

“Teach A Man to Fish” - Vision Statement

In this largely autobiographical documentary Grant has to grapple with complex and personal questions. This is a quest film. Grant's goal in this film is to make sense of his priorities as he's approaching mid-life and planning for the future. In the process he needs to resolve the past, and a lot of that is tied up with his relationship with his father, who's now on the point of retirement. This is the reason Grant wants to spend time with him - to recover a relationship that was often problematic, and to spend a special time together, a time they never had when he was younger.

This is a simple idea, but at the same time profound. It's a major thing for Grant to take on, and it's something many men of a similar age shy away from. However, through forging a deeper connection his Dad means Grant will aim to get a deeper insight into himself, and confront the drug use, mental illness, and risky behavior when he was younger, and the struggle to get where he is now. All this will be referenced by of still photos, MTV clips of his band etc. The film, however, will be far from bleak. Visually it should prove very strong – the Manning River early morning with the mist rising on the river, and then the magic sunsets later in the afternoon. And it will also be entertaining. There will be a humour and a lot of it, eg Grant's incompetence in tying knots and steering the boat, and being ticked off by his Dad etc.

Additional elements in the film add a layer of complexity. There's Gabrielle, Grant's Norwegian partner. She is a major force in his life. She's supportive of Grant, but at the same time as being encouraging, she's also critical, asking him to understand her background as well. Grant mother of Italian heritage wants him to acknowledge and understand her background as well. Beneath all this is another layer, which is almost taboo: who is allowed to be indigenous and who is not? Fair-skinned kids claiming Aboriginality is hard for some, for others not. Thus Grant is speaking to a whole generation of young people growing up in country towns - raising subjects like identity, and drug and alcohol abuse which are the main source of dysfunction, and anti-social behavior.

Tom Zubrycki, producer