



*A film about love, war, sex, politics
.....with chickpeas*

www.makehummusnotwar.com

**Writer & Director
Trevor Graham**

**Producers
Ned Lander
Trevor Graham**

**Executive Producer
Andrew Myer**

Produced by Yarra Bank Films Pty Ltd, Fine Cut Films Pty Ltd, Ned Lander Media Pty Ltd,



make Hummus not WAR

A Feature film, TV hour & website

SYNOPSIS

Log Line

A film about love, war, sex, politicswith chickpeas

One Paragraph Synopsis

Filmmaker Trevor Graham is an Australian ‘hummus tragic’. Every week in his Bondi Beach home he obsessively observes the hummus making ritual—mashing chickpeas, lemon juice, garlic and tahina...with just a touch of cumin. But when the ‘Hummus War’ erupted in the Middle East in 2008, amongst the usual suspects, Israel, Lebanon and Palestine, Graham was intrigued and hungry for more. He discovers a war in the kitchen, just as ferocious as any Arab-Israeli conflict. But *this* war has no soldiers, bullets, rockets or tanks. Just – CHICK PEAS *and HUMMUS!* *Make Hummus Not War*, is a humorous homage to the chickpea’s most distinguished dish. But there’s a personal story within the ‘hummus war’ story, *how* Graham became a hummus tragic—a father who served as a soldier in Palestine during World War 2—and two lovers in his life, one Egyptian, one Jewish, with whom he shared a great culinary passion.



One Page Synopsis

Filmmaker Trevor Graham is an Australian ‘hummus tragic’. Every week in his Bondi Beach home he obsessively observes the hummus making ritual—mashing chickpeas, lemon juice, garlic and tahina...with just a touch of cumin. But when the ‘Hummus War’ erupted in the Middle East in 2008, amongst the usual suspects, Israel, Lebanon and Palestine, Graham was intrigued and hungry for more. He discovers a war in the kitchen, just as ferocious as any Arab-Israeli conflict. But *this* war has no soldiers, bullets, rockets or tanks. Just – CHICK PEAS *and HUMMUS!*

Hummus is one of the oldest known prepared foods in human history, stretching back to the Crusades. Israelis, Lebanese, Syrians, Egyptians, Jordanians, Palestinians, Turks and Iraqis, all claim it as their own. For Claudia Roden, doyenne of Middle Eastern cuisine, “*Every recipe tells a story and chickpeas are so common in the Arab world that they could be a symbol of it.*” In the 21st century, hummus is a fashionable food commodity, manufactured and sold *everywhere*.

But the Middle East is a place where passions are quick to ignite. And so, where there is hummus, there is also intense rivalry – over who has the best recipe, which nationality invented it, and who can make the biggest bowl of it. In 2008, the Association of Lebanese Industrialists ignited the ‘Hummus War’, by deciding to sue Israel in an international court, claiming Israeli food manufacturers were promoting traditional Arab cuisine as Israeli products.

Make Hummus Not War is Graham’s journey though the hummus bars and kitchens of, Beirut, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and New York. Along the way he encounters Claudia Roden and other well known gastronomes like Janna Gur. He meets zealots, Jewish settlers, biblical characters, political activists, chickpea farmers, novelists and Sheiks, for whom hummus is a near religious obsession.

But the heat in the kitchen is sometimes blistering. Graham finds himself unwittingly drawn into the bigger Arab-Israel conflict. The hummus war, he concludes, is a battle over history, national honour, myth and religious faith. *Does that sound familiar?*

More than a culinary journey, to taste delicious hummus, Graham has a quest to find some answers; *who owns* hummus, and *who*—Jew or Arab—has the most mouth watering secret recipe? Are people who adore the same food, destined to share the same fate? Graham ponders a whacky proposition.....*could a regional love of hummus be the long yearned for solution to peace in the Middle East?*

Make Hummus Not War, is a humorous homage to the chickpea’s most distinguished dish. But there’s a personal story within the ‘hummus war’ story, *how* Graham became a hummus tragic—a father who served as a soldier in Palestine during World War 2—and two lovers in his life, one Egyptian, one Jewish, with whom he shared a great culinary passion.

A trans media project, *Make Hummus Not War* encompasses a feature documentary, TV hour and interactive website. **The feature film** premieres at the Melbourne International Film Festival in August 2012 and the website will launch concurrently. The film is also available for TV and festival release in August.

ABOUT THE MAKING OF *make Hummus not WAR*

*Made with the support of
Screen Australia, Screen NSW,
Melbourne International Film Festival's Premier Fund
& Fine Cut Films*



DIRECTORS VIEW *Why I had to make this film*

I have this crazy idea. Could a regional love of hummus be the recipe for peace in the Middle East? *Whacky*, but that *was* the starting point for this film's delicious hummus journey.

I believe passionately that documentaries are a vital part of international culture and democracy with a unique role to play in reflecting the way we live—challenging our ideas, assumptions and fears about the past, present and future of our world. *That's why I make them and have done so for almost 30 years.* Just like hummus, films are an essential part of my life, they nourish me too.

Funny, lively and insightful—that's how I sold the film—a fresh take on a 60 year old battle ground in the Middle East. I wanted to make a charming portrait, without taking sides, to examine the hummus conflict in Israel, Lebanon and Palestine from the point of view of these peoples first shared love – chickpeas. Humour from both sides of the 'plate' was the number one ingredient.

I've grown up and lived my entire life with the ongoing Middle East conflict—fortunately viewing it from the safety of Australia. But the conflict touches my life directly and indirectly in many significant ways. It's affected my love life at different stages as outlined in the film's story. I've had many Lebanese and Palestinian friends, refugees from various conflicts who've taken haven in Australia. I've also had Israeli draft dodger friends who came here to hide, escape the army, and live their lives in a way we take for granted. Two of my dearest friends Yosl and Audrey Bergner live in Tel Aviv. During Gulf War 1, in 1990, they would ring me in Melbourne to tell me they were sitting in their living room, on their sofa, staring at each other wearing gas masks, as outside their windows air raid sirens blared warning of approaching Scud missiles. They were in their early 70s at the time and married for over 40

years. “*What a sight*”, Yosli told me, “*After 40 years, now we talk to each other through gas masks*”.

Then there is my father’s story, just another example of how, although we are on the other side of the world, Australian’s are deeply connected to the Middle East. Dad, because of his war service loved the Old City – Jerusalem – one of the oldest cities in the world. It was an extraordinary place to film this story. Not only is some of the best hummus in the world arguably found here, at ‘Abu Shukri’ and ‘Lina’, it’s a city steeped in conflict, both ancient and modern, and its walls speak of the age old battles they have witnessed. It’s living history.

So I wanted *Make Hummus Not War* to provide a different take on the politics and strife that has engulfed the Middle East since before the foundation of Israel in 1948. Whilst the film is intentionally humorous, it does inform some grand and passionate themes and back stories. Hummus and chick peas are a symbol of our common humanity—our common ancient roots to live, eat, taste and enjoy life. For my part, I wanted this movie to communicate, as Bill Clinton did in 1992, at the height of the Balkans crisis, “*We have more in common than divides us*”. To make hummus from one of the oldest of cultivated crops—chick peas—is a symbol of what it means to be human—traversing frontiers—cultural, religious, national and personal.

Through my research and making the film, I didn’t believe it was ultimately possible to come to a conclusion about any one nationality *owning* hummus. Nor did I want to. It belongs to the region. It’s a food of the Levant dating back centuries. But I was very confident asserting that I too am an owner, as a passionate maker and eater of this tasty dip—as are other zealous hummus foodies.

I’m a Middle Eastern fanatic when it comes to food. Not a week goes by without consulting Claudia Roden’s, *Arabesque* or her book, *Middle Eastern Food*. The pleasures of Janna Gur’s, *The Book of New Israeli Food* and Christiane Dabdoub Nasser’s, *Classic Palestinian Cooking*, have now been added to our kitchen. Tajines, hummus and baba ganoush are staples at home in Bondi Beach. The flavour of these foods has been a part of my life since I was a teenager. And as one gets older, reflection gathers momentum; about who you are and where you come from. That’s another reason why I made the film.

I wanted the film to be a mixture of styles, observational moments bringing to life hummus on screen for an audience, so they would leave the cinema hungry for more—both for the hummus and its delicious history. I found great characters with great stories and humour. It was an honour to meet them all and have the opportunity of filming aspects of their lives. I particularly loved filming with Lebanese Minister of Tourism, Fadi Abboud. He has a great sense of humour and was extremely generous with his time and views. We carved out a special place for food writer Claudia Roden. Her work, knowledge, experience and recipes are treated as hallowed ground. She is after all *the doyenne* of Middle Eastern food. And Claudia speaks eloquently about all Middle East food traditions – Jewish and Arabic. Animation was always a key ingredient to enhance the humour and to tell my personal family story. With animator Tim Richter we developed a style that draws on Terry Gilliam’s, *Monty Python’s Flying Circus*. The animations are often whimsical, mixed media with references to art, history and religion.

Trevor Graham-Director

Producer Ned Lander says:

When my old friend and colleague, Trevor Graham, told me he was planning to make a documentary called, *Make Hummus Not War*, I said, “What?” and started laughing. I’ve been laughing ever since. How can you *not* love the idea that a working class boy from Sunshine (yes, that *is* the name of the bleak Melbourne suburb) made good, is going to solve the Middle East crisis by making a documentary about chick peas?

Though Trevor and I have worked together for nearly thirty years, he never ceases to surprise me with his creativity, his intelligence and his humanity. But it’s his sense of humour that I knew would make this particular film so appealing, not to mention mouth watering. It turns out Trevor is not alone in his obsession with hummus. Around the world people share this preoccupation – if you don’t believe me go online. *Make Hummus Not War* dares to suggest that one of the world’s most entrenched conflicts might be resolved by acknowledging the significance of a common and ancient dish.

Trevor’s attention to detail and genuine openness to the experience of his participants delivers a refreshing view of the Israeli Palestinian conflict. His work lets ordinary people speak at length about their love of one of the world’s oldest prepared foods – a dish so basic it is usually passed by.

Funding the film proved to be less of a laughing matter - authored documentaries are an endangered species in Australia as they are in the rest of the world. Thanks to the Melbourne International Film Festival Premiere Fund, Screen Australia, Screen NSW, Andrew Myer, Off The Fence NV, Antidote Films, and the Telematic Trust we have been able to bring Trevor’s unique vision to big and little screens around the world.

Try it! Taste it! Make up your own mind!

Executive Producer Andrew Myer says:

My grandfather, Sidney Myer, was a Jew who fled the programs of Bella Rouse in 1898. Whilst he became a Christian later in his life, there are several relatives who still live in Israel. I have followed with interest the developments in the Middle East for the past 30 years.

I have known of and admired Trevor’s work of many great documentaries screened nationally and internationally, including the AFI award winning *Mabo – Life of an Island Man* (1997).

I have previously worked with Ned Lander who introduced me to Trevor in the mid ‘90’s with our major project being the feature *Radiance* (1998). After a ten year pause we are now working together again on Hummus and other television projects.

The decision to commit to the Hummus project was the quickest decision Fine Cut Films has ever made: 2 days! It was made easy as the project had all the right ingredients – a talented director, a fantastic concept that will play well on TV and film festivals throughout the world and it was about food which is dear to my heart. The blend of using food culture as a humorous and educational way of examining the Middle East conflict is inspired and original.

The project also tapped into my background in hospitality. Prior to entering the film world I worked as a caterer for six years and was the owner of a large inner suburban seafood restaurant - so food has always been an important part of my life. Hummus was not a featured dish on our menus, although through this project I have a new found admiration for it.

I think one of the things that Trevor has captured so well in this film is the importance of eating rituals for both Jews and Arabs, which makes this project personal, powerful, poignant and pushy. Trevor's visual style and the film's multiple narratives and genuinely interesting characters makes it accessible. It will no doubt remain talked about as an educational piece for many years to come. If you're not starving after watching this film then I'll shout you dinner!

BIOGRAPHIES OF PARTICIPANTS

Ali Salah



Ali Salah is a Palestinian farmer from the West Bank who lives in al-Khader a township, 5 kilometers west of Bethlehem. The town is well-known in the area for its harvest of peaches, grapes and apples. Ali also grows chickpeas which his family mostly uses for his own domestic purposes. Since Israel's construction of the 'Separation Wall', around al-Khader, several thousand dunams of farmland have been separated from the town, with many inhabitants unable to access their land without a permit.

Anastasia Michaeli



Anastasia Michaeli is a Member of the Israeli Knesset for the Yisrael Beiteinu political party and has had successful careers in television journalism, business and modelling. Although Michaeli was born in Leningrad, in the former Soviet Union, in an ethnic Russian family, she converted to Judaism when she met and married her Israeli husband. The political party she represents, Yisrael Beiteinu, was formed by current Foreign Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, to create a platform for Russian immigrants who support a hard line in negotiations with the Palestinian Authority. Anastasia loves to eat hummus with cabbage.

Bat-El Malul



Bat-El Malul is a young Israeli shop worker in Jerusalem whom I was introduced to by my Israeli fixer and translator Lee Fishman. Bat-El is a lively young woman with very firm views on both hummus and the Arab/Palestinian conflict. She lives with her family in the settlement of Eli, near Nablus on the West Bank, which Bat-El calls by the old biblical names Judea and Samaria. Every working day Bat-El travels an hour and half each way to Jerusalem where she works in a shopping mall for orthodox Jews.

Claudia Roden



An acclaimed author of cook books, Claudia Roden was born in Cairo, Egypt, in 1936. Her family were steeped in the culinary traditions of the Middle East. Three of her grandparents were from Aleppo, in what is now Syria, and one came from Istanbul, in Turkey. Her family was part of the extensive Sephardic Jewish community living in Egypt until the 1956 Suez Crisis.

The experience of exile propelled Roden to begin her career as a cookbook writer of Middle Eastern cuisine. Her first book, *A Book of Middle Eastern Food* was published in 1968. Since then over a dozen others have followed including her magnum opus *The Book of Jewish Food—An Odyssey from Samarkand and Vilna to Present Day* in 1997. Claudia has also taught Middle Eastern cooking from her home in London. She was a foreign food correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, and hosted a BBC TV series *Claudia Roden's Mediterranean Cookery*. Roden's books are respected for their writing as much as for their recipes.

Debbie Schlusel



Debbie Schlusel is an American attorney, film critic, political commentator, and conservative blogger who focuses in her writing on Islam and American Muslims. She frequently targets the largely Muslim population of her hometown Detroit suburb, of Dearborn, which she refers to as "Dearbornistan". Her columns are often provocative and controversial, specifically those detailing with what she considers the unsavory elements of Islam, the objectionable activities of American Muslims, illegal immigrants, as well as liberal and "faux-conservative" politicians. She has appeared on FOX TV and CNN as a conservative commentator.

Elise Casto



Elise Casto is the Brand Manager for Tribe Mediterranean the number two hummus producers in the United States market. Based in Taunton Massachusetts, Tribe have introduced many new product lines and flavours of hummus to the US market. Tribe are owned by the Osem Group, an Israeli company.

Fadi Abboud



Fadi Abboud is currently the Minister for Tourism in Lebanon. Prior to this he had a successful career in industry, working in the packaging, plastic engineering, general machines, metal processing, and food businesses. On two occasions he has been elected President of the Board of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists. He is also a member of the American Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and the International Chamber of Commerce. Fadi has been a loud voice in the 'Hummus War' and along with Chef Ramzi was one of the main instigators of the campaign and promotions for Lebanese hummus against Israeli hummus. Abboud is also a hummus producer and has small company, Naas.

George Salameh



George Salameh and his family are the owners of Aftem a legendary hummus cafe that has been on the fringe of Manger Square in Bethlehem since 1948. George's family were originally from the Palestinian port town of Jaffa, now part of greater Tel Aviv, but fled as a refugees in 1948 to Bethlehem. Jordan annexed the city in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, it was occupied by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War and since 1995 has been governed by the Palestinian National Authority. George's parents initially ran a small bakery but moved eventually into hummus and falafel. Aftem was until the building of the wall surrounding Bethlehem, and travel restrictions, a popular destination for Israeli hummus lovers. The wall has greatly impacted Palestinian business in Bethlehem.

Ghaleb Zahdeh



Ghaleb Zahdeh is a prince of Palestinian hummus who has been in the business for about 35 years. He gave one of the best interviews for the film, giving some real insights into both the history of hummus, the way he makes it and what it means to him. Ghaleb is a very quietly charming man and I had the impression that his hand crafted hummus has influenced his outlook on life. He started young, when he was 8 or 9 he would come to his father's shop to play. Eventually he took over the business and has been in the Old City premises for 35 years. Situated in the Christian Arab quarter, Lina hummus is one of the best, lightly spiced with a jalapeno pepper.

Dr Hanan Ashrawi



Dr. Hanan Daoud Khalil Ashrawi is a Palestinian legislator, activist, and scholar. She is one of the most well known faces of the PLO. Dr Ashrawi was a protégé and later colleague and close friend of Edward Said. She was an important leader during the First Intifada, served as the official spokesperson for the Palestinian Delegation to the Middle East peace process, and has been elected numerous times to the Palestinian Legislative Council. She is the first woman elected to the Palestinian National Council. In 2003 Dr Ashrawi was awarded the Sydney Peace Prize.

Janna Gur



Janna Gur is an Israeli food writer, editor, expert on Israeli-Jewish cuisine and the author of 'The Book of New Israeli Food'. Gur was born in the Latvian capital Riga in the former Soviet Union and immigrated to Israel in 1974, when she was 16. Janna and her husband Ilan are the co-founders, in 1991, of Al Hashulchan, a popular Israeli food and wine magazine. Today it is considered the premier culinary Hebrew speaking magazine and is widely read by amateurs and professionals alike.

Meir Micha



Meir Micha is the colourful owner of Pinati, a chain of hummus restaurants throughout Israel. The original store is in the heart of West Jerusalem. Meir started making hummus when he was a young boy, by watching his Turkish grandfather who had a small falafel and hummus stall at the Jerusalem market. The first Pinati restaurant was opened by Meir in its current location in 1975. It was a Turkish restaurant. At that time all the hummus was made without machines, by hand. Pinati today is a Jerusalem hummus landmark.

Meir Shalev



Acclaimed author Meir Shalev was born in 1948 in Nahalal, Israel's first moshav (a co-op community), where he also grew up. He later moved to Jerusalem, where he lives today. After studying psychology at the Hebrew University, Shalev became well-known as the producer and moderator of radio and TV programs. Meir's novels have been bestsellers abroad as well as in Israel; he has also written two non-fiction books and five books for children. He has won the Bernstein Prize (1989), the Juliet Club Prize (Italy, 1999), the Wizo Prize in France, Israel and Italy, the Brenner Prize (2006) and the American National Jewish Book Award for *The Pigeon and the Boy* (2007). His work has been published abroad in over 20 languages. Shalev threw a biblical grenade into the 'Hummus War' when he wrote and published a newspaper article titled, 'The Hummus Is Ours'.

Ori Apple



Ori is the owner of Hummus Place, a chain of hummus restaurants that have opened in New York City since 2004. Hummus Place is an Israeli style hummus bar that serves a range of Middle Eastern style mezze and Israeli dishes like Shakshuka. Ori grew up in Israel and has brought his knowledge of Israeli hummus, recipes, tastes and flavours to his restaurants. Hummus Place on Bleeker and 7th Ave, in the West Village, is very popular with locals and tourists alike.

Raji Kebbe



Raji Kebbe is the co-owner of Soucci Restaurant in downtown Beirut. It's a Lebanese institution that has been in its current location since the mid 1970s. Raji's grandfather started in the hummus business at the Beirut market in the late 19th century. Raji started in the business when he was 14 years old and has been a hummus maker for over 50 years.

Ruth Tavour



Ruth Tavour is the charismatic co-owner of Hummus Ashkara, which has a reputation for producing the best hummus in Tel Aviv. Ruth, who has an Italian father and a Tunisian mother, was born on the ship that bought her parents to Israel in 1962. Hummus is not part of the Tunisian kitchen, so Ruth's appreciation and love of hummus comes from her life growing up in Israel. Prior to establishing Hummus Ashkara, Ruth worked as a nurse. She owns the restaurant with her husband and describes it as a 'labour of love'.

Shooky Galili



Shooky Galili is an Israeli journalist and blogger– the founder and current editor of 'The Hummus 101' Blog. He calls himself a 'hummus activist'. His comedic talent and knowledge of the best hummus bars in Tel Aviv make him a key hummus accomplice. Galili writes mostly about technology, politics and food, "Trying to make a copyright claim over hummus is like claiming for the rights to bread or wine. Hummus is a centuries old Arab dish—nobody owns it, it belongs to the region."

Susan Landau



Susan Landau grew up in a Jewish family in north eastern Pennsylvania with very close connections to the Jewish community and the values of social justice. Being Jewish and being part of a multicultural community was a very strong family value. Her parents were Zionists who visited Israel several times during the 1950s and Susan has Israeli relatives, some of whom live in settlements on the Occupied West Bank. Susan is active in Philadelphia, 'Jews for a Just Peace' and the 'Coalition for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions' (BDS) against Israel. She has been a Jewish educator in her local congregation and currently works as a psycho therapist.

Uri Levy



Uri Levy is the co-owner of a family owned restaurant, Hummus Talpiot, in the industrial suburb of the same name, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Uri's father's family were originally from Iraq and his mother's from Spain. He is a hummus maker by day and a popular Jerusalem DJ by night. Hummus Talpiot is almost entirely staffed by Palestinians, particularly in the kitchen.

Yosl Bergner



Polish born artist Yosl Berner is a 91 old Israeli/Australian artist. His sombre studio in Tel Aviv is stuffed with 60 years of painting and the smell of turps and pigment. Yosl and his Australian wife Audrey, live in Bilu Street in the heart of cosmopolitan Tel Aviv. Yosl still paints every day, making his way to his studio next door to where he lives. In 1986 Trevor Graham made a film with Yosl called, *Painting the Town*, which told the story of Yosl's life and art in Australia, where he had a profound impact on the pre World War 2 burgeoning Melbourne art scene.

PRODUCER BIOGS

Ned Lander

Ned Lander is an independent writer, director, producer currently producing the telefeature *Dangerous Remedy*, a true-life crime drama set in Melbourne Australia in 1969. He is co-producing the feature documentary *Make Hummus Not War*.

From 2001 to 2009 Ned Lander worked at SBS (Australia's second national broadcaster) as a Commissioning Editor and then General Manager SBS Independent - responsible for all Australian commissioning. He oversaw around a thousand hours of television of all genres. His factual commissioning included multi-award winning authored documentaries such as *The President Versus David Hicks* and landmark series such as the epic indigenous history series, the *First Australians*, living history *The Colony* and the Australian *Who Do You Think You Are?*



Lander produced the feature film *Radiance* nominated for Best Film and won Best Actress (*Deborah Mailman*) at the 1999 AFIs, it screened at Toronto, London, The Hamptons, Wellington, Vancouver, Sydney and Melbourne Int'l Film Festivals.

Lander directed and co-produced *50 Years of Silence* (about the first European woman to speak out about her treatment by the Japanese military as a 'Comfort Woman'. *50 Years of Silence* was broadcast in over 30 other countries. It won a Logie and the AFI Award for Best Documentary. Ned also directed the AFI Award winning feature film *Wrong Side of The Road* and produced the four-hour docu-drama series *Blood Brothers*. Ned directed two episodes including *Broken English* starring Hugo Weaving, Noah Taylor and Indigenous actor Lawrence Turner. In 1987 he co-produced the one-hour documentary for director Trevor Graham, *Painting The Town* about artist Yosl Bergner, which won the AFI for Best Documentary.

Andrew V Myer



Grad Dip Bus Mgt, MBA

Andrew Myer pursues a variety of business interests through the A.V Myer Group of Companies, including property development, investment, film and philanthropy. Andrew established his own philanthropic foundation, Andyinc Foundation, in 2002 and is Vice-President of Bush Heritage Australia and Deputy-Chair of the Melbourne International Film Festival. Andrew is a Trustee of The

Sidney Myer Fund and for five years held the position of Director and Co-Vice President of The Myer Foundation.

A producer and executive producer of more than six Australian feature films, Andrew's credits include *Radiance*, *Three Dollars*, *Look Both Ways*, *Romulus My Father*, *My Year Without Sex* and *Balibo* in 2009. Andrew was Deputy Chair of the Australian Film and Television School for 5 years from 1997.

Trevor Graham



Dr Trevor Graham has worked as a writer, producer and director of documentary in the Australian industry for almost 30 years. His documentaries have been screened and broadcast nationally and around the world. He has made numerous co-productions and commissioned works for Channel 4 and the BBC (Britain), WGBH (America), ARTE (France/Germany), AVRO (Netherlands), SBS and ABC TV (Australia). In 1997 Graham wrote and directed *Mabo Life of an Island Man*, a feature film about Eddie Mabo's personal struggle for recognition of his native title rights to his home on Murray Island in the Torres Strait. The film won the Australian Film Institute Award for Best Documentary, was nominated for a Logie and won both the prestigious NSW Premier's History Award and the NSW Premier's Award for Best Screenplay.

Throughout 2002 and 2003 Graham lived for a year in Arnhem Land where he directed and filmed *Lonely Boy Richard* for ABC TV, an intimate account of alcohol addiction and one man's personal journey to jail. The project was nominated for an AFI Award Best Documentary in 2004. Graham was employed by ABC TV throughout 2008 & 2009 as both a Series Producer and Executive Producer on the broadcaster's flagship Indigenous weekly TV strand *Message Stick*. The series featured indigenous stories made by young Indigenous directors.

Prior to this Graham was a Commissioning Editor for Documentary at Australia's multi-cultural broadcaster SBS-TV, where he worked for three years. At SBS he commissioned over 90 hours of prime time television; including *Eco House Challenge* a series promoting environmental sustainability in the family home, *Destination Australia*, and *I'll Call Australia Home*, both compelling stories on the hardships faced by recently arrived refugees. He has also worked in online documentary producing and directing *Homeless* for ABC online, nominated for a Webby Award, an 'on-line oscar' by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences and *Mabo - The Native Title Revolution*, (www.mabonativetitle.com.au) which was nominated for a British Academy Award (BAFTA) and won the 2008 United Nations of Australia Peace Award. In 2010 Graham was awarded a Doctorate of Creative Arts from the University of Technology Sydney UTS.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGS

Jenni Meaney Cinematographer



Using pictures to tell stories first attracted Jenni Meaney to the film industry. Her career began at the ABC where she spent 12 years filming everything from drama to news. Her television work required her to travel far and wide which matched with her desire to see the world. For the next 15 years, Jenni freelanced, focusing her attention on filming documentaries, which suited her natural

curiosity about the world and the people who live within it. Her interest in telling stories has now taken her into the world of museums. For the last eight years she has broadened the scope of her film work to produce multimedia for museum exhibitions. She is grateful that this project-based work still enables her to work on documentaries.

Denise Haslem ASE Editor



Denise Haslem likes jigsaw puzzles. She is an accredited screen editor with over thirty years experience in the industry. Her achievements include the award winning *Australia Daze*, *For All the World to See*, *Mabo - Life of an Island Man*, *Lonely Boy Richard*, *The Safe House* and *Who Killed Dr Bogle and Mrs Chandler?* Her latest editing credits include the *On Trial* series, three episodes of *The Making of Modern Australia*, *Recipe for Murder* and Series Editor for the 10 part series *Dancing Down Under*.

David Bridie Composer



Seven time ARIA award winning songwriter and composer David Bridie has enjoyed a distinguished career as one of Australia's most innovative musicians. His repertoire as a recording artist, soundtrack composer, producer, lyricist, expert in the music of Melanesia, and as a uniquely Australian songwriter and singer, Bridie has certainly stamped his mark.

Since 1983 he has balanced his career in bands including *Not Drowning Waving* and *My Friend The Chocolate Cake* with the composition of soundtrack music including *Proof*, *Bran Nue Dae*, *The Man Who Sued God*, *Strange Birds in Paradise* and *Circuit*, as well as *Remote Area Nurse* and *In a Savage Land* both of which he won an AFI for. 2012 saw him compose the music and soundtrack for the ABC TV series *The Straits*.

Along with his 6 albums and 3 soundtracks made with *Not Drowning Waving*, 7 albums with *My Friend The Chocolate Cake*, Bridie has released 4 solo albums: *Succumb*, *Nautical Forlorn*, *Hotel Radio*, and *Act of Free Choice*.

Tim Richter Animation Supervisor



Tim Richter is a Sydney based designer and animator. He has been involved in the production of feature films, documentaries, television commercials as well as large scale museum installations. He was a designer and Animation Supervisor on Gillian Armstrong's documentary *Unfolding Florence*, as well as Screen Graphics Supervisor on *The Matrix* sequels *Reloaded* and *Revolutions*. Twice nominated for an AFI Award (Visual Design), Tim graduated from AFTRS with a Masters (Hons) in Film and Television (Design) specialising in Titles and Animation.

KEY CREDITS

Produced by

*Yarra Bank Films Pty Ltd,
Fine Cut Films Pty Ltd,
Ned Lander Media Pty Ltd,*

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Screen Nsw



Melbourne International Film Festival Premier Fund



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