

DENDY OPERA QUAYS

SATURDAY, 25 JULY ■ 2:00PM – 5:00PM

Title: The Collaborators “2”

Moderator: Peter Thompson

**Presenters: Simon Wincer / David Burr ACS
Roger Lanser ACS / Dean Murphy
Peter James ACS ASC / Mark Joffe
Mark Wareham ACS / Tony Tilse**

Abstract

A unique panel discussion with some of Australia's leading DOPs and Directors, discussing their work and their working relationships. Also involves screening examples of work integrated with a Q&A session.

Bios

Peter Thompson

Peter Thompson has been reviewing films for the Nine Network's Sunday program since its first broadcast in 1981. Coming from a creative family (his father John was a poet and worked in radio and his brother is actor Jack Thompson), he began his career by studying performance at Sydney's Ensemble Theatre. After graduating with an arts degree from the University of Sydney he worked at ABC Television as a film editor for four years, then began directing and producing several films including *The Surfing Years* (1966) and *Cardin in Australia* (1967). Peter thinks that the very nature of cinema and the film experience has changed dramatically in the last twenty years and film critics have had to change with it.

David Burr ACS

David began his career in the film industry when as a seventeen year old he joined department at the acclaimed Cinesound Productions in Sydney. Not long after he was handed 400 feet of 35mm black and white neg and an Arriflex 2B camera with instructions to go and shoot his first newsreel story - talk about being thrown in the deep end. After moving on from Cinesound, David joined a commercial production house as their in house camera assistant but shortly after was given time off to work as clapper loader on a feature film with renowned cinematographer John McLean. This was his first of many features. David was lucky enough to be in at the ground floor of the 1970's industry renaissance and worked on films such as Peter Weir's "The Cars That Ate Paris", "Storm Boy", "The Picture Show Man", "My Brilliant Career", "Breaker Morant" and "Gallipoli". After gathering experience working as Camera Operator and 2nd Unit DP on local and international films David was soon given an opportunity to photograph his first feature and continues to work as DP on features and TVC's.



Peter James ACS ASC

Peter James ACS ASC began his career as an assistant cameraman at Supreme Sound Studios in Australia. His eclectic body of work includes commercials and documentaries in addition to some 30 narrative films. “My cousin John Cleary, the author, got me a summer job at Supreme Sound Studios. When the time came to go back to school, the studio asked me to stay on, so I remained there for five years. I worked with terrific cameramen such as George Lowe, Graham Lind, John Leake and Andrew Fraser. After I left the studios, I was a focus puller on the series 'Riptide', which was my first real theatrical production. Carl Kayser was the DOP. Carl was very good to me, from him I learnt a lot about color and lenses. After 'Riptide' I got a job on the 2nd unit, shooting the 'Barrier Reef' series.' Peter received the Milli Award, by the Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS) for WILLI WILLI (1972), CADDIE (1977), BLACK ROBE (1992) and ALIVE (1993). He was also the recipient of the ACS Award of Distinction for DIABOLIQUE in 1997, and the Golden Tripod for PARADISE ROAD in 1998. His other notable credits include DRIVING MISS DAISY, THE NEWTON BOYS, MEET THE PARENTS and the telefilm AND STARRING PANCHO VILLA AS HIMSELF, which earned an Emmy nomination in 2004.

Mark Joffe

Mark is regarded as one of the leading film and television Directors in Australia. He was born in Polotsk, Russia in 1956 and after graduating from Latrobe University in Melbourne he joined the leading television production house, Crawford Productions. He started directing when he was 23. Mark has directed five feature films and over one hundred hours of drama. Mark received his first award for the mini-series “THE GREAT BOOKIE ROBBERY”(AFI awards - BEST MINI-SERIES and BEST DIRECTOR). Then followed the feature film” GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM”, (earning Best Film and Best Director nominations at the AFI Awards),documentaries , rock film clips, further mini-series and the highly regarded children’s short feature “BOY SOLDIERS” (Winner Liv Ullman Peace Prize - Chicago Children’s Film Festival, nominated International EMMY).

Mark’s next film was the multi award winning feature “SPOTSWOOD”, starring Anthony Hopkins, Russell Crowe and in her first role, Toni Collette. Miramax distributed that film and his next, the critically heralded and commercially successful film “COSI” starring Toni Collette, Rachel Griffiths and David Wenham. Then came the feature “THE MATCHMAKER”, for the prestigious English company Working Title. This was followed by the internationally acclaimed “THE MAN WHO SUED GOD”, a co-production between Gannon Films and Mark’s company, Empress Road Productions. The film, starring Billy Connolly and Judy Davis, achieved No.1 in consecutive weeks and grossed over \$8.5 million at the Australian box office.

Mark has also received international awards for his direction in advertising and music video. He is currently in late development on two major international features - THE ORIGINALS (a UK/NZ/Australian co-production with Sam Neill, Marian Macgowan and Iain Smith his co-producers) and THE ART OF THE ENGINE DRIVER, co produced by Rosemary Blight and based on the award winning book of the same name.



Roger Lanser ACS

Roger's recent feature films include a film version of Mozart's THE MAGIC FLUTE set in the trenches of WWI and As You Like It, set in turn of the century Japan, this, his second Shakespeare film 15 years after the highly successful Much Ado about Nothing. He has photographed a black & white feature film, In the Bleak Midwinter and been responsible for photographing some of England's most popular comedy films like Peters Friends and Maybe Baby. His Australian films WOG BOY and STRANGE BEDFELLOWS both had box office success and received critical acclaim.

Dean Murphy

Dean Murphy wrote and directed his first feature, 'Just Cruising' at the age of 17. In 1992 he followed with his second feature, 'Lex and Rory' before moving to LA to write and develop projects with producer George Folsey Jr. Dean returned to Australia in 1997 and teamed up for his first collaboration with cinematographer, Roger Lanser ACS, for his third feature, 'Muggers'. In 2000, Dean produced 'Till Human Voices Wake Us' starring Guy Pearce and Helena Bonham Carter. He followed this Dean by co-writing and directing the Paul Hogan and Michael Caton feature 'Strange Bedfellows'. More recently Dean has produced the US set thriller 'Torn', the children's pilot TV series, 'Zokky – The Kangaroo' and executive produced the feature documentary 'Salute'. Dean has just completed post on his new feature 'Charlie & Boots' and is currently in production on the animated feature 'Little Johnny'.

Mark Wareham ACS

Mark Wareham is one of the most in-demand Directors of Photography in Australia. He has been nominated for two AFI Awards and amongst his many credits are the Sundance Film Festival hit film Clubland aka Introducing the Dwrights (dir: Cherie Nowlan), starring Brenda Blethyn, His extensive television credits span both the Australian and US industries and include an earlier collaboration with Cherie Nowlan on the AFI and Logie nominated telemovie Small Claims: White Wedding Mark won two Golden Tripods at the 2009 Australian Cinematography for the Film Opera Eternity Man, directed by Julien Temple and the Nine TV Movie Scorched.

Tony Tilse

In 2006 Encore magazine with an independent panel of industry practitioners nominated Tony one of Australia's top ten directors, including him on a list, which featured Baz Luhrmann, Rowan Woods and Phillip Noyce. Tony's long list of television credits include G.P., CORRELLI, FALLEN ANGELS, LOVE IS A FOUR LETTER WORD, BIG SKY, ALL SAINTS, CRASHBURN, THE COOKS, BLUE WATER HIGH, POLICE RESCUE for which he was nominated for an AFI Award, the miniseries A DIFFICULT WOMAN, which won a silver medal at the New York Television Festival, the very popular television movies, POSTCARD BANDIT, GO BIG, TEMPTATION, SMALL CLAIMS – The Reunion, MURDER IN THE OUTBACK and SCORCHED as well as working on the entire four seasons of the cult American Sci-Fi series FARSCAPE. Tony was set up director and co-producer on the TV series LOCKIE LEONARD, which received an AFI and Logie Award as well as a BAFTA nomination. Tony was also setup director for CITY HOMICIDE and the UNDERBELLY



series. He is currently filming the television movie **A MODEL DAUGHTER – THE CAROLINE BYRNES STORY** for the Ten Network.

Simon Wincer

Simon Wincer has won equal success in the United States after ascending to the position of one of Australia's most celebrated film and television directors.

In the summer of 1993, Wincer's "Free Willy" was a critical and commercial smash hit, which took over \$200 million worldwide. For American television, Wincer directed the hugely successful epic miniseries, "Lonesome Dove" which ranks among the top dramatic programs ever screened in the U.S. "Lonesome Dove" was nominated for an incredible 18 Emmy Awards winning seven, including Best Director for Wincer.

In 1999, Wincer directed "P.T. Barnum" for A & E starring Beau Bridges. The 4-hour miniseries was nominated for Best Miniseries and Best Performance by an Actor at the 2000 Emmy Awards. Also in 2000, Simon's "Crossfire Trail" a Louis L'Amour Western starring Tom Selleck, became the highest rated movie ever screened on U.S. cable television.

In January 2002, Simon's "Monte Walsh" starring Tom Selleck and Isabella Rosellini screened to another ratings record and the highest audience ever for a Friday night movie on cable and a combined three-night audience of 36 million.

Wincer has been involved in some of the largest grossing Australian films in history. As the Executive Producer of "The Man From Snowy River" and Director of "Phar Lap", Wincer proved to be one of the few filmmakers in his country able to channel his expertise into producing and directing with equal success.

In 1998, Wincer directed the critically acclaimed and hugely successful Hallmark Hall of Fame movie for CBS "The Echo of Thunder" starring Judy Davis (who was nominated for an Emmy for her performance). In 1995-96, Wincer directed Paramount Pictures' "The Phantom" based on Lee Falk's comic book hero. In 1995 he directed the Walt Disney Pictures adventure movie, "Operation Dumbo Drop".

Wincer's other features include "Snapshot", "Harlequin" and "The Lighthorsemen", the latter a huge historical spectacle about the last successful cavalry charge in history. He also helmed "Lightning Jack" the comedic Western starring Paul Hogan and Cuba Gooding Jr. as well as "Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles". For U.S. producers Wincer also directed Paramount's "D.A.R.Y.L." and MGM's "Quigley Down Under" and "Harley Davidson and the Marlboro Man".

In 2002, Wincer directed "Young Black Stallion" for producers Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall, Disney's first live action IMAX film. In 2004 this film was awarded two prestigious awards at the International Large Format Film Awards at La Geode in Paris.



The following year he directed “NASCAR: The IMAX Experience 3D” for Warner Brothers. Opening to critical acclaim and the biggest weekend gross ever for an IMAX film, “NASCAR 3D” was the 2nd highest grossing documentary of 2004 finishing second behind the biggest box office documentary of all time “Fahrenheit 9/11”. It is still running in theatres in the U.S.

In 2004 Wincer was asked by Steven Spielberg to direct the first movie shot in his six-part movie series “Into the West” for Dreamworks and TNT. Titled “Manifest Destiny” this movie centered on an epic wagon train journey across America.

After delivering “Into the West” in 2005 he began work on the prequel to “Lonesome Dove”- Larry McMurtry’s 6-hour epic Mini-series “Comanche Moon” for CBS television. Postproduction was completed January 2007 and the program aired in January 2008. The first night’s screening was the highest rated movie on US network television for 2 years.

Currently Simon is directing a new version of “The Australian Outback Spectacular” for Warner Village Theme Parks which combines large scale live arena action with projected high definition filmed sequences – a world first.

