemovie Mabo for ABC1, produced by Darren Dale and Miranda Dear and directed by Rachel Perkins, featuring Jimi Bani as Eddie Koiki Mabo and Deborah Mailman as his wife Bonita. It was broadcast on ABC1 in June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the landmark High Court decision on native title. Among numerous accolades, writer Sue Smith received the 2012 AWGIE for Best Original Telemovie Screenplay and Deborah Mailman received the 2013 TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Actress.

In 2012 Blackfella Films also completed production on the groundbreaking 6 x 1 hour ABC drama series **Redfern Now**, developed in collaboration with renowned UK scriptwriter Jimmy McGovern as Story Producer. The series was the first Australian drama series written, directed and produced by Indigenous Australians, and was invited to participate in both the FIPA and Series Mania television festivals in 2013. A further series of 6 x 1 hour episodes was produced in 2013, and the final telemovie instalment was broadcast in 2015.

Redfern Now received an extraordinary level of critical and popular acclaim, including the 2013 and 2014 TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Drama Series and the 2014 AACTA Award for Best Television Drama Series. In 2013 writer Steven McGregor received the AACTA Award for Best Screenplay in Television and Leah Purcell received the AACTA Award for Best Lead Actress in a Television Drama, and in 2014 composer Antony Partos received the AACTA Award for Best Original Music Score in Television. Director Rachel Perkins also received Australian Directors Guild (ADG) Awards for Best Direction in a TV Drama Series in consecutive years in 2013 and 2014 for her work on the series, and again in 2016 for the **Redfern Now Telemovie: Promise Me**.

In 2014 Blackfella Films produced the 3 x 1 hour factual series **First Contact** for SBS which won the 2015 TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Factual Program. The series garnered national attention and acclaim for its treatment of contemporary Australian attitudes towards Indigenous Australians. A further series is in production.

The 14 x half hour teen drama series for ABC3 **Ready For This**, a co-production with award winning **Dance Academy** producer Joanna Werner, received the 2015 AACTA Award for Best Children's Television Series and the 2016 TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Children's Program.

Broadcast on SBS in 2016 were the 3 x 1 hour big science series **DNA Nation** featuring Ian Thorpe, Ernie Dingo and Julia Zemiro, and a second 3 x 1 hour series of the acclaimed **First Contact**.

Also for SBS in 2016, Blackfella Films produced the major multiplatform event **Deep Water**. It comprised a 4 x 1 hour crime drama series starring Noah Taylor and Yael Stone which has sold worldwide including to the BBC, Netflix, SundanceTV/AMC and Acorn, the feature documentary **Deep Water: The Real Story** which investigates the events that inspired the drama series, and complementary online programming.

Due for release in 2017 is **Filthy Rich & Homeless**, a 3 x 1 hour factual series for SBS exploring homelessness in Australia.

Blackfella Films has an extensive slate of television drama, factual programming and feature films in development, including **Grand Days**, the television adaptation of Frank Moorhouse's award winning 'Edith Trilogy' of novels for Foxtel.

End Credits: IN MY OWN WORDS

1

With thanks to the LITERACY FOR LIFE FOUNDATION BREWARRINA CLASS OF 2016

MARY WAITES CLARENCE GIBBS JANELLE FRAIL JOSÉ CHALA LEBLANCH

NARELLE REYNOLDS KURT WAITES

DEBORAH DURNAN

NOELENE MURPHY NORMAN BLOOMFIELD DOUGLAS KOORI SULLIVAN ANTHONY VERALL CONNIE SHILLINGSWORTH JANINE MURPHY

JOHN BARKER

2

Cinematographers JUSTINE KERRIGAN

MICHAEL STEEL

Sound Recordists DAVID TRANTER

WILL SHERIDAN

3

Production Manager ELECTRA MANIKAKIS

Production Supervisor HELEN LOVELOCK

Production Coordinator HANNAH SMITH
BONNIE FAULKNER

Runners DANIEL COLLINS

Production Accountant LEAH HALL

Stills Photographer JUSTINE KERRIGAN

Additional Camera & Stills DALE BREMNER

4

Assistant Editors WALTER McINTOSH

LIAM RODDEN BONNIE FAULKNER

Post Production Consultant MICHAAL MONK

Transcription JULIA NALIVAIKO

Subtitles NITV

5

Sound Post Production
Sound Supervisor
Re-recording Mixer
Sound Editor
Sound Coordinator
SONAR SOUND
WES CHEW
IAN McLOUGHLIN
DYLAN BARFIELD
CANDACE WISE

Foley LONGSTOCKING STUDIOS

In My Own Words

Music Recorded and Mixed at Defender Records and Church St Studios, Sydney

Featured Soloists Music Production, Additional Instruments & Programming

DAMIAN DE BOOS-SMITH, CLARE YEZERSKI

MICHAEL YEZERSKI

6

Post Production Facility CUTTING EDGE

Post Production Producer STEWART DEAN

Head of Post Production MARCUS BOLTON

Colourist DWAINE HYDE

Online Editor JO SPILLANE

Editorial Manager PHILIP VINCENT
Dailies Operator DANIEL SCOTT

Media Supervisor JOHN WARNEKE

Media Operator RORY REA

and Operator THOTH THER

Title Design THE TRACE HOUSE, TERENCE RACE

7

Post Production Script REEZY MILLER SCRIPT SERVICES

Legals VERGE WHITFORD & CO, CAROLINE VERGE

Insurance Broker MOONEYS INSURANCE BROKERS, DAVID MANSLEY

Camera & Lenses Supplied by LEMAC

Freight GALAXY FREIGHT Travel Services SHOWGROUP

8

For BLACKFELLA FILMS

Business Affairs HELEN LOVELOCK

Financial Controller LEAH HALL

Office Manager HANNAH SMITH

9

For NITV

Commissioning Editor MARY-ELLEN MULLANE

NITV Legals LUCINDA EDWARDS
Production Coordinator TONI STOWERS

For SCREEN AUSTRALIA

Head of Indigenous Department PENNY SMALLACOMBE

For SCREEN NSW

Head of Development and Production
Development and Production Executive
SUE McCREADIE

With thanks to

JOHN SCOTT **RAYLEEN McHUGES** MICHAEL BROWN **DANIEL BONEY** IAN PARKER KALLY COLLIS NATRICE JACKSON JANELLE WILLIAMS **MERIEKA BONEY** DAWN COCHRANE **MELISSA BONEY** JODIE MOORE TERRANCE SULLIVAN **TAHNEE AYERS** LANCE JACKSON **CLAYTON NEAN** JOSEPH COFFEE TYRON BOOTH **ETHAN MURPHY** SANDRA MURPHY

11

Thanks to

PEOPLE OF THE NGEMBA, MURAWARRI, BARKANJI AND KAMILAROI NATIONS

OURGUNYA WOMEN'S CORPORATION
WEILMORINGAL LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL
WEILMORINGAL PUBLIC SCHOOL
BREWARRINA SHIRE COUNCIL
RITEWAY BREWARRINA
BREWARRINA RIVERVIEW MOTEL
AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION
GARY PETERSEN - MISSION AUSTRALIA

12

Thanks to

TANNIA EDWARDS LILLIAN LUCAS LORETTA MURPHY JOE BOUGHTON-DENT **DOREEN MURPHY** ALEX DIXON STANLEY FRENCH DIANNE HARDY **NORMAN COFFEE EVA BONEY** LENA COFFEE JEAN FRENCH AMANDA BONEY JOHN BONEY LIAM BLOOMFIELD ANNETTE SCOTT

GRACE SHILLINGSWORTH THOMAS FRENCH
MIA COFFEE BRYCE WAITES

SR. JORGE ENRIQUE TRUJILLO HERNÁNDEZ FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA SR. JOSÉ MANUEL GALEGO MONTANO

13

Special Thanks to

LITERACY FOR LIFE FOUNDATION www.lflf.org.au

PROFESSOR JACK BEETSON
DON ARONEY - BROOKFIELD MULTIPLEX
GRACE GORDON
MARY WAITES
DEBORAH DURNAN & BOB BOUGHTON
RACHEL PERKINS
INTERCAMBIO CIENTÍFICO EDUCACIONAL (ICE) - CUBA

In My Own Words © 2017 Blackfella Films Pty Ltd Page 13 of 16

FILMED ON THE LANDS OF THE NGEMBA PEOPLE

15

BLACKFELLA FILMS ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF SCREEN AUSTRALIA'S ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

16 Full frame

FILMED AND POST-PRODUCED IN NSW AUSTRALIA

17 Full frame

Developed with the assistance of Screen Australia Indigenous Department







18 Full frame

Financed in Association with Fulcrum Media Finance



19 Full frame

Produced with the assistance of Screen NSW and its Regional Filming Fund





20 Full frame

A Blackfella Films Production



blackfella films

Produced in association with NITV



NITV.com.au Moment in History Initiative

> Screen Australia Principal Funder









22 Full frame

© 2017 Blackfella Films Pty Ltd, Erica Glynn and National Indigenous Television (a division of Special Broadcasting Service Corporation)

ISAN 0000-0004-6CAB-0000-M-0000-0000-8 (international continuous version)

ISAN 0000-0004-6CAB-0000-M-0000-0001-6 (domestic broadcast version)



blackfella films

Sydney Office (Head Office)

10 Cecil Street Paddington Sydney NSW 2021

Phone: +61 2 9380 4000 Fax: +61 2 9252 9577 Email: info@blackfellafilms.com.au **Melbourne Office**

Suite 1C, Level 1 205 Johnston Street Fitzroy VIC 3065

Phone: +61 3 9416 1800 Fax: +61 3 9416 2908 Email: info@blackfellafilms.com.au

For more information visit www.blackfellafilms.com.au