

# CULTURES IN CONFLICT

## A SEASON OF ETHNOGRAPHIC AND POLITICAL FILMS

This series of lunch-time film screenings has been organized in conjunction with the exhibition: Just Another Sunrise? by Jon Rhodes.

The season embraces two distinct kinds of film-making both of which bear directly or indirectly on the Australian Aborigines' demands for Land Rights. Films on New Guinea have been included in the season in order to expand the picture of cultures under threat from White Australian society and mining interests.

The first group of films are concerned with recording and/or recreating extinct or threatened patterns of society. They include Ian Dunlop's two epic studies on the people of the Western Desert and the Baruya people in the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea as well as Michael Edols' Floating - daily life on an Aboriginal Mission - and Lalai-Dreamtime which recreates pre-settled Australia and the spiritual traditions of the Aboriginal people.

The second group are more directly political films dealing with specific issues and events. In this group are films like Protected - a dramatised documentary of the Aboriginal strikes on Palm Island in 1957 and My Valley is Changing which records the changes brought about in Bougainville by the introduction of copper mining.

### THE PROGRAMME

**PEOPLE OF THE AUSTRALIAN WESTERN DESERT**  
In 1965 and in 1967 the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies sponsored a film trip by the Australian Commonwealth film unit to the Western Desert Region of Australia. The object of the trip was to film the daily life of the nomadic Aborigines of the area. An attempt was to be made to locate groups still living in the desert. 63,000 ft of film was shot and in this record or archival version of the material every shot having ethnographic value is included. Film grammar has, in every case, taken second place.

**TUESDAY 22nd MARCH**  
1.15 PM.  
51 mins Black and white.

**DESERT PEOPLE** - Short version composed of parts 1, 2 & 4.  
Seed cake making and general camp activity  
Gum preparation, stone flaking. Djagamara leaves Badjar. A family moves camp and gathers food.

**WEDNESDAY 23rd MARCH**  
1.15 PM  
90 mins B&W

**PARTS 5 - 10.**  
Old camp sites at Tika Tika, mending a cracked dish. Quandong medical. Spear making, boy's spear fight. Spear thrower

making, fire making, spinning hair string, getting water from well, binding girl's hair. Cooking kangaroo.

THURSDAY 24th MARCH  
1.15 PM  
55 mins. B&W

PART. 12.  
At Patantja Clay Pan, daily life, emu hunting.

FRIDAY 25th MARCH  
1.15 PM

PARTS 13 - 19  
Stone and gum working. Making a wira (wooden dish). Mamu, eviction of an evil spirit. Headache. The treatment of a headache. Feather boots and Manguri. Quandong cake. Cooking Kangaroo (in colour).

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MONDAY 28th MARCH  
1.15 PM  
75 mins B&W

NINGLA A-NA  
For the first time in 200 years of white domination, Aborigines had confronted the government at a national level and, in the words of Bobbi Sykes, "scored a political victory". With such movements as The National Black Theatre, The Medical Service, The Legal Service, The Aboriginal Embassy, this film shows the efforts to develop a new black consciousness that relates to urban conditions and also regenerates tribal and community traditions.  
Dir/Prod. A.Cavadini, Ph: Ian Stocks, ed: Ronda Macgregor. 1972.

TUESDAY 29th MARCH  
1.15 PM  
56 mins Col.

PROTECTED  
A dramatised documentary describing life on Queensland Aboriginal reserve of Palm Island during the 1950's, leading up to a strike in 1957. It was the first time multi-tribal Aborigines were united over an issue; the first time Aborigines decide to fight using the white man's method of strike and demands for arbitration; it was the first time since detribalization that Aborigines fought for self-determination.  
A.Cavadini.

WEDNESDAY 30th MARCH  
1.15 PM  
57 mins. Col.

LALAI - DREAMTIME  
Lalia is a direct result of an attempt to understand something of another culture and its surrounding myths; in this case, Aboriginal society. The film's text is based on an Aboriginal poem chosen to illustrate a universal dilemma of people today - the conflict of identity.  
Michael Edols.

THURSDAY 31st MARCH  
1.15 PM  
75 mins Col.

FLOATING  
Floating shows the reality of daily life on an Aboriginal mission and the results of changes imposed on the indigenous people by the 200 years of white civilization.

P.T.O.

In the 1880's colonisation forced the people from their land; they were centralised at Kunmunja - heart of the 'Worora' people in the Kimberleys. Missionaries moved in from 1912 and from 1947 the people were moved completely away from their traditional lands, eventually being 'resettled' at Derby. This film may appear to be tragic but it also shows the strength of a people who, after a complicated existence of over 200 years are still unified in spirit. They have called themselves the 'Mowanjam' community which translated from the Worora language means 'we will not move again'. In a society that has lost its traditional cultural tie to the land and to the roots of its tribal law, religious beliefs and language, the ambition remains to return to their original spirit places.

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#### TOWARDS BARUYA MANHOOD.

Every two years the Baruya of the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea gather together in a great display of strength and unity to make a new generation of warriors. It is time of intense ritual, instruction and ordeal.

The first two films in this series of nine give an introductory account of Baruya life. The remaining seven films form a continuum. They follow through the initiation ceremonies held in 1969.

FRIDAY 1st APRIL  
1.15 PM  
99 mins Colour. 1972.

FILMS 1 & 2. VILLAGE LIFE.

MONDAY 4th APRIL  
1.15PM  
105 mins Colour 1972.

FILM 3 SCAFFOLDING.  
FILM 4 CEREMONIAL HOUSE.

TUESDAY 5th APRIL  
1.15 PM  
93 mins Colour 1972.

FILM 5 DECORATIONS  
FILM 6 THE CEREMONIES BEGIN

WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL  
1.15 PM  
118 mins Colour 1972.

FILM 7 THE CEREMONIES CONTINUE  
FILM 8 THE CEREMONIES END

THURSDAY 7th APRIL  
1.15 PM  
50 mins Colour 1972.

FILM 9 FEAST AT YANYI

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WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL  
1.15PM  
48 mins Colour

#### NUIGINI - CULTURE SHOCK

This film is a broad-ranging survey of the impact of Western civilization and development on the people of Papua New Guinea. It pays particular attention to the breakdown of village life, economic and political effects of rapid development and the cultural forms evolving through white contact. Jane Oehr and Ian Stocks.

"83MINS Colour 1970

#### MY VALLEY IS CHANGING

The change brought about in Bougainville by the discovery of commercial quantities of copper has affected the local people in many ways. The film shows some of their reactions to the sudden change.

THURSDAY 14th APRIL

1.15PM

83 mins Colour.

#### TIDIKAWA AND FRIENDS

This film provides the only existing record of the Bedamini living in the remote isolation of the Great Papuan Plateau rain forest. Filming over a period of four months after a year's preparation the Doring's approached the Bedamini as friends rather than as objects of study. Not only does the film portray vivid and dramatic events in the people's lives but, more importantly perhaps, it recreates the tempo and tenor of daily life.

Jef and Su Doring.

ERRATUM: On TUESDAY 29th MARCH THE CHANGE AT GROOTE will be shown along with PROTECTED . The Change at Groote shows the change in the lives of the Aboriginal people of Groote Island brought about by the discovery of Manganese. It is a fragmented collage of images and sounds intended to produce a direct emotional response.  
28 mins. B & W.

THURSDAY 14th APRIL

AT 8.00 PM IN THE GEORGE PATON GALLERY

IAN DUNLOP, Director with Film Australia and maker of "The People of the Australian Western Desert" and "Towards Baruya Manhood" will speak and show slides On:

ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM-MAKING.