



SECOND CHANCE

Crime novelist Sarah retreats to a remote cottage, hoping for solitude to escape looming deadlines and the pain of her impending divorce. Instead, she finds herself face-to-face with Taylor, her high school sweetheart and the cottage's owner. Once a rising athlete, Taylor is now a reluctant country landlord, and their unexpected reunion stirs up old emotions. (18 mins)

About the filmmaker: Thibul Nettle, a celebrated First Nations Australian actor, rapper and filmmaker, has built an impressive career over two decades. A proud Nyoongar man from the Bibbulman and Whadjuk nations of Perth, he gained recognition through his powerful solo music before transitioning into filmmaking. In 2014, he founded Firestick Films, leading to his acclaimed debut feature *Friendship, Love and Loyalty*, which won multiple ASIN Awards. Thibul made his directorial debut with *Fate of the Night* in 2019 which was picked up by Tubi for worldwide distribution and recently found success with *Spithood*, a micro-budget horror film thriving on Prime Video. As an actor, director, and producer, he remains a driving force in Australian cinema, dedicated to amplifying First Nations stories and pushing creative boundaries.



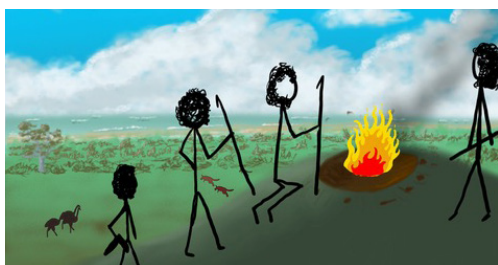
NOONGAR BEDTIME STORIES - KODJ

Ivy and Steven meet up with Uncle Koodah to learn how to make a "kodj" (traditional axe) using science. A kodj is very important to Ivy and Steven as their grandmother comes from a town called "Kojonup" meaning "place of kodj". Ivy and Steven hold on to the kodj as it represents their traditional homelands. (6 mins)

About the filmmaker: Brooke Collard is a Ballardong/Whadjuk Noongar woman, and proud mother of a toddler. As a Producer and Writer, Brooke is creating opportunities for authentic representation for those who have been marginalised

in media, such as stories of First Nations people and LGBTQIA+. Brooke and their partner Gary Hamaguchi won the AACTA Regional Pitch for 2023 with their project *Reclamation*, a Noongar Horror. In 2023 Brooke collaborated with Common Ground for their educational series *First Nations Bedtime Stories - Noongar*, and she produced short film *Marlu Man* which is in development as a feature film. In 2022 she was shortlisted for web series Digital Originals with *Red Dress Woman*. Brooke also has a successful podcast series with SBS Radio, *Noongar Wellbeing* which has over 16,000 plays.

Brooke wrote and produced web series *Yokai*, and award winning short film *Aboriginal Warrior*. She is also in development for *Anangu Way* with emerging Director and Writer Tace Stevens. Brooke is also a part of the Goolarri Writers Group, the only group of its kind in the country which supports First Nations writers to develop their ideas. She has also worked on projects such as TV Series *The Great*, movie *Sweet As* and many others. With a primary focus on facilitating stories that encourage others and help on the journey of healing. Brooke is a firm believer in 'No Stories About Us, Without Us'.

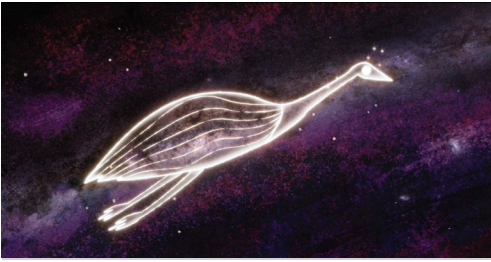


CRAITBUL - A JOURNEY ACROSS BOANDIK COUNTRY

Craitbul - A Journey Across Boandik Country is a Creation Story of the Boandik people of the South-East of South Australia and describes in story form the eruptions of the volcanoes in the Berrin (Mount Gambier) region, which were witnessed by the Boandik ancestors. The story portrays the eruptions as the result of a giant, Craitbul, becoming furious and screaming and shouting and throwing rocks when his carefully dug ovens kept being put out by water rising up and smothering them. Narrated by Auntie Michelle, the animation shows the Craitbul family moving across country trying to find a safe place away from an

evil spirit, eventually coming to the Berrin region. Craitbul digs several ovens all of which are put out by rising water. Each time his ovens go out Craitbul becomes furious, hurling rocks and shouting and screaming. Finally Craitbul gives up trying to dig ovens and the family settle down in a cave before going up into the sky to become guiding stars to the Boandik people. (7 mins)

About the filmmaker: Auntie Michelle Jacquelin-Furr is a Traditional Owner and Elder of Boandik country, born on Country at Berrin (Mount Gambier) and now living at Ngaranga, (Port MacDonnell) in South Australia. Auntie Michelle Jacquelin-Furr is an artist specializing in weaving, painting, writing and more recently, YouTube videos. She has written and published two books about her great grandmother Auntie Annie Brice and teaches Boandik workshops at preschools, kindergartens, primary and high schools within the Limestone Coast region.



WIRADJURI STAR DREAMING

Shot on Wiradjuri Country in Orange, NSW, this film is part of a series of dreaming stories originally commissioned by Common Ground First Nations. Jack Steele sits with elders across the community as they share the dreaming stories, he then visualises them using modern film making techniques.

Since the beginning of time, the Wiradjuri have looked to the stars for guidance. The stars are a map for life. They show us when and where to hunt, and how to find our way home. Wiradjuri Elder and cultural knowledge holder

Doug Sutherland takes us on a tour through the stars as seen by Wiradjuri people for the last 60,000 years. (5 mins)

About the filmmaker: Jack Steele is a distinguished Wiradjuri man and an award-winning Writer, Director, and Producer with over 16 years of experience in the Australian film industry. Known for his distinctive storytelling, Jack has built a reputation for crafting compelling narratives that spotlight vital social issues and elevate underrepresented voices. Currently, Jack is at the forefront of groundbreaking projects, including *Native Kitchen*, a Boardwalk Pictures production (known for *Chef's Table* on Netflix), which explores Indigenous culinary traditions, and *Firekeepers*, a documentary examining cultural fire practices. With a portfolio that spans powerful documentaries, award-winning series, and innovative collaborations, Jack Steele is a dynamic force in global storytelling, continuing to push boundaries and inspire audiences with every project.



BARANI

Barani is a bittersweet narrative set in Warrane (Sydney Cove) 500 years ago, juxtaposing humanity's current existence in the Anthropocene with a time of harmony between humans and nature. The story, rich in historical and cultural value, prompts audiences to reconsider the history of the land under their feet. *Barani* intricately explores the dynamics of a mother-son relationship on the cusp of coming-of-age, emphasising themes of love, connection and independence. The symbiosis between humanity and the natural world is a crucial element, underscoring the importance of mutual

care for the environment and each other. As the story unfolds, *Barani* encourages the audience to connect with ways of the past and review our current coexistence with nature. *Barani* is inspired by long termism and looks to First Nations knowledges to more deeply connect with the world around us. (7 mins)

About the filmmaker: Jake Duczynski, Gomeroi and Mandandanji man, is a writer and director committed to Indigenous representation on-screen and fortifying a space for Indigenous voices in the Australian animation industry. Jake's close collaborative approach has won multiple accolades, from Walkely's & Webby's, to Best Direction at the ADG awards. His work has been projected across the sails of the Sydney Opera House, installed at the AGNSW & MCA, broadcast on the ABC, SBS/NITV and streamed on Netflix.



KUMARANGK – THE HINDMARSH ISLAND BRIDGE

In the 1980's, developers proposed a bridge to Kumarangk (Hindmarsh Island) starting a decade long fight against the ensuing desecration of a sacred site for the Ngarrindjeri women of South Australia. Through years of legal, governmental and public scrutiny and accusations of them lying, the women remained steadfast in their belief and knowledge that this land was sacred, and these proposals would damage this site. While the story was often national news fodder for newspapers and nightly news, the women and their legacy has largely been forgotten, except by Ngarrindjeri People. (8 mins)

About the filmmaker: Josh Trevorrow is a proud Ngarrindjeri man. He has a profoundly personal calling to storytelling. His mandate is to support a thriving sector for South Australian First Nations filmmakers in front of and behind the camera. In 2021 Josh was named Screen Australia, Centralised and Documentary Australia Foundation Fellow for his documentary project, *KONDOLI*. He has since produced four short documentaries.

Josh currently works as the First Nations Arts and Culture Manager for Country Arts SA where he is producing the feature documentary around the Hindmarsh Island bridge affair as part of the Kumarakk project.