

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation presents
in association with Screen Australia, Screen NSW, and VicScreen

A Blackfella Films Production

THE DARK EMU STORY

PRESS KIT



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THE DARK EMU STORY

PRODUCTION NOTES

Written & Directed by	Allan Clarke
Written by	Jacob Hickey
Producers	Darren Dale Belinda Mravicic Jacob Hickey
'Dark Emu' Author	Bruce Pascoe
Director of Photography	Simon Morris
Editor	Mark Atkin ASE
Music by	Caitlin Yeo Damien Lane
Production Company	Blackfella Films Pty Ltd
Genre	Documentary
Language	Gamilaraay, English, Wik-Mungkan and Wik-Ngathan
Aspect Ratio	16 x 9
Duration	01:22:25:00
Sound	5.1 and Stereo
Shooting Gauges / Cameras	Digital/Arri Alexa Mini/Anamorphic 2K & 2.8K

THE DARK EMU STORY

LOGLINE

A thought provoking, revelatory and inspiring documentary telling the story of Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu* – the publishing phenomenon that challenged Australia to rethink its history and ignited a raging debate.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A thought provoking, revelatory and inspiring documentary telling the story of Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu* – the publishing phenomenon that challenged Australia to rethink its history and ignited a raging debate.

The 2014 best-selling book makes the explosive claims that First Nations people were not only hunters and gatherers but also farmers who were part of a complex economic system. But *Dark Emu* has ignited a fierce debate, sparking searing criticism. Academics, and conservative commentators have lined up to pour scorn upon Pascoe's work and question the knowledge of the First Australians.

The Dark Emu Story is a feature length documentary that delves into the controversy, provides a platform for First Nations people to share their remarkable stories and enlightens our understanding of Australian history.

THE DARK EMU STORY

ONE PAGE SYNOPSIS

A thought provoking, revelatory and inspiring documentary telling the story of Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu* – The publishing phenomenon that challenged Australia to rethink its history and ignited a raging debate.

The 2014 best-selling book makes the explosive claims that First Nations people were not only hunters and gatherers but also farmers who were part of a complex economic system. Inspired by the journals of famous British explorers, the book prosecutes the contentious argument that First Nations people settled in villages, lived in houses, devised extraordinary methods of aquaculture and astronomy and were, amongst many other achievements, the world's first bakers.

Pascoe's compelling claims threaten to rewrite our history, smash the orthodoxy and turn views of 'traditional' Aboriginal life on their head.

But *Dark Emu* has ignited a fierce debate, sparking searing criticism. Academics, and conservative commentators have lined up to pour scorn upon Pascoe's work and question the knowledge of the First Australians. Amidst the storm, a public war of words then swirled over the Aboriginality and identity of the author himself.

In this feature length documentary, we hear rare personal insights from Pascoe and meet his fierce critics. A chorus of compelling and informed commentators, historians and experts, including Stan Grant, Marcia Langton, Bill Gammage and Neralda Jacobs provide vital context and insight.

In the far reaches of the continent, from the tropical rainforest to the scorched desert, First Nations people share their culture and knowledge, shedding light on achievements that are celebrated in communities to this day.

We see evidence of extraordinary sites including the fish traps at Brewarrina, which some believe could be the oldest manmade structures in the world and we're on the ground following new and unfolding archaeological research that aims to test 'the *Dark Emu* hypothesis'.

Rich cinematography is combined with archive both recent and from the distant past, to illuminate the debate.

The Dark Emu Story is a feature length documentary film that delves into the controversy, provides a platform for First Nations people to share their remarkable stories and enlightens our understanding of Australian history.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

There is no doubt that Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu* captured lightning in a bottle, becoming a phenomenon at a time when Australia is standing at a crossroads in race relations.

Pascoe's claims of an extraordinary pre-colonial Indigenous society didn't come as a surprise to me as an Aboriginal person. I knew my ancestors had done incredible things that saw them thrive for tens of thousands of years, despite the historical narrative taught to me in school that we were primitive and opportunistic. For many Australians these stories of complex land management systems were a revelation and for others, heresy. The debate sparking a resurgence of the culture wars and raising questions about Bruce Pascoe's Aboriginality.

My central question making this film was to ask and interrogate how a book that invites readers to re-examine Australian history, provoked such extreme reactions, from cult like fanaticism to vitriolic rage and everything in between.

Bruce Pascoe's premise that Aboriginal people were farmers and not hunters and gatherers was incendiary and thrown into an already volatile national conversation around the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. It was important for me to explore the genesis of these reactions and also look more closely at the academic criticism levelled at the book.

Beyond the controversy, it was paramount that I gave agency to Aboriginal people whose connection to country and their ancestors remains unbroken. People whose stories are too often ignored and unheard.

This documentary film is an invitation to all Australians to engage with the history and culture of First Nations people in a meaningful and respectful way. It is about listening, learning, and understanding the complex and beautiful cultures that have shaped this land for tens of thousands of years. It is my hope that the film sparks robust conversations and inspires audiences to think differently about Australia's past, present, and future.

The Dark Emu Story is a documentary that celebrates the resilience and creativity of First Nations people and asks us all to do better in our relationships with each other and the land.

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DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY



ALLAN CLARKE – Writer and Director

Allan Clarke is an award winning Muruwari and Gomeroi filmmaker, investigative journalist and writer who has made significant contributions to the representation and storytelling of Indigenous issues and people in the media. Allan's work aims to give agency to Indigenous people through storytelling. His most notable projects include **Blood on the Tracks** for ABC TV and feature documentary **The Bowraville Murders** for SBS. His work has won numerous awards, including the Walkley Award for Excellence in Journalism and the United Nations Media Peace Prize and he was recognised by the NSW Parliament for his contribution to the community through his journalism.

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PRODUCER BIOGRAPHIES



DARREN DALE – Producer

Darren has been a company director of Blackfella Films, Australia's premier First Nations production company, since 2000, and is now the company's managing director.

In 2008 Darren, together with Rachel Perkins, produced the landmark multi-platform history series **First Australians** for SBS which received many accolades including AFI, TV Week Logie, AWGIE and Australian Director's Guild Awards. In 2011, Darren produced the feature documentary **The Tall Man** which premiered at the 2011 Adelaide Film Festival and screened at TIFF and the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), and received the inaugural Walkley Award for Documentary.

In 2012 Darren and Miranda Dear produced the ABC telemovie **Mabo**, followed by two seasons and a telemovie of the groundbreaking drama series **Redfern Now** in collaboration with Emmy Award-winning UK writer Jimmy McGovern. **Redfern Now** won the TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Drama Series in 2013 and 2014, and the 2014 AACTA Award for Best Television Drama Series. The telemovie **Redfern Now: Promise Me** was broadcast in 2015.

In 2014 Darren produced the acclaimed **First Contact** for SBS which won the 2015 TV Week Logie for Most Outstanding Factual Program. He has also produced the SBS 'big science' series **DNA Nation, How 'Mad' Are You?** which explores mental health in Australia, a second season of **First Contact** and the first of three seasons of the award winning **Filthy Rich & Homeless**.

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, with Miranda Dear, the drama series **Deep Water** accompanied by the feature documentary **Deep Water: The Real Story** and a multiplatform project for SBS investigating gay hate murders in Sydney. The feature documentary **In My Own Words** for NITV premiered at the 2017 Sydney Film Festival.

Broadcast on SBS in 2018, season 2 of **Filthy Rich & Homeless** received the Silver World Medal at the 2019 New York Festivals International TV & Film Awards and the Gold Trophy for Reality TV at the 2019 Venice TV Awards,

Completed in 2019 was the AACTA Award winning Best Television Drama **Total Control** for the ABC. Produced with Miranda Dear, it

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premiered at TIFF and was awarded the 2020 MIPCOM Diversify TV's Excellence Award for Representation of Race and Ethnicity (Scripted), and the Bronze Award for Entertainment Program (Drama) at the 2021 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards.

In 2020 for the ABC Darren produced, with Jacob Hickey, the documentary **Maralinga Tjarutja** which won the 2020 AACTA Award for Best Direction in Nonfiction Television and the Silver Award for Documentary (Human Rights) at the 2021 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards. For SBS, Darren completed the third and final season of **Filthy Rich & Homeless** which won the 2021 BANFF World Media Festival International Rockie Award for Best Docuseries and the Gold Award for Documentary (Social Issues) at the 2021 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards, and the major observational series **Addicted Australia** which won the Gold Award for Documentary (Social Issues) at the 2022 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards.

In 2021, Darren produced for the ABC a second season of **Total Control**, which won the Gold Award (Entertainment Program - Drama) at the 2022 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards, the feature documentary **Step into Paradise** about iconic fashion designers Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson and **Books That Made Us**, a 3 part factual series that also won a Gold Award (THE ARTS) at the 2022 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards.

In 2022, Darren completed production on the historical series **The Australian Wars** (aka **First Wars**) for SBS about the nation's frontier conflicts, and with Jacob Hickey, was Executive Producer on the 6 x 30 minute documentary series **Our Law** for NITV, produced by Pink Pepper and Periscope Pictures.

Recently completed for the ABC are the factual series **First Weapons**, produced with Dena Curtis of Inkey Media, and the feature documentary **The Dark Emu Story**. Currently in production for the ABC is a third season of **Total Control**, and for SBS the factual series **Out of the City** and feature documentary **Lessons from the Unknown**.

With 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 is a Member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. He currently serves on the boards of NIDA, ACMI, the AFI and the Sydney Festival. He was on the board of Screen NSW from 2011 to 2015, the Council of the Australian Film Television and Radio School from 2012 to 2018 (with a term as Deputy Chair from 2014 to 2018) and the Sydney Film Festival from 2017 to 2022. In 2012 he was the recipient of the prestigious AFTRS Honorary Degree.

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JACOB HICKEY – Producer and Co-Writer

Jacob started his career in BBC Current Affairs and Documentary and worked on many award-winning projects before moving to Australia. In 2009 Jacob wrote and directed the feature length documentary **Inside the Firestorm** for the ABC telling the story of Australia's worst bushfire disaster 'Black Saturday'. The documentary won the 2010 AFI Award for Best Direction in a Documentary.

Other projects include the series **Immigration Nation**, on which he was both series producer and director, and **Once Upon a Time in Cabramatta**, on which he was series producer and writer. It won Gold and Silver Medals at New York Film Festivals International Television and Film Awards. In 2012 Jacob was the series producer, director and writer of **Dirty Business – How Mining Made Australia** for SBS.

In 2013 Jacob joined Blackfella Films' Melbourne office as Head of Factual.

Jacob was the writer and series producer of the acclaimed **First Contact** which won the 2015 TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Factual Program. Other projects for Blackfella Films include 'big science' series **DNA Nation, How 'Mad' Are You?** which explored mental health in Australia, and a second season of **First Contact**. Jacob was co-writer, with Amanda Blue, of feature length documentary **Deep Water: The Real Story** which shared the Betty Roland Prize for Scriptwriting at the 2018 NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

In 2017 SBS broadcast the ratings hit series **Filthy Rich & Homeless** on which Jacob was the writer and series producer. In 2019 a second season won the Silver World Medal at the New York Festivals International TV & Film Awards and the Gold Trophy for Reality TV at the 2019 Venice Film Awards. The third and final season won the 2021 BANFF World Media Festival International Rockie Award for Best Docuseries and the Gold Award for Documentary (Social Issues) at the 2021 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards.

Jacob produced, with Darren Dale, the documentary **Maralinga Tjarutja** for the ABC which won the 2020 AACTA Award for Best Direction in Nonfiction Television and the Silver Award for Documentary (Human Rights) at the 2021 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards. He was the writer, series producer and series director on the major observational series **Addicted Australia** for SBS which won the Gold Award for Documentary (Social Issues) at the 2022

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New York Festivals TV & Film Awards.

In 2021, Jacob wrote and series produced the factual series **Books That Made Us** about Australian literature which won the Gold Award (THE ARTS) at the 2022 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards., and co-wrote, with Amanda Blue, the feature documentary **Step Into Paradise** about Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson.

Jacob was a writer on the historical series **The Australian Wars** (aka **First Wars**) for SBS, about the nation's frontier conflicts. In 2022, with Darren Dale, he was Executive Producer on the 6 x 30 minute documentary series **Our Law** for NITV, produced by Pink Pepper and Periscope Pictures. A second season is in production in 2023.

Jacob was a producer on the recently completed feature documentary **The Dark Emu Story**, and executive producer on the factual series **First Weapons**, both for the ABC.

He is the writer and series producer on the factual series **Out of the City**, and producer of the feature documentary **Lessons from the Unknown**, both currently in production for SBS.

Jacob is a Member of the Grand Jury for the 2023 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards.

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BELINDA MRAVICIC – Producer

Belinda is an independent producer who recently collaborated with Blackfella Films on Rachel Perkins' **The Australian Wars**. The television series was broadcast on SBS/NITV in 2022.

In 2022 Belinda also completed a long running collaboration with Rose Ricketson & writer/director, Clare Young to produce the short film **Love Forever**. **Love Forever** premiered at Venice International Film Festival (2022).

In 2018 Belinda produced the web series **Deadlock**, winning an AACTA Award for Best Online Video or Series. Belinda also produced the short film **Water** with John Harvey, which premiered at Adelaide Film Festival (2017), followed by imagineNATIVE Festival, Winda Film Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival, Flickerfest, Maoriland Film Festival and the Smithsonian's Native Cinema Showcase.

Belinda first collaborated with Bruce Pascoe on **Black Chook** (2016). This was Bruce's debut screenplay, produced by Belinda and directed by Dylan River. The film premiered at Sydney Film Festival (2016) and went on to screen at both the Melbourne International Film Festival and imagineNATIVE (2016). It was also nominated for the Best Indigenous Filmmaking Award at St Kilda Film Festival (2017).

In 2015 Belinda produced **Alone**, an Emerging Filmmakers Fund film selected by Screen NSW and directed by Erin Good. **Into My Arms**, directed by Angus Stevens, had its premiere at the St Kilda Film Festival (2010) and was awarded the Special Prize at In The Palace Film Festival (2010).

Over the years, Belinda also worked with a number of exceptional creative teams. She has line produced Warwick Thornton's **We Don't Need A Map**, which premiered at the Opening Night of the 2017 Sydney Film Festival, David Wenham's directorial debut **Ellipsis**, and **Collisions**, a Virtual Reality project for Artist/Filmmaker Lynette Wallworth. **Collisions** premiered at Sundance and screened at the World Economic Forum in 2017.

Other films Belinda has line produced include Wayne Blair's **The Sapphires** (2012), Stephen Page's **Spear** (2015) and **Sand for The Turning** (2013). She was also Associate Producer on Jane Campion's **The Water Diary** for 8, Sélection Officielle, Festival De Cannes (2006).

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KEY CREW BIOGRAPHIES



SIMON MORRIS – Director of Photography

Simon is an established Sydney based cinematographer who mainly shoots long form documentary projects for broadcasters & streamers such as Netflix, BBC, ABC, SBS and Amazon Prime.

Some highlights of Simons career include a '*Best Cinematography in a Documentary*' AACTA nomination in 2017 for **Deep Water: The Real Story**. Along with a double nomination the previous year for the documentary series **Changing Minds** and **DNA Nation**.

The feature documentary **Deep Water: The Real Story** (SBS & Blackfella Films), uncovered the homophobic bloodshed and violence which took place on Sydneys idyllic coastline in the 1970s & 80s. It was widely critically acclaimed as "one of the best true crime documentaries ever made". Simon also received a Silver Australian Cinematographers Society Award for Deep Water in 2017.

Some international productions include shooting the Australian units of **The Most Hated Man on the Internet (2022)** and **MH370: The Plane the Disappeared (2023)** for RAW TV in the UK which were released on Netflix. As well as **EARTHSHOT** (David Attenborough & Prince William) for BBC1/Silverback Films in the UK in 2021.

Amongst many other productions Simon is the cinematographer of **HOT POTATO: The Story of The Wiggles** by SAM Content for Amazon Prime which is due for release later in 2023. Also with SAM Content was the feature documentary **Inconceivable: The secret business of breeding humans** which broadcast on SBS in 2022.

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MARK ATKIN ASE – Editor

Mark Atkin is an award winning Australian editor and filmmaker. After graduating from Swinburne’s Film and Television School in 1981, Mark worked in many facets of television and filmmaking; as a sound recordist, sound-editor, camera assistant and operator, script writer, full-time lecturer at Swinburne and as a director of music videos and documentaries. He has received an ASE “Ellie” award for best editing on **The Slap** (2010), and AACTA awards for best editing on the series, **Mrs Biggs** (2012) and **Stateless** (2020).

For more than 30 years he has edited all types of award-winning productions including feature films; **Only the Brave, Mallboy** and **Force of Destiny** – television drama; **The Slap, Mrs Biggs, Glitch, Safe Harbour, Stateless** and **Clickbait** – documentaries; **Edge of the Possible, Immigration Nation, Jabbed: Fear, Love & Vaccines, DNA Nation, Harry Seidler, Addicted Australia** and **The Australian Wars**.

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CAITLIN YEO – Composer

Caitlin is an acclaimed, multi-award winning Australian screen composer. Her signature style emerges from a fascination with music from different cultures and 20th century form. Her compositions are alive with a deep love of telling stories with music.

Caitlin has recently composed the music for the TV drama series' **Bad Behaviour** for Stan/Matchbox Pictures, **New Gold Mountain** for Goalpost Pictures/SBS TV and **True Colours** for Bunya Productions/SBS TV. She is currently working on the ABC TV/Blackfella Films feature documentary **The Dark Emu Story**, the Disney+/Princess Pictures comedy drama series **Last Days of the Space Age** and the feature documentary **Kindred** for NITV .

Caitlin's scores for **New Gold Mountain** and **Playing with Sharks: The Valerie Taylor Story** were awarded 'Best Original Score in TV' and 'Best Original Score in a Documentary' at the 2021 AACTA Awards. **Playing with Sharks** was also awarded 'Best Music in a Documentary' at the 2021 Screen Music Awards. Caitlin's music for *New Gold Mountain* was also recognised at the 2022 Screen Music Awards, winning her 'Best Television Theme' and 'Best Music for a Miniseries or Telemovie'.



DAMIEN LANE - Composer

Damien Lane is a film composer known for his distinctively eclectic scores. He also works as a producer, arranger and performing artist.

Among his notable collaborators is Amanda Brown, with whom he co-wrote the score for **Quilty: Painting the Shadows**, which was nominated by both AACTA and APRA for Best Score in a Documentary in 2019. He has also collaborated with the photo media artist Tamara Dean and with Jodi Phillis (The Clouds), whose most recent album he produced (*We Need to be Free*).

Damien is currently composing the score for the second season of **The PM's Daughter** for Fremantle Australia/ABC TV, the ABC TV/Blackfella Films feature documentary **The Dark Emu Story** (with Caitlin Yeo) and the feature documentary **Kindred** for NITV (also with Caitlin Yeo). He is preparing an album of instrumental works, set for release in early 2023.

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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 2001. In 2010 Blackfella Films was a recipient of Enterprise funding from Screen Australia. Former ABC Television Head of Drama Miranda Dear joined the company as a producer and was Head of Drama from 2010 to 2020. 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. Erin Bretherton joined the company in 2020 as Head of Scripted Development. In 2022, founder Rachel Perkins departed the company to pursue other life goals.

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 International 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 ABC telemovie **Mabo**, produced by Darren Dale and Miranda Dear and directed by Rachel Perkins, featuring Jimi Bani as Koiki 'Eddie' Mabo and Deborah Mailman as his wife Bonita. It was broadcast 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 season of 6 x 1 hour episodes was produced in 2013, and a final telemovie instalment **Redfern Now: Promise Me** was broadcast in 2015.

Redfern Now has received an extraordinary level of critical and popular acclaim, including the 2013 and 2014 TV Week Logie Awards 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

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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 telemovie **Redfern Now: 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.

The 14 x half hour teen drama series for ABC3 **Ready For This**, a co-production with award winning 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 season 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 companion feature documentary **Deep Water: The Real Story** which investigates the events that inspired the drama series, and complementary online programming. **Deep Water: The Real Story** received top honours at the 2018 NSW Premier's Literary Awards, sharing the Betty Roland Prize for Scriptwriting with Top of the Lake.

In 2017 SBS broadcast **Filthy Rich & Homeless**, a major 3 x 1 hour factual series exploring homelessness in Australia. The feature documentary **In My Own Words**, which celebrates the success of an Indigenous adult literacy program, screened at the Sydney Film Festival and was nominated for the Documentary Australia Foundation Award ahead of its broadcast on SBS and NITV.

In 2018 SBS broadcast a further season of **Filthy Rich & Homeless**, which received the Silver World Medal at the 2019 New York Festivals International TV & Film Awards and the Gold Trophy for Reality TV at the 2019 Venice TV Awards, and **How 'Mad' Are You?** a two part documentary series exploring mental health in Australia.

Premiering at Toronto International Film Festival in 2019, **Total Control**, a 6 x 1 hour drama series directed by Rachel Perkins and produced by Darren Dale and Miranda Dear, won Best TV Drama at the 2019 AACTA Awards, with Deborah Mailman receiving the award for Best Lead Actress in a TV Drama, and Rachel Griffiths the award for Best Guest/Supporting Actress. The series went on to win the 2020 MIPCOM Diversify TV's Excellence Award for Representation of Race and Ethnicity (Scripted) and the Bronze Award for Entertainment Program (Drama) at the 2021 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards.

In 2020, the ABC broadcast the documentary **Maralinga Tjarutja** directed by Larissa Behrendt, which won the 2020 AACTA Award for Best Direction in Nonfiction Television and the Silver Award for Documentary (Human Rights) at the 2021 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards. SBS broadcast a third season of **Filthy Rich & Homeless** which won the 2021 BANFF World Media Festival International Rockie Award for Best Docuseries and the Gold Award for Documentary (Social Issues) at the New York Festivals TV & Film Awards, and the 4 part landmark observational series **Addicted Australia** which won the Gold Award for Documentary (Social Issues) at the 2022 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards.

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Screening on the ABC in 2021 were the feature documentary **Step into Paradise** about the enduring collaboration of iconic fashion designers Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson, a second season of **Total Control** produced by Darren Dale which won the Gold Award (Entertainment Program - Drama) at the 2022 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards, and **Books That Made Us**, a three part factual series about Australian literature which also won a Gold Award (THE ARTS) at the 2022 New York Festivals Television & Film Awards.

In 2022, the major historical documentary series about the nation's frontier conflicts **The Australian Wars** (aka **First Wars**) was broadcast on SBS. It won the 2023 AIDC Award for Best Documentary/Factual Series, and has been shortlisted for the Betty Roland Prize for Scriptwriting at the 2023 NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

Darren Dale and Jacob Hickey were Executive Producers on the 6 x 30 minute documentary series **Our Law** for NITV, produced by Pink Pepper and Periscope Pictures. A second season of **Our Law** is in production in 2023.

Recently completed for the ABC are the 6 x 30 min factual series **First Weapons** (co-produced with Inkey Media) and the feature documentary **The Dark Emu Story**. Currently in production are the factual series **Out of the City** and feature documentary **Lessons from the Unknown** for SBS and a third season of **Total Control** for the ABC. Blackfella Films is also co-producing a 4 part **Untitled** documentary series with US company Show of Force for Disney/ABC US.

In 2019 Blackfella Films received the prestigious Sydney UNESCO City of Film Award. The prize is awarded annually to screen practitioners whose work exhibits innovation, imagination and impact.

THE DARK EMU STORY

OPENING CREDITS

THE DARK EMU STORY

OPENING CREDITS

SCREEN AUSTRALIA
AND
THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
PRESENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCREEN NSW

AND VICSCREEN

A BLACKFELLA FILMS PRODUCTION

THE DARK EMU STORY

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CARD 4		
INTERVIEWEES		
BRUCE PASCOE		
SUELLYN TIGHE		BILL GAMMAGE
DR JUDITH FIELD		KERRIE SAUNDERS
PROF DR MARCIA LANGTON AO		NARELDA JACOBS
ASSOC PROF JULIENNE VAN LOON		RUSSELL MARKS
STEPHEN PAGE		STAN GRANT
BENJAMIN LAW		PROF EMERITUS TOM GRIFFITHS AO
JASON FORD		BRADLEY HARDY
CAMERON FOX		KIRK EYRE
LILY SHEARER		DR PETER SUTTON
DR KERYN WALSHE		DR SCOTT CANE
DOROTHY POOTCHEMUNKA		LAURA McBRIDE
PROF PAUL MEMMOTT AO		LINC WALKER
BENNETT WALKER		LYN HARWOOD
JOSHUA GORRINGE		ASSOC PROF MICHAEL WESTAWAY
TRUDY GORRINGE		DOUG WILLIAMS
JYDAYA GORRINGE		DAKOTA SMITH
KARLIE NOON		CHRIS HARRIS
CARD 5		
PRODUCTION		
Researcher		LIZ WARNING
Development Director		ERICA GLYNN
Production Accountant		BELINDA ROBERTS
Archive Producers		NAOMI HALL & LILLY POWELL RESEARCH ENGINE
Location Associate Producer		FOTINI MANIKAKIS
Production Coordinator		ELOISE FLANAGAN
Production Support		DINUSHA RATNAWEERA MATISSE PURINTON-MILLER
Production Attachment		CHEYENNE SAMAGAIO
Additional Production Accountant		MONIKA STANKOWSKI
Accounts Assistant		LUISA SANETTI
Safety Report		RAY ANTHONY
CARD 6		
2 nd Camera & Drone Operator		DAN PROUD
Additional 2 nd Camera & Drone Operator		DALE COCHRANE
Heliguy Drone Operator		GUY ALEXANDER
Heliguy Camera Operator		NATHAN RICHARDS
Timelapse Photography		MURRAY FREDERICKS
Timelapse Assistant		TOBY WILKINSON
Additional Cinematography		THOMAZ LABANCA
1st Assistant Camera		MICHAEL FAIRBAIRN DANIELLE PAYNE
Additional Camera Assistants		MOLLY SUTHERLAND EAMON DIMMITT
2nd Assistant Camera		CHANTAL JACK
Camera Attachment		NIKITA CALYUN

THE DARK EMU STORY

Gaffers		ALAN FRASER
		STEVE SCHOFIELD
Lighting Assistant		FELIX MAUDE
Crane Grip		KRIS WALLIS
Crane Grip Assistant		SEAN AMBLER
Sound Recordists		EREN 'PINKY' SENER
Additional Sound Recordists		RICHARD TEAGUE
		JARROD OTTEN
CARD 7		
POST PRODUCTION		
Post Production Supervisors		BONNIE FAULKNER
		MICHELLE KASZAI
Additional Editor		JANE USHER
Sound Mix Facility		SOUNDFIRM AUSTRALIA
Supervising Sound Editor		ANDY WRIGHT
Dialogue Editor		WILL CARROLL
FX Editor		MEGAN HOWIESON
Re-recording Mix Assistant		ALEXANDER ROBERTS
Re-recording Mixer		ANDY WRIGHT
Post Production Manager		SHAUN RICHARDS
Post Producer		KEILAH RAFEL MOTTA PIROTELLI
Technical Operations Manager		BRUCE EMERY
CARD 8		
Music Published by		LILLIPILLI IP
Music Mixed by		EVAN McHUGH
Orchestrators		JESSICA WELLS
		CLIFFORD BRADLEY
		MATTHEW CHIN
Music Preparation		JIGSAW MUSIC
Music Recorded by		SEAN CAREY, BRENT CLARK
Music Recorded at		CHURCH STREET STUDIOS
Violin		VÉRONIQUE SERRET, LILSA PALANDI, BEN ADLER
Viola		DARRIN McCANN
Cello		HEATHER LINDSAY
Vocals		DJAKAPURRA MUNYARRYUN
Graphics		KINETIKA
Title & Design		FINN SPENCER
Animation		JULIAN BURGESS
3D		KANIN PHEMAYOTHIN
CARD 9		
Post Production Facility		CUTTING EDGE
Head of Post Production		MARCUS BOLTON
Post Production Producer		STEWART DEAN
Post Production Coordinator		TESSA McELHONE
Post Production Assistants		NICOLE HARGREAVES
		NATASIA KOVEOS
Colourist		DWAINE HYDE

THE DARK EMU STORY

Online Artist		JO SPILLANE
Creative Technology Specialist		SIMON ALBERRY
Media Supervisor		JOHN WARNEKE
Media Operations Coordinator		ANITA HAMPSON
Media Operators		CASEY HUKINS
		MATTHEW BURGESS
		KIERAN STANLEY
Post Production Script		REEZY MILLER SCRIPT SERVICES
Wik-Mungkan Translation		PERRY YUNKAPORTA, GABRIEL WATERMAN
		WOYAN-MIN PROJECT, AURUKUN
CARD 10		
Studio		LUMEN ARTY FILM STUDIOS
		SYDNEY PROPS PHOTO STUDIOS
Camera & Lenses Supplied by		PANAVISION
Additional Equipment		LEMAC
Legals		VERGE WHITFORD & CO, CAROLINE VERGE
Insurance Broker		MOONEYS INSURANCE BROKERS, DAVID MANSLEY
Travel Services		SHOWGROUP TRAVEL SERVICES
CARD 11		
FOR BLACKFELLA FILMS		
Business Affairs		HELEN LOVELOCK
Financial Controller		LEAH HALL
Assistant Accountant		SOPHIE NICHOLAS
Office Managers		LUCY WATERHOUSE
		HANNAH WILLIAMS
FOR ABC		
Head of Indigenous		KELRICK MARTIN
Head of Drama, Entertainment, Indigenous		SALLY RILEY
Deputy Head of Production		ALEX BALDWIN
Production Executive		KIERAN BYCROFT
Business Affairs		JANNALI JONES
Online Producers Indigenous Department		THOMAS FORREST
		JUANITA SCOTT-FUNAKI
Content and Commissioning Coordinator		NICOLE STEVENS
Production Finance Associate		THERESE MACLAINE
Production Administrator		DEEPAK SIDHU
CARD 12		
FOR SCREEN AUSTRALIA		
Head of First Nations		ANGELA BATES
Development & Investment Manager		LAURRIE BRANNIGAN-ONATO
Development & Investment Manager		JOSEPH MELDRUM
Departmental Coordinator		MURRAY CLAPHAM
FOR SCREEN NSW		
Head of Screen NSW		KYAS HEPWORTH
Investment Manager		AMELIA ROWE

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FOR VICSCREEN		
Production Executive - Factual Lead		SAMANTHA DINNING
Production Executive		ANDREW WISEMAN
CARD 13		
ARCHIVE FOOTAGE COURTESY OF		
BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE, DARK EMU 2018		
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BANGARRA DANCERS AND CREATIVE TEAM		
CHOREOGRAPHED BY STEPHEN PAGE, YOLANDE BROWN, DANIEL RILEY		
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STELLA GLORIE		
THE FOOTAGE COMPANY / NINE NETWORK		
THE SYDNEY INSTITUTE		
THE UNSHACKLED, ROGER KARGE		
UNSW CONSERVATIVES, PETER O'BRIEN		
DARK EMU AUDIOBOOK EXCERPTS COURTESY OF BOLINDA AUDIO		
CARD 14		
'DARK SPIRIT OF THE SKY'		
MUSIC COMPOSED & PERFORMED BY STEVE FRANCIS & VOCALS BY BEAU DEAN RILEY SMITH		
ARCHIVE STILLS COURTESY OF		
CLARENCE FLINDERS		AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM
THE KAYTETYE TRADITIONAL OWNERS		MELBOURNE MUSEUM
RON YUNKAPORTA		JOHN VON STURMER
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ROWENA WELSH-JARRETT	PENNY SMALLACOMBE	ALASTAIR McKINNON
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FILMED AND POST PRODUCED IN NSW, AUSTRALIA

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VICSCREEN

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CARD 20

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CARD 21

PRINCIPAL PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING FROM
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THE DARK EMU STORY

CARD 22



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