

Sguardi Australiani Catalogue - ver 1.0

Title	Code	Director	Release date	Synopsis
15281	a7	Pia Borg	2003	An epigram on individual freedom, light as the flight of birds and incisive as a political proclamation. (Translated from Italian)
Antamosi	a36	Ana Kokkinos	1991	Katina's mother arrives in Melbourne from Greece. Everyone awaits her arrival, hopes are high. But the memories, betrayals and secrets of the past quickly surface between Katina and her mother. It seems to Katina that her mother's gifts have hidden messages, and when the truth about the family's war-time involvement is revealed, it is only Katina's daughter, the eight year old Sophia, who is able to gain from the experience of her grandmother's visit.
Arrivederci Roma	a35	Geoffrey Wright	1979	A young man is introduced to the Australian ethos through his first school swimming lesson. The theme of mateship surfaces in both a positive and negative light, as the young man struggles to save his identity and life.
Bangarra Dance Theatre	a29	n/a	2012	Koori Australia with strong visual sign of traditional and contemporary abstraction heritage. The Australian dance company is appreciated worldwide.
Bedevil	a6	Tracey Moffatt	1993	"Bedevil" is a trilogy of ghost stories that follows characters pestered by visions - real, remembered and imagined. These contemporary tales travel from the sparseness of the outback, through the murky, rotting swamps of the islands, to the Brisbane docks in a stylish vision from writer-director Tracey Moffatt.
Beneath Clouds	a30	Ivan Sen	2002	Lena is a girl who lives with her Aboriginal mother's absence, invisibility, idealization of her white father. To give meaning to her life, she jumps on a bus to Sydney where perhaps her father lives. The important thing is not the destination but the journey and the meeting with a young black man escaped from prison, traveling too, to see his mother. A movie metaphor about "real" Australia, on "places in-between", in gaps between the cities and the countryside. Premiered at the Berlin Film Festival. (Translated from Italian)
Beyond Reason	a23	Giorgio Mangiamele	1970	After a nuclear war devastates Australia, patients of an insane asylum, two doctors and a nurse survive in an underground shelter. The patients create a social order where sanity has no place.
Beyond sorry	a4	David Vadeloo	2003	To be completed...
Bush Bikes	a2	David Vadeloo	2002	To be completed
Clay	a22	Giorgio Mangiamele	1964	A painter and his daughter, Margot, find an unconscious escaped murderer, Nick, and nurse him back to health. Nick falls in love with Margot. A romantic rival calls the police and they take Nick away. Margot kills the informant. Clay received a cinematography silver medallion, and went on to be Australia's first entry in competition at the Cannes Film Festival.
Confessions of a Headhunter	a31	Sally Riley	2000	Two "head hunters" of our day run along the coast decapitating statues of white settlers and explorers looking to have justice for the crimes committed against their ancestors. Based on the novel by the Koori writer Archie Weller, an ironic and profound reflection on Australian Aboriginal life. (Translated from Italian)
Cracker Bag	a8	Glendyn Ivin	2003	Eddie spends her pocket money obsessively hoarding fireworks and carefully planning for cracker night. When it finally arrives, Eddie and her family head to the local football oval. In the frosty air Eddie lights the fuse of her first cracker and experiences a pivotal moment, one of the seemingly small experiences of childhood, that affects us for the rest of our lives. Set in the 1980s, "Cracker Bag" is a gentle suburban observation which subtly reflects a disenchanting prelude to the coming of age.
Dancing in the dust	a10	Jenny Lowdon Kendall	2002	A journey of discovery, healing and cultural survival for an Aboriginal mother and her daughter. Each are ripped from their mother's arms one generation after the next, their identity and culture stolen and replaced with another until all connection is broken and lost... Until now, when they are reunited in time to learn the truth.
Delivery Day	a38	Jane Manning	2000	Delivery Day is a story based on 11 year old Trang's attempts to get her mother to attend her school's parent-teacher interview, but it also happens to be delivery day for the garments in her mother's sweatshop.
Dust	a43	Ivan Sen	2000	Five people come together on a dusty, desolate cotton field. Angry at the world and each other. It is only Leroy's elderly mother Ruby who sees the hidden secrets beneath the surface of the land. The uneasy sky forces the elements to merge and a dust storm awakes. Nominated for three AFI awards, also received a special commendation at the Clermont Ferrand Short Film Festival.
Evictions	a40	Richard Lowenstein	1979	Based on actual events, this film takes a look at Melbourne in Great Depression, when police-enforced evictions were commonplace. It re-enacts the story of a young unemployed family and documents the actions of the unemployed workers movement, reconstructed from the memories of Noel Counihan and Tom Hills.
Excursion	a12	Cris Jones	2002	It's a trip. It's a nightmare. It's your life (not that you'd care to admit it). It's happening all around you. You'll see soon enough. A big, warm welcome for ANYMINUTENOW! Watch it. Bring a friend. A satirical look at one man's efforts to escape the mundanity of his day-to-day existence. Along the way, he is faced with a bizarre series of obstacles, including a golf club wielding midget, a briefcase full of preconceptions and a corporate refrigerator bent on world domination. Peace.
Flowergirl	a42	Cate Shortland	1999	Daisuke, Hana and Tetsu share a flat in Bondi Beach. Daisuke has to return to Japan to work in his father's butcher shop, but his return is made bitter because of his falling in love with Hana. Featuring a fragmented narrative utilising video and 16mm film, this beautifully shot short film was voted the Best Short Film of 1999 by the Critic's Circle of Australia.
Gulpiiii, One red Blood	a33	Darlene Johnson	2002	A fascinating documentary about David Gulpiiii, the renowned Australian actor. After finishing the filming of Rolf de Heer's film "The Tracker", David Gulpiiii returns to his clan Yolgnu in Arnhem Land, where his tribal status requires a series of commitments out of him. A life fully lived in two different worlds. (Translated from Italian)
In the realm of Hackers	a16	Kevin Anderson	2003	In 1989, two Melbourne teenage hackers known as Electron and Phoenix stole a restricted computer security list and used it to break into some of the world's most classified and supposedly secure computer systems. So fast and widespread was the attack, no-one could work out how it had happened - until one of the hackers called The New York Times to brag. Ten years after their arrest, this dramatised documentary uncovers not only how they did it but why. It takes us headlong into the clandestine, risky but intoxicating world of the computer underground.
La scala, Lo scalone	a37	Franco di Chiera	1984	A story about loss of innocence. A boy witnesses the shifting of the family make-up and succumbs to the harsh eye of society, even as imposed by his peers.
Mabo - Life of an Island Man	a21	Trevor Graham	1997	On June 3rd 1992, six months after Eddie "Koiki" Mabo's tragic death, the High Court upheld his claim that Murray Islanders held native title to land in the Torres Strait. The legal fiction that Australia was empty when first occupied by white people had been laid to rest. "Mabo - Life of an Island Man" tells the private and public stories of a man so passionate about family and home that he fought an entire nation and its legal system. Though his greatest victory was won only after his death, it has forever ensured his place - on Murray Island and in Australian history.
Martin Four	a11	Ben Hackworth	2000	Grace wants her son Martin home at 4. Grace also wants to be the Grace that she was when Martin was 4. A young man is caught in the dreams of his mother. Each day on his ride home, Martin tries desperately to make a connection with love and life in the present.
Morning of the Earth	a28	Albert Falzon	1972	"Morning of the Earth" captures the pure surfing experience including psychedelic shots of waves, country soul surfing, a trip to Indonesia in search of new surf locations and the annual winter contests in Hawaii. Albert Falzon made this cult surfing film in 1972, the film reveals a fantasy of three exotic lands: Bali, Hawaii and Australia where the surfers live in harmony with nature. Apart from the outstanding quality of its photography and music, what distinguished this film was an ongoing fluidity, constructed in the rhythms of its editing and re-enforced by its music, which was achieved by using an optical printer to repeat frames as many as five times, thus slowing the action by as much as 500% and enabling minute variations in wave-riding to be examined in almost timeless detail. (Albie Thoms, Surfmovies - The History of the Surf Film in Australia, 2000)
Muddy Waters	a14	Sally Ingleton	2003	The Great Barrier Reef is dying. Global warming and outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish have put extraordinary pressure on the coral. Now scientists have identified another threat - agricultural run-off. Sugarcane farmers are reeling at the prospect that their land management practices may be part of the problem. Some of the locals are trying to bring all the parties together to develop a workable solution, but leading the way can be hard work. "Muddy Waters" is the story of a small community facing the challenges of responsibility and change. It investigates what is killing the reef and whether anything can be done to save.
Night Cries: a rural tragedy	a5	Tracey Moffatt	1990	An experimental narrative focused centrally on the theme of mother-daughter relationships in the context of white-Aboriginal relations. The story of loneliness, also drawing upon the filmmaker's own experiences, unfolds in a deliberately artificial studio setting. Memories and dreams invade the nerve-fraying routine of the middle-aged Aboriginal woman, until the old woman dies and we share the daughter's immense sense of loss.
Ninety-nine percent	a26	Giorgio Mangiamele	1963	A dramatised account of a widower who goes in search of a wife to look after his school-boy son. The film draws on Italian stage farce, as well as the buffoonery of silent comedy. Human speech appears as comic noise in a manner that draws comparisons to the work of Jacques Tati.
No Way to Forget	a44	Richard Frankland	1996	Based on the filmmaker's experiences as a Field Officer during the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.
Rise	a9	Emma Sleath	1988	Set against the colourless backdrop of a Melbourne Housing Commission Estate, "Rise" is a visual account of a largely unknown environment. As the camera moves through the building, a series of portraits unfold, telling the stories of people from a wide range of backgrounds. In the context of high density living, "Rise" is a celebration of the individual.
Road	a32	Catriona McKenzie	2000	Murray is on the road to disaster. His mate, Lance goes along for the ride. They try in vain to catch a cab. A fight with a cabby ensues. Burning rubber, hot pursuit. Cabs cruise like sharks in the night in search of the young duo. The chase leads to the ocean. Beck and Kelvin, meanwhile, are on the road to friendship. A raw and gritty tale of survival in the inner city. Stories of love and belonging. Road was devised and performed by young Aboriginal people with no acting experience from Redfern in Sydney. The film is a unique collaboration between filmmaking professionals and young people. (Translated from Italian)

Sadness	a15	Tony Ayres	1999	Award-winning photographer William Yang explores issues of grief, family and identity in this adaptation of his acclaimed stage performance, "Sadness". Through this mesmerising, poetic montage of story telling, photography and stylised reenactment, William brings to life the stories of his family and friends. "Sadness" has two themes. The first involves an exploration of William's Chinese-Australian identity and family history, while the second centres on his experience of loss during the AIDS epidemic.
Slow food revolution	a13	Carlo Buralli	2003	Speed - the obsession of the modern world - is determining what people should eat and how. Traditional foods are at risk of disappearing forever. An international eco-gastronomic movement known as Slow Food champions the protection of traditional culture, the environment and biodiversity while encouraging regional production, food education and pleasure. "Slow Food Revolution" travels around the globe recording this growing phenomenon. Beautifully photographed, it is a celebration of our natural bounty - a seriously sensual journey from earth to table.
Spaventapasseri	a41	Luigi Acquisto	1986	It is the story of two Italian families sharing a house in Melbourne during the 1960s. One family has recently arrived from Italy, while the other is well established. The events are told from the perspective of a young boy.
Storm Boy	a27	Henri Safran	1976	One of the examples of classic Australian films that had been made by 'people of diverse ancestry'. It shows the interaction of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. "The overlapping stories of alienation, marginalisation and loss that connect Storm Boy, the outcast 'Fingerbone' Bill [David Gulpiilli] and the pelicans that the boy raises are powerful allegories for potential relations between Blacks and Whites. They also impart valuable lessons about the use of and respect for the natural environment" (Oxford Companion to Australian Film).
The Brothers	a24	Giorgio Mangiamele	1958	The older of two brothers steals money from his work place. His young brother, wanting to help him, follows a man through a desolate landscape intending to kill him to obtain the man's money. The film was made as a demonstration exercise for the students of Giorgio Mangiamele's Russell Street Cinema School so they could assess their own performance on the screen.
The diplomat	a17	Tom Zubrycki	2000	For 24 years East Timor's freedom fighter and Nobel Peace Prize winner José Ramos Horta campaigned to secure independence for his country, a Portuguese colony invaded by Indonesia in 1975. "The Diplomat" takes up Ramos Horta's story in the final dramatic stages of his long journey - the fall of Indonesia's President Suharto, the referendum to determine East Timor's future, the overwhelming vote for independence, the devastating carnage that ensued, the intervention of United Nations peacekeepers, and Ramos Horta's final triumphant return to his homeland.
The dreaming series 2	a34		1999	An original cartoon series based on aboriginal mythology. Business and travel Ancestor Spirits of age I dream that created the trees, rocks, ponds, rivers, mountains and stars and animals, and who continue to inhabit the natural world today. The Dreaming stories have been handed down through the millennia, and gathered by witnesses that tell the indigenous people (and us) to teach the good and the bad, the history and the environment. (Translated from Italian)
The Family Spirit	a45	Teck Tan	1993	An old woman decides to 're-appear' in order to save her son's relationship. It is Chinese New Year and the celebrations continue despite the upheaval that is in course. What we see is a contemporary society and much irony.
The Spag	a25	Giorgio Mangiamele	1961	Three bogdies persecute an Italian paperboy because of his race/background with regular taunts, attacks and chasing. In a chase the boy is hit by a speeding van and dies on the kerbside. His papers scatter and blow away. His mother sees paper flying in the air outside her window and has a premonition of tragedy.
Thomson of Arnhem land	a18	John Moore	2000	In the 1930s tensions between the government and the Indigenous peoples of Australia's north were on a knife-edge. Donald Thomson, an anthropologist, volunteered to go to Arnhem Land to make peace. For over two years, he lived with the Aboriginal people, forging strong bonds, learning and recording their way of life. His report to the government outlined a vision of land rights and other measures to protect a unique yet fragile culture - it was ignored. Ostracised by politicians and fellow academics, Thomson never gave up the struggle for Aboriginal rights. Now, his extraordinary photographs, field notes and artefacts are considered one of the most significant ethnographic collections in the world.
Trespass	a3	David Vadeloo	2002	To be completed
Two Bob Mermaid	a39	Darlene Johnson	1996	In the summer of 1957 a young koori girl 'passes for white' at the local swimming pool. A story about Aboriginal identity, transformation and change set in a period of cultural conflict and racial tension.
Uncle Chatzkel	a20	Rod Freeman	1999	Chatzkel Lemchen has lived through the Russian revolution, two world wars, the Holocaust, a communist regime and the transition of Lithuania from Soviet republic to an independent state. Much of his family and most of his fellow Jewish citizens were killed by the Nazis and their Lithuanian supporters. Chatzkel, however, survived through his skills as a linguist and lexicographer. His dictionaries helped preserve the local language during the Soviet era and he is now regarded as a national treasure. But his success belies his sometimes lonely existence. Years of isolation end when his Australian relatives arrive, including his great nephew, filmmaker Rod Freedman. Who better than Uncle Chatzkel to help these visitors understand their roots?
Us Mob	a1	David Vadeloo	2004	Us Mob was Australia's first Indigenous children's television series and the world's first Indigenous children's interactive web and film series stretching over seven episodes. Us Mob transports young people from around the globe to the little known world of Hidden Valley, in the central deserts of Australia. The Us Mob multi-ending interactive tele-series and website creates a dynamic cultural bridge between viewers and Aboriginal teenagers Charlie, Della, Harry, Jacquita and their bush community friends. Whilst encountering the extraordinary challenges, exciting cultural experiences and dramatic external forces that shape the lives of Town Camps kids in Alice Springs, each member of the Us Mob site can also play games, engage in forums, read and watch secret diaries and even upload their own unique content and become part of the Us Mob community.
Wildness	a19	Scott Millwood	2003	Olegas Truchanas and Peter Dombrovskis were perhaps Australia's greatest wilderness photographers. Their work became synonymous with campaigns to protect Tasmania's natural heritage. They shared many things, including a bond that was more like that of father and son. Both came from Baltic Europe and migrated to Tasmania, where their passion for nature became a crusade to save the environment under threat. Both died in the wilderness, doing what they loved, and left a legacy in extraordinary images. Their philosophy was simple and remarkably effective- if people could see the beauty of Australia's wild places then they might be moved to save them. (Translated from Italian)