

DAVID LOWE

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

As a BA student at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (specialising in scriptwriting), 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 been developing scripts for film, television and interactive media, and writing history. I've travelled to Europe twice as a guest of major film festivals, and have also travelled extensively within Australia.

I've developed two massively multiplayer broadband interactive experiences (*Fay* and *Mer*), and plan to publish my oral history-based biography of WW II hero and TV quiz champion Frank Partridge VC as an illustrated book, *Out of the Box: the story of an Australian hero*.

Since attending the Australian Film Commission's residential script workshop, Spark, in February 2004, I've been concentrating on developing a number of screenplays, including *Cloudcatcher*, *The Hourglass Conspiracy*, and *Human Race*. I'm currently collaborating with the producer Helen Panckhurst on various feature film projects.

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) as well as creating numerous short dramas and documentaries using non-broadcast equipment.

WRITING FOR FILM, TELEVISION, RADIO & INTERACTIVE

Original projects include:

- *Human Race* – formerly *Velocity* – (development of a feature screenplay, 2005-06)
- *One in a Million* (outline for a low budget feature film, 2006)
- *Cockatoo Ash Wednesday* (TV doco/drama proposal, 2005-06)
- *Wounded Dog* (screenplay for a short feature film, 2005)
- *Playing the Fool* (outline for a feature film, 2005)
- *Daniel* (outline for a feature film, 2005)
- *The Underworld Identity* (script for a short television drama, 2005)
- *Ping Pong* (script for a short television drama, 2005)
- *Battler's Prayer* (proposal for a three part TV mini-series, 2005-06)
- *Cloudcatcher* (a feature screenplay, in development with the Australian Film Commission, invited to the AFC's intensive script workshop Spark in February 2004 – six drafts, 2006)
- *Rosabel* (script for a short film)
- *Mer* (outline 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)
- *Heart Spaces, Working Village and Wild at Heart* (radio documentary series proposals)
- *Song* (script for a short film)
- *Inflatable Man* (revised script for a short film, 2005)
- *Gutterspunk* (outline and scene breakdown for a feature film, with collaborators)
- *Whirligig Man* (outline for a feature film)
- *Quiver* (a feature screenplay – three drafts)
- *Redback* (treatment for a telemovie)
- *Lucy Come Back* and *Ophelia* (outlines for telemovies)
- *Triplicity* (outline for a music theatre extravaganza, with Greg White)
- *Secret Men's Business* (proposal for a comedy TV magazine show, with James Engels)
- *Ten Cent Lane* (feature screenplay)
- *Thunderbolt's Lady* (feature screenplay)
- *Burning Moon: an EXEC Adventure* (treatment for an interactive, with Jason Wheatley)
- *Heron* (outline 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)
- *Triple O* (storylining and character creation for a TV drama series – Southern Star Xanadu)
- *First Person* (script outlines for a series of short, 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)

While I was at AFTRS, I wrote sixteen short scripts for single and multi-camera production. These included *Lost in Action*, *Doubting Thomas* and *Hard Women*.

Works for film and television written before AFTRS include:

- *The Two-Wheeled Time Machine* (short screenplay - second prize winner in 1993 Victorian Fellowship of Australian Writers Script Awards)
- *Riot Acts: the history of Australian rioting* (historical outlines for a ten part TV documentary series)
- *Odd Man Out: the story of Ronald Ryan* (proposal and outline for a three part TV drama mini-series)

I have written numerous community service advertisement scripts and concepts for clients including the Nursing Mothers' Association of Australia, Bicycle Federation of Australia, Wilderness Society and the Endangered Species Network.

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. The film was screened at an AFC/AFI Industry Night in March 1998 (Sydney) and toured the country as part of the 1997 AFTRS graduate screenings.

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).

Late in 2003, *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 European in 2004.

The Two-Wheeled Time Machine represented Australia in the following international and Australian competitions and festivals in 1998:

- Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival (France – which I attended)
- Tampere International Short Film Festival (Finland)
- The Edge of the World Film Festival (Hobart)
- Fiddle Film Festival (Sydney)
- Flickerfest (Sydney)
- Crows Fest (Sydney)
- St Kilda Film Festival (Melbourne - joint winner Best Post-Production Sound)
- Forum Cannes Festival (France)
- San Diego Film Festival (USA)
- Short Film Festival of Drama (Greece)
- Olympia Film Festival (USA)

Television sales of *The Two-Wheeled Time Machine* to date include:

- Spain (Canal+)
- Poland (Canal+)
- 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)
- 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)
- Flickerfest International Short Film Festival (Sydney)
- Brussels International Festival of Fantasy and Action Films (Belgium)
- St Kilda Film Festival (Melbourne)
- Exposure Film Festival (Brisbane)
- Cinema Jove Festival Valencia (Spain)
- Hamburg International Film Festival (Germany)
- Vila do Conde (Portugal)
- Short Film Festival of Drama (Greece)
- Nextframe/UFVA (USA and internationally)
- Cork Film Festival (Ireland)
- LA International Short Film Festival (USA)
- Donne In Corto International Women's Film Festival (Spain/Italy/Denmark)
- Olympia Film Festival (USA)
- Filmtage Tubingen (Germany)

- London Film Festival (UK)
- Noir in Festival (Italy)
- Alternativa (Barcelona)

1998 *Freestyle* festival appearances:

- The Second Australian Film Festival in Dublin (Ireland - which I attended)
- Images Toronto (Canada)
- Solothurner Filmtage (Switzerland)
- Crows Fest (Sydney)
- Mediawave 1998 (Hungary)
- Noir in Festival (Italy - best of previous competitions)
- New York City's Seventh Annual Australian Short Film Event (USA)
- Sticky Shorts (Melbourne)
- 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*.

Freestyle and *The Two-Wheeled Time Machine* are distributed internationally by the AFTRS and Omni Short Film Distribution (USA).

ARTICLES & PAPERS

I have written a number of feature articles on the subject of the nineteenth century Aboriginal resistance. In 1994 these articles were gathered together with an introduction and further reading list and published as *Forgotten Rebels: Black Australians Who Fought Back*, by Permanent Press, of Melbourne (ISBN 0 646 15686 1).

The book went to a second edition in 1995, and is still being widely used in schools and universities.

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), *Movies in The Mirror* 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).

In 1987 I won first prize (\$750) in the Chartered Institute of Transport essay competition (plus \$500 for the college media department), and in 1986 I won first prize in an essay competition run by the Australian Federal Police.

SHORT STORIES

Prize-winning and/or published stories include:

- *Piconcagua* (\$3000 first prize, 1994 City of Springvale Short Story Awards, 21-26 years category).
- *Hunted* (commended in 1994 K&M Teychenne Victorian Fellowship of Australian Writers Short Story Award, commended by Hunter FAW Short Story Competition)
- *Two Suns* (third prize in 1994 Annual Reading in St Kilda Short Story Awards)
- *Dead Heat* (second prize - shared with *Freestyle* - in 1993 Victorian FAW Frank Dalby Davison Short Story Award, second prize in 1992 Hunter FAW National Short Story Competition)
- *Music of The Spheres* (commended by 1993 Victorian FAW Frank Dalby Davison Short Story Award)
- *Freestyle* (second prize in 1992 Western Australian FAW/Lyndall Hadow national short story competition, highly commended by 1992 Writers World national short story competition, commended by 1992 Annual Reading in St Kilda Writing Competition and published in accompanying anthology *Tropical Lust*)
- *The Magician's Assistant* (highly commended by 1992 Writers World national short story competition)

EXHIBITION PHOTOGRAPHY

In 1994 *See No Evil* and *Ground Zero* were exhibited at the University of Canberra Photo Focus Competition. Also in 1994, *The Six Stages of Grief* series (dealing with the themes of Denial, Guilt, Limbo, Anger, Depression and Hope) were exhibited at AFTRS.

Cloud Boy and *Now?* (created together with Jane Foggon) were exhibited in the previous years' UC Photo Focus Competition, with *Now?* winning first prize.

In 1995 I was the stills photographer for a seven minute AFTRS film, *Capital V for Virtue* (director Roland Gallois, producer Kylie Du Fresne).

I also produced twelve multiple-image publicity photographs for the film (based on my own script and directing actors in the studio) dealing with the themes of Courage, Hope, Justice, Temperance, Faith, Prudence and Charity.

These days, most of my photography is done using digital technology.

PAID AND VOLUNTARY WORK EXPERIENCE BEFORE AFTRS

- Parliamentary Press Gallery with Mungo MacCallum
- *Canberra Times* Photographics Section
- Film Australia
- National Recording Studios

Prior to attending AFTRS, I also 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).

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 prestigious 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 (\$2000) was awarded to *The Two-Wheeled Time Machine*. In 1995 the Atlab Award for a second year film (\$2000) was awarded to *Freestyle*.

Between 1992 and 1994 I won \$4000 in competition prize money for short stories.

I am an experienced user of various computer hardware and software systems, and maintain my own webpage. I am a member of the Australian Screen Directors Association, the Australian Writers' Guild, the Australian Songwriters' Association, the Arts Law Centre, the Australian Film Institute, the Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society, the NSW Greens and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

To date I've written 185 song lyrics and poems. I play the WX7 MIDI wind instrument and guitar. I am experienced with straw bale building, and am training Lachlan and Lily, our Clydesdale heavy horses, to tow various strange vehicles around the countryside.

PLANNED PROJECTS

- *Towies* (screenplay for a feature film)
- *Battler's Prayer* (dramatic adaptation of *Out of the Box*)
- *The Sandcastle* (feature film adaptation of the Iris Murdoch novel)
- *Heartstring* (screenplay for a short feature)
- *Fay* (a series of childrens' books, companion to the online interactive experience)
- *Tooth & Claw* (a massively multiplayer online roleplaying game for children)
- *Quiet Time* (a relaxation program for children, delivered via book/audio, with Jane Foggon)
- *Shadow Country* (an alternative, state by state Australian travel guide focusing on little-known historical sites)
- *Burning Moon: an EXEC adventure*, a novel
- *Anomaly: an EXEC adventure*, a novel
- *Live Wire* (a telemovie biography of rock legend Bon Scott)
- *Wandering Spirit* (a horse-drawn oral history education concept, with Jane Foggon)
- *Born to Rule* (an interactive fantasy experience aimed particularly at women)