

**Catherine Marciniak**  
**Documentary maker, multi-media storyteller and photographer**



**Biography**

Catherine started her working life as a professional photographer but quickly moved to cinematography and directing and went on to carve a distinguished career as one of Australia's leading independent documentary makers. She co-developed and was the originating director of "The Life Series: Life at 1 and Life at 3" following 11 young Australians. Until 2010, she was the lead director and writer on the Australian series of "Who Do You Think You Are". In addition to these recent projects Catherine has created over 40 hours of national and international television programming covering a broad range of topics and issues.

In 2010 Catherine was appointed to the position of ABC Open North Coast Producer, working as a digital storytelling mentor and facilitator within the North Coast community teaching photography, writing and video, and assisting people to share their stories across the ABC. Since November 2013 she has been a Video Executive Producer in ABC Multiplatform mentoring and training staff across Australia in short form factual programming for TV and web.

Amidst these activities, Catherine has never lost her passion for her first love: photography. She finds joy in the challenge of capturing a single moment or sense of place in a single frame. Her portrait of Jyllie Jackson, Director of the Lismore Lantern Parade, was a finalist in the 2013 Olive Cotton Award for Photographic Portraiture.

**Catherine Marciniak**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

**CURRENT**

**ABC Open Producer, North Coast NSW**

Since 2010, I have been involved in the great multiplatform adventure of ABC Open. My role is a community content producer, creating local multiplatform content and engaging audiences in creating user generated content for distribution across ABC platforms. This involves inspiring, teaching and collaborating with community members and organisations, to create high quality regional stories and then assist in the publishing and promotion of those stories throughout the ABC.

**ABC Multiplatform Executive Producer Video**

In November 2013 I was seconded to an editorial EP position with a focus on training and mentoring ABC Cross Media Reporters and ABC Open Producers around the country in storytelling and craft of short form factual video making.

**Productions - 2010 - 2015**

Co-director/co-writer/cinematographer - BABE IN THE REEDS: A STORY OF MASSACRES AND RESILIENCE

Producer/director/cinematographer - DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PLATYPUS STALKER, THE WINSOME CHOIRS, SUE WHITEMAN: THE GIFT OF DANCE...ABILITY, MY DAY AS AN ARTWORK, A PROFILE OF DON PAGE, WW1: THE ELLIOT BROTHERS OF DUNOON.

Mentoring and Executive Producing hundreds of short form factual video stories by community contributors and ABC multi-platform staff across Australia.

**2005 - 2010 Independent Documentary Filmmaker**

- Series director/writer/cinematographer TV series and website **“The Life Series”- Life at 1. Life at 2 (website only) & Life at 3**, a landmark documentary project on child development, in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Family Studies and Departments of Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Screen Australia and ABC Television.
- Director/writer - Australian 1st, 2nd & 3<sup>rd</sup> Series of **“Who Do You Think You Are?”** - Jack Thompson, Maggie Beer, Ben Mendelsohn, Ron Barassi, Shane Bourne.
- Director/writer **“Dino Stampede”** an international CGI, science detective documentary.
- Series Producer the National Indigenous Documentary Fund - Series 8 **“Black on White”**, working with emerging Indigenous Documentary Makers from Kalgoorlie, NSW south coast, Dubbo, Toowoomba and Alice Springs to create 5 half hour documentaries on contemporary racism. In collaboration with AFC Indigenous Unit management curated the projects selected for the series.

**2004 - 2005 Series Producer, Compass – ABC Television**

- 9 month contract to consult and create a strategic direction for Compass and a new vision for the unit with strategies to improve its performance at the network. Managed budgets and administrative staff, curated the internal and external programming, and supervised the creative process of program making.

**Productions - 2004 - 2005**

- Series Producer –THE BIG ISSUE, STAND BY ME, GALLIPOLI PILGRIMAGE, FINAL VOWS, PREGNANT PAUSE, FLY ON THE WALL MESSIAH, ISLAM ON PARADE, POPE JOHN PAUL 11 – AUSTRALIAN LEGACY, THE PRICE F PEACE, SISTER LOURDES – FAITH IN A NATION,

ROADSIDE MEMORIALS, EMBRACING THE ENEMY, FAMILY FIRST, BROKEN OPEN, THE ARTIST, THE QC AND THE REFUGEE, A PIG, A CHICKEN AND A BAG OF RICE.

#### **1989 – 2004 Independent Documentary Filmmaker**

- Collaborative production relationships with December Films, Film Australia, Flaming Star Films, Open Channel, Habibi Films, Hatchling Productions, Electric Pictures, Prospero Productions, Hilton Cordell as producer, director, writer and/or cinematographer on programs for ABC Television, SBS, international partners and/or corporate clients.
- Consultant and mentor for emerging documentary makers in realising the vision for their documentaries, during research and writing, production and post-production.

#### **Productions - 1989 - 2004**

- 2003/04 - Director/writer/cinematographer - AUSSIE ANIMAL RESCUE – series 2
- 2003 – Co-director on location/cinematographer - CHILDREN AT THE EDGE - Stories from a Pediatric Hospital
- 2001/02 - Co-director/co-writer/cinematographer - BEYOND THE ROYAL VEIL
- 2001- Cinematographer - A WEDDING IN RAMALLAH
- 2000- Cinematographer - GREY VOYAGERS - Mavis goes to Timor
- 1999/00 - Director/writer/cinematographer - STEEL CITY
- 1999/00 - Director/writer/cinematographer - GREY VOYAGERS - Born to Ride
- 1998/99 - Director/writer/cinematographer -AUTO STORIES - Wrong Way Go Back
- 1998 –Mentor and cinematographer - ASTONISHING ASHTONS
- 1997/98 - Director/writer/cinematographer -THE GAMBLERS - "Crusader" and "Hooked
- 1996 - Director/writer/cinematographer - HOSPITAL - An Unhealthy Business
- 1994/95- Director/writer/cinematographer/editor -CONVERSATIONS WITH WOMEN WRITERS - "Not Vanishing" and "Life on the Rim"
- 1993 / 94 - Director/writer/cinematographer - FAMILY - At the end of the day ....
- 1992 / 93 - Director/writer/cinematographer -TEACHERS OF THE WORLD
- 1992 - Director/writer/cinematographer -BAREFOOT STUDENT ARMY
- 1991 – Co-director/writer -HEROES OF OUR TIME
- 1989 - Director/writer/cinematographer - A HIMALAYAN VISION
- 1981 -1989 - Producer, director, writer, editor and cinematographer on over 200 educational and sponsored docs for the Audio Visual Unit, University of NSW.

#### **2002 – 2003 Conference Director - Australian International Documentary Conference**

- Successfully managed AIDC2003 hosted in Byron Bay, the first AIDC to be hosted by a regional documentary community and the most successful AIDC to date. Role included: overall managerial responsibility for the event; creative program research and development in television, sessions on TV, theatrical and on-line documentary craft and markets; budget management; staff management; management of a large team of volunteers, promotion and marketing of the AIDC and Australian documentary, nationally and Internationally.
- Established a new AIDC website aimed at promoting the branding and activities of the AIDC.
- Created a three-year Strategic Plan for the National AIDC – including staffing, organisational structure and evaluation of the AIDC's strengths and weaknesses.
- Created a blueprint for future AIDC management and program development.

- Consulted widely with the screen community, local, state and federal government in the development of AIDC 2003 and the AIDC's 3 year Strategic Plan.
- Negotiated cash and in-kind sponsorship partnerships with local and national organizations and individuals.
- Curated the Documentary Film Festival accompanying the Conference hosted at Byron Dendy cinemas.

#### **2001 - 2008 Northern Rivers Screenworks Board**

- A Founding Board Member of Screenworks, involved in establishing this screen industry umbrella group to improve the business and market opportunities having identified a fledgling but rapidly increasing screen industry sector in 2000. Co-wrote the submissions and played a key role in the government lobby that secured the seed funding from Sustainable Regions and DSRD that grew the organization from 2003-2006. Have continued to assist in securing funding from a variety of government, non-government and Screenworks activities. Assisted in the design of business plans, professional development program and creation of market opportunities for the local screen Industry sector.

#### **1989 – 2002 Teacher of Media**

- Planned and executed short courses in documentary filmmaking for a variety of clients including: ASEAN (Indonesia), AFTRS (Sydney and Melbourne), VCA, RMIT, Open Channel, Channel 10 - Brisbane, WIFT NSW and VIC, North Coast Camera and NR Screenworks.

#### **1996 – 1997 Facilities Manager, Open Channel – Melbourne**

- 6-month appointment as a change agent to move a loss-making department into profit and create a shift in staff culture. Successfully achieved this performance goal through the development of a strategic plan that focused on a marketing campaign, better management of budget, staff and volunteers.

#### **1995 – 1996 Deputy Chair and Director – Open Channel Board**

- In addition to Board member responsibilities, managed the Board meetings - schedules, agendas, documentation etc. Chaired the Board meetings. Created sub-committees in a variety of areas ranging from finance and publicity to events. Played a key role in the creation of a 5-year Business Plan for Open Channel.

#### **1981 – 1989 Producer – Audio Visual Unit, University of NSW**

- In the role of Producer at the University of NSW Audio Visual Unit I wrote, directed and produced over 200 programs for educational use, created partnerships for projects within and outside of the university, managed project budgets and supervised administrative staff. I was also involved as a member of the Executive Team in the preparation of a number of business plans for the Unit

#### **1981 – 1989 Art Educator – Bachelor of (Art) Education**

- Part time - Ceramics, Photography and Media Teacher Adult Education, Chatswood and Ashfield High Schools.
- 1980 - High School Art Teacher, Strathfield Girls High School - 6 months internship

### **Career highlights**

- 1989 HEROES OF OUR TIME selected for the Sydney Film Festival
- 2000 STEEL CITY a finalist in the the Dendy Awards, Sydney Film Festival
- 2003 BEYOND THE ROYAL VEIL screened at the Melbourne Film Festival
- 2003 Director of the Australian International Documentary Conference hosted in Byron Bay
- 2007 LIFE AT 1 awarded Golden Dragon at the Beijing Science Film Festival
- 2007 awarded a Silver Hugo for education documentary series at the 2007 Chicago International Television Competition
- 2007 LIFE AT 1 a finalist in the 2007 Logie Awards for Most Outstanding Documentary
- 2007 LIFE AT 1 awarded Golden Dragon at the Beijing Science Film Festival
- 2007 LIFE AT 1 selected for the Oceania Pacific Film Festival Tahiti and 2nd International Science Film Festival in Athens
- 2007 awarded Best Direction in Documentary, Australian Director's Guild
- 2009 LIFE AT 3 selected for The New York International Independent Film & Video Festival
- 2012 Prodi Award for ABC Open project LAID OFF assisting retrenched workers to tell their stories of surviving job loss in video and blogs.
- 2012 Prodi Award for ABC Open project LAID OFF assisting retrenched workers to tell their stories of surviving job loss in video and blogs.
- 2013 – selected for exhibition in the Olive Cotton Award for excellence in photographic portraiture.

### **Passions**

Photography, music, insatiable passion for storytelling ... and storytelling ... and storytelling.

### **Interests**

Life drawing, cinema, visual arts, music, theatre and creative community projects.

### **Professional Associations**

- Northern River's Screenworks
- Memberships Qld Gallery of Modern Art, Lismore Regional Gallery and Tweed River Regional Gallery
- Subscriber Arts Northern Rivers
- Subscriber Byron Bay Writers' Centre
- Subscriber Port of Yamba Historical Society
- 2008 – 2011 - Federal Government appointment to the Northern Rivers *Regional Development Australia* Committee
- 2001 - 2009 - member Australian Cinematographers Society
- 2001 - 2008 - Northern Rivers Screenworks Board
- 2004 & 2007 - Northern Rivers Screenworks Board, Deputy Chair
- 2002 & 2005 - Northern Rivers Screenworks Board, Chair
- 2001 - 2002 - National AIDC Board member
- 1991 - 1994 - Women in Film and Television, VIC membership
- 1991 – 1995 - Open Channel Board Member
- 1984 – 1990 - Women in Film and Television, NSW Board member