

**Tandanya Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Film Program
17 – 23 October 2009**

Sacred Ground (55mins)

17th, 19th, 21st & 23rd October @ 10.30am

Critically acclaimed as one of the year's most significant Aboriginal films – **Sacred Ground** tells the true story of an oppressed people fighting to hold onto the last remnants of their ancient heritage and culture.

Quenten Agius discovers his ancestor's ancient skeletal remains in the middle of a multi-million dollar housing development. This life changing moment forms the central story of his emotional journey. In the midst of a development boom, the film follows Quenten over 4 years as his heritage group struggle to save their ancestor's burial grounds and other ancient sites from destruction.

Aboriginal heritage - Australia's ancient heritage, is the heart, soul and spirit of this land. The ancient sites of the first people, their beliefs and traditions, are not being respected or protected. Their sites are living breathing museums in the sand. Much of their heritage has been destroyed, so what they have left is precious to them.

Sacred Ground is a universal story that exposes the shameful truth and injustices being perpetrated on Aboriginal heritage and culture, supported by government. When Quenten speaks we can see and feel his pain. There are many powerful and personal moments that connect us to his culture and enable us to begin to understand the importance of preserving his people's ancient heritage for future generations.

In the lucky country, 40,000 years of ancient heritage, culture and traditions are being swept away – it's a national disgrace. Quenten's mob are witnessing the desecration and destruction of the last remaining heritage and cultural sites on their traditional lands - sites that are vital to their Dreaming stories and cultural beliefs - stories and beliefs that have been handed down from generation to generation for thousands of years.

Never before documented scenes of ancient Aboriginal ceremonies, Dreaming stories and chanting in the Adjahdura language, are important elements of this significant and multi-layered international award-winning documentary.

5 years in the making, **Sacred Ground** is a deeply moving story. From the opening scenes to the thought provoking climax, it takes us into an Aboriginal world that is rarely seen or heard. Quenten and his mob have the guts to stand up, to speak out and express their views, to fight for what they believe in - **Sacred Ground** is their story.

Bit of Black Business (1hr 15mins)

17th, 19th, 21st & 23rd October @ 1pm

Bit of Black Business is a compilation of Aboriginal Australian short films which premiered on the Indigenous Film Festival 2007 in Sydney.

The shorts cover a broad range of topics. Some cover earnest, serious topics like Relationships (Custard, Too Late, Two Big Boys, The Turtle), Indigenous unemployment (Days Like These) or the Stolen Generations (Back Seat, Bloodlines). Others are more humorous and tell of super-grandmothers (Nana), 'special' businesses (Done Dirt Cheap, Hush) or racial reservations (Jackie Jackie).

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Bit of Black Business is a balanced compilation of movies by 13 Indigenous filmmakers from around Australia.

The Bit of Black Business shorts are:

Custard	(Michelle Blanchard)
Too Late	(Michael Longbottom)
Two Big Boys	(Jon Bell)
Days Like	These (Martin Adams)
Back Seat	(Pauline Whyman)
Nana	(Warwick Thornton)
Bloodlines	(Jacob Nash)
The Turtle	(Kelli Cross)
Sharpeye	(Aaron Fa'aoso)
Done Dirt Cheap	(Debbie Carmody)
Kwatye	(Trisha Morton-Thomas)
Hush	(Dena Curtis)
Jackie Jackie	(Adrian Wills)

Liyarn Ngarn (1hr 10mins)

18th, 20th & 22nd October @ 10.30am

Liyarn Ngarn, in the Yawuru language of the West Kimberly region, means 'coming together of the spirit'. It is a compelling documentary, aiming to assist with the process of true and lasting reconciliation. An often painful, yet inspiring journey of strength, **Liyarn Ngarn** is unique, powerful, and completely absorbing.

"Liyarn Ngarn had me riveted and moved me to tears, anger and shame. It's the most culturally significant film I've seen in years...Pete Postlethwaite, Archie Roach and Patrick Dodson are superb...it's an absolute 'must see' for ALL Australians." David Lightfoot, film producer.

Kanyini (55mins)

18th, 20th & 22nd October @ 1pm

Kanyini is a Pitjantjatjara word meaning interconnectedness; to care for, to support, to nurture and protect. **Kanyini**, the film, contains great beauty and wisdom, and offers an accessible account of what has happened to Australia's First People since the arrival of the white man. Based on his own personal journey, Bob Randall, who lives beside Uluru in Central Australia, tells a story that is not only of one man and his people, but the story of the human race.

Told without bitterness, Bob Randall weaves his story with depth, understanding and precision. It is a tale of Indigenous wisdom clashing against materialist notions of progress – inviting all Australians to work together to understand, acknowledge and redress the wrongs of the past. It is a film for every Australian.