

TOM ZUBRYCKI FILMOGRAPHY/RESUME

JOTZ Productions
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FILMOGRAPHY AS DIRECTOR

HOPE ROAD (2017, 103 mins)

A refugee from the Sudanese civil war, Zacharia (one of the 'lost boys' of Sudan) lives in Sydney, Australia, with his partner and daughter. He desperately wants to do something for his village, now in the newly created nation of South Sudan. His dream is to build a much-needed school, and he enlists the backing of numerous well-intentioned Australians. Janet, a dedicated supporter, joins him on a 40-day charity walk from the Queensland border to Sydney to raise funds for this venture. Will this strategy raise the funds they need? Thwarted by escalating conflict back in South Sudan, and shocked by a broken relationship, Zac must decide what's important in his life.

- Sydney Film Festival 2017
- Melbourne International Film Festival 2017

THE HUNGRY TIDE (2011, 83 mins)

A Kiribati woman has the task of alerting the world to her sinking Pacific homeland. Shy at first, we watch her grow in confidence as she takes her message to the world stage.

The Hungry Tide premieres at the Sydney Film Festival, and plays at the Melbourne Film Festival and has its world premier at IDFA in the Green Screen Competition.

- Sydney & Melbourne Film Festivals 2011
- IDFA 2011, FIFO 2012 (Special jury prize), Doc NZ 2012
- Finalist ATOM awards
- Nominated for Best Documentary, Australian Directors Guild Awards
- SBS-TV

TEMPLE OF DREAMS (2007, 89 mins)

Fadi Rahman is one of a new breed of young Muslim leaders. Young, charismatic and politically ambitious, he runs a youth centre in Sydney's west in what was once a Masonic Temple. The Centre struggles in the face of council planning regulations, but three determined but often argumentative young women come to his aid.

- Premiered at Sydney Film Festival
- Finalist ADG Awards, ATOM Awards

VIETNAM SYMPHONY (2005, 52 mins)

In 1965, as the Vietnam War intensified and faced with the threat of massive bombing, the Hanoi Conservatorium of Music – all 600 students and teachers – fled to the countryside where they built an entire campus underground.

- Melbourne Film Festival, Hawaii, Goteberg, Vancouver, Mumbai (2nd prize)
- AFI award for Best Sound in a non-feature film
- SBS-TV

MOLLY & MOBARAK (2003, 84 mins)

A group of Hazara refugees are recruited by a small town abattoir. Mobarak, one of the refugees, befriends 25 year old teacher Molly who offers to teach him how to drive. From this relationship love blossoms, at least on Mobarak's side.

- Premiered at Sydney Film Festival, Melbourne Film Festival, Brisbane Film Festival
- Australian Film Critics Circle Nomination for Best Documentary
- Cinema release in Australia
- Opened Margaret Mead Film Festival, New York, IDFA - competition section for Best Feature
- Sundance Channel, SBS-TV
- One of 'best 25 Films of the noughties' (2000-2009), Filmlink Magazine

THE SECRET SAFARI (2001, 52 mins)

In the 1980's an overland safari truck ran 40 successful trips smuggling arms into the townships of South Africa without the passengers knowledge. One of the ANC's most audacious military operations in the fight against apartheid. (The film was financed by SBS-TV, YLE, SABC, The Learning Channel)

- Best Documentary, Dendy Awards, Sydney Film Festival

THE DIPLOMAT (2000, 84 mins)

A profile of freedom fighter and Nobel Peace Prize winner Jose Ramos Horta in the final tumultuous year of his campaign to secure independence for his country of East Timor.

- Best Documentary (audience vote) - Sydney and Melbourne Film Festivals
- AFI awards - Best Documentary and Best Direction in a Documentary
- Cinema release in Australia

BILLAL (1996, 86 mins)

The life of a Lebanese family undergoes a series of dramatic twists when their teenage boy suffers major brain damage following an incident where he is run-down by an Anglo-Australian teenager in Sydney's west.

- Premiered at Sydney Film Festival
- Sydney & Melbourne Film Festivals
- AFI nomination Best Documentary
- Australian Film Critics Circle nomination
- IDFA, feature documentary competition
- Cinema release - Australia

HOMELANDS (1993, 79 mins)

A story about a refugee family living Melbourne torn apart by their conflicting desire to return to their homeland in El Salvador. The film follows the personal drama in the family's life over 18 months. Screened on SBS

- Sydney & Melbourne Film Festivals
- Australian Film Critics Circle Best Documentary
- AFI nomination Best Documentary
- IDFA (in competition)
- Cinema release

BRAN NUE DAE (1991, 55 mins)

A film about the life of Broome Aboriginal playwright Jimmy Chi and the production of the first Australian musical to be written owned and staged by Aboriginal people.

- Cinema release Australia
- ABC-TV

LORD OF THE BUSH (1990, 55 mins)

A portrait of eccentric British developer Lord McAlpine and his new found domain - the town of Broome and its Aboriginal community in the remote north of Western Australia.

- AFI nomination for Best Documentary
- ABC-TV

AMONGST EQUALS (1990, 90 mins)

A feature doco about the history of the Australian Trade Union movement sponsored by the ACTU and produced by Film Australia. Released by the filmmaker in controversial circumstances following a 12 month dispute after the ACTU attempted to censor it.

- Premiered at Melbourne Film Festival

FRIENDS & ENEMIES (1987, 90 mins)

A blow by blow account of a year long industrial dispute in Queensland over the employment of contract labour and the rise of 'The new right' seen through two main characters personifying two opposing sides of the strike.

- Premiered at the Sydney Film Festival
- AFC/ABC Fellowship film
- AFI nomination for Best Documentary
- Cinema release - Australia

KEMIRA – DIARY OF A STRIKE (1984, 62 mins)

A day-by-day account of a sixteen-day underground colliery sit-in strike which led to the storming of Parliament House, Canberra. The story is mirrored through one of the families of the striking miners.

- Premiered at Sydney Film Festival
- AFI award for Best Documentary
- Best Documentary - Sheffield, Silver Bear - Leipzig
- Cinema release - Australia

WATERLOO (1981, 48 min)

A historical account of a 50 year battle by residents of an inner Sydney suburb to save the area from slum clearance and high rise redevelopment.

- Best Documentary - Dendy Awards, Sydney Film Festival
- Cinema release at the Sydney Filmmakers Co-op Cinema

AS PRODUCER

FAIR GAME

Heritier Lumumba "Tier" is an immigrant boy with a Congolese father and a Brazilian mother – a black man in a white world – now playing in the top league of the AFL. Tier searches for his own identity in a country and culture that will never really accept him. From the slums of Rio de Janeiro to the dizzying heights of Australian celebrity this is the story of a boy who becomes a man by forging his own perilous path through other's expectations.

- Writer/director/co-producer: Jeff Daniels, Producer: Tom Zubrycki
- Commissioned by SBS-TV

THE PANTHER WITHIN

Filmmaker Edoardo Crismani goes on a very personal journey re-tracing the history of his grand-pop Joe Murray. In his early years Joe, a member of the stolen generations, was part of a boxing tent troupe. Later, people called him the 'Black Panther' because of his incredible speed and lightning punches in the ring. In the 1930's Joe and Elizabeth, his white German wife, created a vaudeville troupe which travelled all over Victoria. Joe's daughter Barbara together with her son Edoardo hit the road hoping to find some of the missing pieces of Joe's life.

- Writers/directors: Edoardo Crismani, Allan Collins, Co-Producer Vicki Sugars, Producer: Tom Zubrycki
- Commissioned by NITV (National Indigenous Television)

DOGS OF DEMOCRACY

Mary Zournazi explores the conditions of austerity and life on the streets through the eyes of the dogs and peoples' everyday experience. Shot in location in Athens, the birthplace of democracy, the film is also about how Greece has become the 'stray dogs of Europe', and how the dogs have become a symbol of hope and dignity for the people and for the anti-austerity movement.

- Writer/director: Mary Zournazi, Producer: Tom Zubrycki

THE SUNNYBOY (2013, 90 mins)

An intimate observational documentary of Jeremy Oxley, the much lauded singer/song-writer/guitarist of the successful 80's band the Sunnyboys and his battle with schizophrenia for some 30 years. Director: Kaye Harrison.

- Vivid Festival, Sydney Film Festival (Foxtel competition, Melbourne Film Festival)
- Limited cinema release - Palace
- ABC-TV

MENNY & THE BUNDAROOS (2012, 26 mins)

Mt Druitt Indigenous Church is an important gathering place within the Aboriginal community in the Blacktown area of Western Sydney. 13 year-old Menny is a leading member of Church's youth group, and the film follows his involvement in several activities throughout the year. Director: John Harvey

- Commissioned by Indigenous Dept ABC

BIG BOSS (2012, 26 mins)

The story of a 95 year old Indigenous Elder and her challenge to pass on her traditional knowledge to the next generation. Director: Paul Sinclair.

- Commissioned by Indigenous Dept ABC

LIGHT FROM THE SHADOWS (2012, 26 mins)

A bio-pic about Danny Eastwood - an influential and groundbreaking Australian Indigenous artist who has been working in western Sydney for over 30 years. Director: John Harvey

- Commissioned by Artscape and Indigenous Dept ABC

STOLEN (2009, 78 mins)

Two Australian Filmmakers go to the Saharawi refugee camps in the Algerian desert to make a film about the human price of the long lasting political conflict in the Western Sahara, and find a society where slavery still exists. Directors: Violeta Ayala, Dan Fallshaw.

- The film premiered at The Sydney Film Festival, and later at the Toronto International Film Festival and went on to play at more than 50 festivals around the world
- Won Best Feature Documentary at the Pan-African Film Festival in Los Angeles.

THE INTERVENTION – KATHERINE, NT (2008, 56 mins)

The Commonwealth's Emergency Intervention into the welfare of Aboriginal communities and its roll-out in the Katherine region of the Northern Territory. Director: Julie Nimmo.

- Commissioned by ABC Documentaries and Indigenous Department of Screen Australia

MAD MORRO (2008, 50 mins)

30 year old Aboriginal man is released from jail having served a 13 year sentence. A story about familial love and bonding, and how the effect of prison can either reinforce or break apart that relationship. Director: Kelrick Martin.

- Premiered at Sydney Film Festival
- Nominated Best Documentary IF Awards
- SBS-TV

WANJA (2008, 26 mins)

An experimental documentary about Auntie Barb, an indigenous woman living on The Block in Redfern and her relationship with Wanja, her blue healer dog. Director: Ange Abdilla.

- Premiered at Sydney Film Festival
- IDFA (Finalist Best Short Documentary Competition)
- ABC-TV

A FIGHTING CHANCE (2007, 25 mins)

Nermin Sabanovic, once a champion in his former homeland of Bosnia, tries to make a comeback to the ring after a ten-year absence. However his ageing body and the concerns of his family means the journey and obstacles ahead will be tougher than ever before. Co-producer: Katrina Lucas, Director: Mark Andersson.

- SBS-TV

THE PRODIGAL SON (2005, 27 mins)

Bound by culture and his beliefs Ted's father hasn't spoken to his son for 15 years. It is only after a serious illness, that he begins to speak to him again. The moving story of a traditional Macedonian family's 'dilemma' with having a gay son. Director: Tony Radevski.

- Audience Favourite Doc, Flickerfest
- Best Short Film IF Awards,
- SBS-TV

SHORT STORIES (2006) 4 x ½ hour series

Four-part series about people of short stature.

- Executive Producer: Tom Zubrycki
- SBS-TV

MAKING VENUS (2002, 75 mins)

A revealing portrait of the terrors and excitement of making a low-budget feature film, from fundraising to final test screenings. Director: Gary Doust.

- Premiered at Sydney Film Festival
- Australian Film Critics Circle Jury Prize – Best Documentary
- SBS-TV

GULPILIL – ONE RED BLOOD (2002, 56 mins)

A portrait of the Australian indigenous actor David Gulpilil charting his career from his origins as a strictly tribal man who spoke no English to an acclaimed leading actor. Director: Darlene Johnson.

- Premiered at Melbourne Film Festival
- ABC-TV

STOLEN GENERATIONS (2000, 52 mins)

An historical account based on personal testimony surveying the policy and practise of removal of 'part-descent' Aboriginal children from their parents. Director: Darlene Johnson.

- AFI nomination Best Documentary 2000
- Finalist Dendy Awards (Sydney Film Festival)
- ABC-TV

WHITEYS LIKE US (1998. 52 mins)

An observational account of what happens when 15 white strangers who undertake an 8 week-long 'course' to discuss, argue and hopefully learn about Aboriginal reconciliation. Director: Rachel Landers.

- SBS-TV

DR. JAZZ (1998, 55 mins)

A personal view of the relationship between jazz, art, and filmmaking by Sydney-based filmmaker David Perry.

- ABC-TV

EXILE IN SARAJEVO (1996, 90 mins)

A personal, highly emotive behind-the-scenes account of the Balkan war and its effects on the city of Sarajevo filmed over the concluding six month period of the fighting. Directed by Tahir Cambis and Alma Sazbaz.

- International Emmy
 - Sydney & Melbourne Film Festivals, IDFA (in competition)
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AWARDS *(excluding individual films)*

2014

Inaugural “**Mentor of the Year**” Award presented by Indie gems.

2012

Stanley Hawes Award “in recognition of outstanding contribution to documentary filmmaking in Australia”. Awarded at the 2010 Australian International Documentary Conference.

2009

Cecil Holmes Award for services to documentary. Awarded by the Australian Directors Guild

2002

Documentary Fellowship awarded by the NSW Film & TV office.

2001

One of 21 directors awarded the inaugural **A.S.D.A accreditation** in recognition of “body of work and excellence in the art of screen direction” by the Australian Screen Directors Association.

1985

Documentary Fellowship (inaugural) awarded by the Australian Film Commission. Given budget to make a film of his choice (which ended up being *Friends & Enemies*).

FILM FESTIVAL JURIES

2017 Jury, *Documentary Australia Foundation competition for Best Documentary, Sydney Film Festival*

2015 Feature Jury, *Dubai International Film Festival*

2014 Feature Jury, *FIFO Oceanic Documentary Film Festival, Tahiti*

2010 – 2015 Pre-selection Jury, *Documentary Sydney Film Festival*

2013 – 2014 Jury, *Feature documentary, Australian Directors Guild Awards*

2008 Jury, *Flickerfest - Festival of short drama & documentary*

2003 Chairman, International Jury, *Mumbai Documentary and Short Film Festival, India.*



TEACHING

2009 – 2015

Lecturer & convenor, Documentary Master-class. Australian Film Television & Radio School.

2013

Lecturer, Graduate Diploma in Documentary, Australian Film Television & Radio School. (AFTRS)

2002 – 2009

Lecturer - Documentary in Bachelor/Master of Media Arts & Production, University of Technology, Sydney.

2002 – 2012

Casual lecturer, Sydney Film School

1990 – 2006

Various Lecture presentations AFTRS

1996 – 2000

Course Director/lecturer “Art of Documentary” AFTRS

1979 – 1983

Lecturer & course convenor of workshops in ½ inch and U-matic video formats for the AFTRS industry program

1978 – 1982

Lecturer in video production in the Department of Media Arts and Production, University of Technology, Sydney

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS/EMPLOYMENT

2011

“The Documentary As Privileged Access” by Tom Zubrycki in LUMINA - the Australian Journal of Screen Arts and Business, Issue 8, pp 107-115.

2006 - 2017

Lecturer, Documentary Masterclass, Australian Film TV and Radio School (AFTRS)

2005

Article: “On filmmaking, history and other obsessions” - an article on Tom Zubrycki by Patrick Armstrong in *METRO MAGAZINE*

2003

Interviewed on Margaret Throsby program, ABC Radio National

Presentation to the Independent Scholars Association of Australia, as part of a series of “Conversations with Cultural Pacemakers”, NSW Chapter, State Library of NSW

2002

Presentation: “Profession, privilege and passion” - at the ASDA Conference 2002: “Persistence of Vision” by Tom Zubrycki

2001

Panelist: Australian International Documentary Conference. Gave presentations in sessions on Story-telling & social justice

2000

Keynote presentation at the 2000 NSW Premier's History Awards: 'Ahead of history' - the documentary filmmaker in the age of extremes'.

Article: "When passion isn't enough" by Tom Zubrycki in *THE HECKLER*. Sydney Morning Herald.

Participant: Round Table on Cross-cultural Filmmaking, Convened by the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, ANU.

1999

Article: "Documentary – a personal view" by Tom Zubrycki in *SECOND TAKE – Australian Filmmakers Talk* by Burton & Caputo, Allen & Unwin

1997

Article: "From video to film and back again" by Tom Zubrycki. Published in *METRO MAGAZINE*

1996 – 97

Commissioning Editor SBS Independent.

Speaker at forum: "How Reality is represented on the screen" NSW Writer's Centre.

Speaker: "Conversation on Film" presented by the Australian Film Institute,

Convenor, Documentary Sub-committee ASDA

1987

Article: "Zubrycki zooms in on Social inequalities and worthy causes" in *TIMES ON SUNDAY*, 1987

1982

Researcher: "Migrant Experience" – 6 part series produced by Film Australia for SBS-TV.

Board of Metro TV (which has now changed its name to Metro Screen)

1979

Organiser and co-ordinator VIDEO MAYFAIR – the first ever public exhibition of independently made video in Sydney. Screened at the Sydney Filmmakers Co-op".

Member of Sydney Filmmakers Co-operative. The Co-op distributed my early videos plus films made on 16mm: eg *WATERLOO* and *KEMIRA - DIARY OF A STRIKE*

Editorial Board: "Filmnews" published by the Sydney Filmmakers Co-operative.

Board Member: Newtown Neighbourhood Centre.

1975 – 78

Co-ordinator/director 'Community Media Bus' – a community-based mobile video production unit which also delivered information about government services to multicultural community.

Commissions:

- Videos for federal and state government departments including the NSW Health Commission, The Australia Council and the Commonwealth Schools Commission and the Department of Urban and Regional Development.

- Implementation and supervision of a video interaction program designed to foster community involvement in the planning of a local community centre in Hurstville.

- Video submission for the Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development as part of the Council's submission to the Royal Commission on Human Relationships

- Educational slide-kit on Indo-Chinese Refugee groups for Austcare.

Tutor (casual) in Dept of Sociology, Macquarie University & Dept of Sociology, Wollongong University.

Board Member: Inner Sydney Council for Social Development

Board Member: Newtown Neighbourhood Centre

Participant Ethnographic Film Conference, Australian National University, Canberra. Exposed to 'direct cinema' styles for the first time - films by Wiseman, Pennebakers, Maysles Brothers.

1972 – 74

Produced and directed issue-based advocacy videos in collaboration with inner-Sydney communities and trade unions using black and white porta-paks video-technology. Eg "We Have to Live With It" (1974, 23 mins) & "Fig St Fiasco" (1974, 40 mins)

Full list of videos including clips can be found on www.tomzubrycki.com/films-pre1980.html

1972 – 1973

Active in organising the Nimbin Aquarius Festival and Alternative Community Telephone.

Article: "Deschooling as a political movement – some radical alternatives for community development" in *THE WAY OUT* (Margaret Smith, David Crossley eds, 1975)

1971

Tutor (casual) in Dept of Sociology University of NSW

PhD candidate (in Sociology) University of NSW. Started research into "Alternative Communities" in Northern New South Wales.

Masters of Arts (University of NSW) – first class honours in Sociology,

1968

Bachelor Of Science at Australian National University, specialising in Physics and Mathematics.

1965

High School St Edmunds College, Canberra.

COMMITTEES

2013 – 2017

Board of Management, ASDACS (Australian Screen Directors Authorship Collecting Society)

2008 – 2017

Committee Member of OZDOX, The Australian Documentary Forum

2014 – 2016

Board of Directors, The Australian Screen Directors Authorship Collecting Society

2012 – 2015

Screening Committee: Screen Café. Riverside Theatre, Parramatta

2003 – 2008

Board of Directors, Australian Screen Directors Association (ASDA) representative
SPAA/ASDA Documentary Committee (SADC).

1998 – 2006

External Script Assessor: NSW Film & Television Office, and the Australian Film Commission

1998 – 99

Board of Management, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

Presentation: Documentary Ethics at the 4th Australian International Documentary Conference., Brisbane

1995 – 2005

Documentary Sub-committee, Australian Screen Directors Association (ASDA).

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Many of my films (prior to 2010) and early access video titles have been curated (with playable online extracts) by Australian Screen Online (ASO)

https://aso.gov.au/people/Tom_Zubrycki/screenography/

References to articles on my early films and videos plus other references to me in the magazine FILMNEWS between 1974 and 1986

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?q=&exactPhrase=Tom+Zubrycki&anyWords=¬Words=&requestHandler=&dateFrom=&dateTo=&l-advtitle=1104&sortBy=>

Wikipedia entry:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Zubrycki

For more detail on each film, articles and detailed CV please consult website

www.tomzubrycki.com