

# DAVID LOWE

CV – JULY 2011

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## PERSONAL STATEMENT

As a BA student at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (specialising in script-writing), my two major projects were short films, which I wrote and directed. Both have enjoyed considerable international success.

I graduated from the AFTRS in 1997. Since then I've developed scripts for film, television and interactive media, and written both history and fiction. I've been to Europe twice as a guest of major film festivals, and have travelled extensively within Australia.

Following my earlier, award-winning interactive concept *Burning Moon*, I've co-developed two massively multiplayer broadband interactive experiences, *Fay* and *Mer*.

In recent years I've also written and developed a number of feature film screenplays. These include *Cloudcatcher*, *One in a Million*, and *Human Race*.

I'm collaborating with the producer Helen Panckhurst of Matchbox Pictures on various film and television projects.

Currently I'm developing a major TV mini-series with Matchbox, *Wild River Blockade*, and writing a novel, *The Hourglass Conspiracy*.

## BOOKS

- *Triskaidekaphobia*, (a novel for young readers – completed 2010)
- *Out of the Box: the amazing story of war hero and quiz champion Frank Partridge VC* (an illustrated, oral history-based biography – completed 2008)
- *Forgotten Rebels: black Australians who fought back* (a history of some personalities from the 19<sup>th</sup> century Aboriginal resistance, Permanent Press, 1995)

## WRITING FOR FILM, TELEVISION, RADIO & INTERACTIVE

Original projects include:

- *Wild River Blockade*, formerly *River Man* (research and development of a television mini-series, with Matchbox Pictures, Screen NSW and Screen Tasmania, 2009-11)
- *Cagetrader* (outline and character development for a TV series, 2011)
- *Towies* (outline and character development for a TV series, 2011)
- *Human Race*, formerly *Velocity* (development of a feature screenplay with Matchbox Pictures and Screen NSW, multiple drafts, 2005-11)
- *Too Easy* (proposal for a low budget comedy feature, 2008)
- *One in a Million* (a feature screenplay, with Panckhurst Productions, 2007)
- *The Hourglass Conspiracy* (proposal for a feature film, 2007)
- *Ash Wednesday* (proposal for a TV mini-series, with Wonderland Productions, 2006-07)
- *Battler's Prayer* (proposal for a TV mini-series, 2005-06)
- *Cloudcatcher* (a feature screenplay, in development with Panckhurst Productions and Screen Australia, multiple drafts)
- *Wounded Dog* (screenplay for a short feature film)
- *Playing the Fool* (proposal for a feature film)
- *Daniel* (proposal for a feature film)
- *The Underworld Identity* (script for a short TV drama)
- *Ping Pong* (script for a short TV drama)
- *Mer* (proposal for a massively multiplayer game for teens and up, with Jane Foggon)
- *Fay* (proposal for a massively multiplayer game for children, with Jane Foggon)
- *Stranger Than Fiction* (proposal for a radio series about history, for young people)
- *Song* (script for a short film)
- *Inflatable Man* (script for a short film)
- *Whirligig Man* (proposal for a feature film)
- *Quiver* (a feature screenplay – multiple drafts)
- *Triplicity* (proposal for a music theatre extravaganza, with Greg White)
- *Thunderbolt's Lady* (feature screenplay)
- *Burning Moon: an EXEC Adventure* (proposal for an interactive drama, with Jason Wheatley)
- *Rank Strangers* (script for a short drama)
- *Heron* (proposal for a telemovie and series)

Commissioned projects include:

- *History Bytes* (an educational interactive CD ROM, with Greg White – Shopfront Theatre)
- *Blue Silence* (proposal for a feature film based on a true story – Tourist Films/Prodigy)
- *Rapid Response* (storylining for a TV drama series – Southern Star Xanadu)
- *Love Cuts* (script for a broadband interactive drama – NIDA/AFTRS, dir: Denny Lawrence)
- *Triple 0* (storylining and character creation for a TV series – Southern Star Xanadu)
- *First Person* (script outlines for a series of broadband interactive experiences, with Jason Wheatley – NIDA/AFTRS)
- *Big Sky* episode 47: 'Friends in High Places' (one hour script for an Australian TV drama series, with Bill Searle – West Street Productions/Southern Star Xanadu)
- *Earthsearch* episode 5: 'Afterworld' (one hour script for a US/Australian TV drama mini-series – Pro Television/ Becker Group)

## PRODUCTIONS AS WRITER/DIRECTOR (DVD available)

AFTRS drama productions include:

- *The Two-Wheeled Time Machine* (a 21 minute film – produced by Miriam Stein, 1997) with Matt Day, Essie Davis, Jacki Weaver and Steve Rosanove
- *Freestyle* (a 12 minute film – produced by Matt Morgan, 1996) with Mary-Lou Stewart, Roy Billing, Monique Spanbrook and Greg Blandy

Before coming to the AFTRS, I wrote, produced and directed a number of community service advertisements for clients including the Red Cross (screened nationally), Pedal Power (ACT), Canberra Youth Theatre, AIDS Bus and the ACT Rape Crisis Centre (screened NSW).

I also created numerous short dramas, music videos and documentaries using non-broadcast equipment.

## FESTIVAL APPEARANCES, TELEVISION SALES & AWARDS

*The Two-Wheeled Time Machine* was released theatrically in Australia in November/December 1997 in a program of shorts called *Fistful of Shorts*, put together by the AFI. In 1999 it was one of five short films selected by FNAC for the *Best of Oceania* video compilation tape, (sold widely in France and Europe).

*The Two-Wheeled Time Machine* was selected to support *Cosi* in its 2004 DVD release (the first of 30+ AFTRS films to be honoured in this way by Village Roadshow). The film was also chosen by Cinema des Antipodes, in France, to appear as a bonus in a major Peter Weir Collector's Edition DVD box set, released in Europe in 2004.

*The Two-Wheeled Time Machine* represented Australia in eleven international and Australian competitions and festivals in 1998, including Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival (France – which I attended), Tampere International Short Film Festival (Finland), St Kilda Film Festival (Melbourne – joint winner Best Post-Production Sound), Forum Cannes Festival (France), San Diego Film Festival (USA) and Short Film Festival of Drama (Greece).

Television sales of *The Two-Wheeled Time Machine* to date include Spain (Canal+), Poland (Canal+) and Italy (Telepiu).

My previous film, *Freestyle*, represented AFTRS in May 1997 at the Forum Cannes Festival (France), and was screened at an AFC/AFI Industry Night in March 1997. The film was released theatrically in 1997 as part of the *Fistful of Shorts* compilation, presented by the AFI.

*Freestyle* has won the following prizes: The Golden Eve Award for Best Editing at the 1998 Festival dei Festival (Italy), The Patrons' Award for Best Short Film at the 1997 San Diego Film Festival (USA), Most Popular Short Film at the 1997 Australian International Film Festival (Canberra) and Best Short Thriller at the 1998 Noir in Festival (Italy).

*Freestyle* has sold to television in the following countries: France and Germany (Arte), Spain and Poland (Canal+), Australia (SBS), USA (KQED-TV), Italy (Telepiu), Denmark (DR1 & 2), Finland (YLE), United Kingdom (Channel 4).

*Freestyle* festival appearances during 1997 include: Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival (France - which I attended), Tampere International Short Film Festival (Finland), Brussels International Festival of Fantasy and Action Films (Belgium), Cinema Jove Festival Valencia (Spain), Hamburg International Film Festival (Germany), Vila do Conde (Portugal), Cork Film Festival (Ireland), LA International Short Film Festival (USA), Donne In Corto International Women's Film Festival (Spain/Italy/Denmark), London Film Festival (UK).

1998 *Freestyle* festival appearances: The Second Australian Film Festival in Dublin (Ireland - which I attended), Images Toronto (Canada), Solothurner Filmtage (Switzerland), Mediawave 1998 (Hungary), New York City's Seventh Annual Australian Short Film Event (USA), and Bristol Short Film Festival (UK).

*Freestyle* represented Australia at AntennaCinema 1999 in Padua, Italy, and was selected to screen at the Fete du Cinema screenings organised by Cinedie and the French National Cinema in June - August 1999, in Paris.

*Freestyle* returned to the Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival in February 2004 as part of a retrospective program.

Late in 2005 the film was released by Village Roadshow on DVD, together with the Jim Sharman/Tony Buckley/Patrick White classic from 1978, *The Night the Prowler*.

## ARTICLES, PAPERS & SHORT STORIES

I have written a number of articles on the subject of the 19th century Aboriginal resistance. In 1994 these were published as *Forgotten Rebels: black Australians who fought back*, by Permanent Press, of Melbourne. The book went to a second edition in 1995.

Major essays include *Emotion Pictures* (an examination of the ways in which history films emotionalise the past), *Stanley's Families* (an examination of physical and meta-families in the films of Stanley Kubrick), *An Outlaw Industry* (Bushrangers on the Big Screen 1906-1993), and *WOMADELAIDE 93: Adelaide throws its arms around the world*.

Commercial articles include a number written for publications such as *Australian Videography* and *Commercial Photography in Australia* (1990-1992). Recently I've completed an article about Kim Batterham ACS, to be published in *Australian Cinematographer* in 2011.

Prize-winning short stories include: *Piconcagua* (first prize, 1994 City of Springvale Short Story Awards, 21-26 years category, later to be adapted as *Cloudcatcher*), *Hunted*, *Two Suns*, *Dead Heat*, *Music of The Spheres*, *Freestyle* and *The Magician's Assistant*.

## OTHER AWARDS & MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

In February 2004 I attended the Australian Film Commission's second residential intensive script workshop, Spark, in regional Victoria, with my feature film screenplay *Cloudcatcher*. Advisers included Geoff Stier, Greg Widen, Lynda House, Joan Sauers and John Collee.

In 2003 I was one of three judges at the inaugural South-East Film Festival.

I worked as a script doctor with Greg White on the *Get Into the Arts* community advertising campaign, which screened in cinemas 2000/2001. Early in 2000 I was a visiting lecturer at AFTRS, contributing to the intensive short course *Writing the Short Film*.

In 1999 I became one of six emerging directors to be shortlisted for the Australian Screen Directors Association Attachment Scheme. In July 1999 a book, "Ecrire un court métrage" ("Writing a short movie"), by Jean-Marc Rudnicki, was published by DIXIT in Paris. The script for *Freestyle* was used as a major example of a successful short screenplay.

In May 1997 Brilliant Digital Entertainment/Sega-Ozisoft announced that *Burning Moon: an EXEC Adventure* was one of the winners of their national multipath movie competition.

In 1996 the Movielab Award for a third year film was awarded to *The Two-Wheeled Time Machine*. In 1995 the Atlab Award for a second year film was awarded to *Freestyle*.

Prior to attending AFTRS, I worked extensively for the NRS Group and Prime Time Video/Howe Electronics in roles including sound recordist, vision switcher and camera operator.

I was a member of the Independent Video Inc. Board from 1989-1991 (ACT).

To date I've written 188 song lyrics and poems.

## CURRENT & PLANNED PROJECTS

- *Human Race* (development of a feature film, as writer/director)
- *Hourglass & Partners* (a comedy science fiction novel)
- *Mer* (a novel for younger readers)
- *Thunderbolt's Lady* (development of a feature film)
- *Born to Rule* (development of an interactive fantasy for women)
- *Shadow Country* (development of a series of historical guidebooks)
- *Alchemy* (development of a drama about Brett Whiteley, with Alex Holmes)