

## STILLS SELECTION

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### **We have a website:**

<https://www.thecarnivalfilm.com/>

### **We have an email address:**

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### **We have an Instagram page:**

<https://www.instagram.com/thecarnival.film/>

### **And we have a Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/thecarnivalmovie>

## **THE CARNIVAL - SYNOPSES**

### **THE CARNIVAL 100 word synopsis.**

The Bells and their workers have a mission: to keep their carnival alive and thriving, and to keep it in the family. This sixth-generation traveling show family have been touring Australia for a hundred years, and now, facing some of the toughest times they've ever seen are preparing to hand over the reins to the next generation, with the empire expected to be handed down to the next boy in line. Filmed over 7 years, this epic road-trip unveils not only the mystery of the traveling show-people, but also reveals a family grappling with traditional life in a modern world.

### **THE CARNIVAL 250 word synopsis.**

They're one of hundreds of show families in Australia, and they've been on the road for six generations. The Bell family haul their convoy of 30 trucks, carnival rides and their workers across Australia, where they face the elements, lockdowns and bushfires - all while battling to keep their family empire on the road. This colourful, multi-generational family drama explores the nostalgia of the carnival, but underneath is a darker side: one of huge expectations, rivalries and a dominant patriarchy. The empire is expected to be handed down to the next boy in line, 18 year old Roy Bell, who faces his own uncertainties about the future he wants. Meanwhile Roy's sister, 21 year-old Elle, longs to find love but is trapped with her family on this never-ending odyssey around the continent. Being on the road year-round with your family can be tough, but facing the thought of leaving them can be harder, and as lives unfold and the next generation comes into its own, a family unites under the harshest circumstances.

Filmed over the course of seven years and capturing the most intimate moments with the Bells, THE CARNIVAL is an epic road-trip with a family in crisis, battling an unstable economy and the changing modern times. Set against the bush and desert landscapes of

the outback, this is the country like you've never seen it before: it's Australia through the eyes of The Carnival.

### **THE CARNIVAL 600 word synopsis.**

The Bells are one of hundreds of traveling show families in Australia, and they've been on the road for six generations with their entourage of carnival rides, trucks and workers. Elwin Bell Jnr runs this tight outfit - he lives and breathes the carnival and is adamant that his five kids, and their kids, will carry on the tradition for the next hundred years. The pressure of the empire rests on Elwin's son, 18 year old Roy Bell, who is being moulded into show life after his older brother, Leroy, left the family - and the carnival - to live what he calls a 'normal life'. Meanwhile Roy's sister, 21 year old Elle, has left her university course in business law to come home and work in the family business. Elle has big dreams, it's just that she's not sure what they are yet - other than finding love in an industry that proves difficult to offer a suitable match.

Traveling year-round is an expensive operation, and when the family hits a downturn in the economy they know they're the first industry to take the blow. Battling on with their never-ending tour of Australia, the Bells return to their summertime showgrounds in Batemans Bay when they are struck by the most catastrophic bushfire event the country has ever seen. With the fires raging within a kilometre of the carnival, the Bells do everything they can to assist the community, providing a safe-haven all while trying to keep their own livelihoods afloat. In the hazy aftermath of this natural disaster, a new threat looms: one that sees the industry go into a crippling lockdown for close to a year. Amidst the chaos, Roy finds love with new girlfriend, Caitlin, who is also a traveling show-person, while his sister Elle struggles to find anyone suitable - either on or off the showgrounds. Feeling stuck, Elle moves to country town Forbes and finds work in a local lawnmower shop where she hopes to also save money to buy a house.

After months of lockdowns the show finally gets back on the road when 20 year olds Roy and Caitlin discover that they are having a baby and find themselves suddenly torn apart on other sides of the country from each other, with Roy at Alice Springs show and Caitlin in Sydney awaiting the birth of their child. The show must go on and with the threat of a Sydney lockdown imminent, and with growing pressure from his father, Roy has to make one of the biggest decisions of his life: to stay loyal to his Dad and be with him for one of the biggest shows of the year in Alice Springs, or escape to Sydney to be present for the birth of his child.

Ellie moves back from Forbes into the family empire again as Roy makes a sudden dash to Sydney to join Caitlin for the birth of their baby girl, Hartley. As the family comes together with its newest member in tow, eldest son Leroy decides to return to the fold just as the Bells are hit by major flooding that derails their business once again. New father, Roy, now wants to do things his own way, and takes his ride to his mother's family carnival hundreds of kilometres from his own family show in Batemans Bay. Selina follows, and the Bells find themselves split up over Christmas, but with the lessons learned from their journey over the last seven years, they are ready to face this next challenge, and the next hundred years, with new strength and determination - as a family.