

Nicole McCuaig

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Career Summary

In the past twenty years I have directed documentary programs for ABC, SBS, Seven, Network Ten and Nine Networks. Until recently I worked for the documentary department at Network Ten, now disbanded. Under the title writer/producer (an in house TV title) I directed 25 documentaries for national broadcast. Over my career I have interviewed and followed hundreds of participants. I have directed crews in various documentary styles from observational to stylised. The programs have taken me to remote indigenous communities, two complicated shoots in China, a shoot across seven states in America and many other locations. *Keeping the Faithful* a collaboration with Hoodlum won the IF award. *Black Soldier Blues* a collaboration with Veronica Fury was nominated for the New South Wales Premier's history awards and *The Hunt for Hendra* a documentary I made for Ten was nominated for an ATOM award.

I have also operated camera and editing equipment from early in my career. Many camera and edit suite combinations up to the latest non linear edit suites and HD cameras. I am a proficient shooter/producer with national credits for documentaries I have filmed myself. I own a small but broadcast quality camera setup and I am proficient with Final Cut pro x.

Nine Network - writer/director 1 hour documentary special

- Coming Home Australia's RSL - Marking 100 years of the RSL's unwavering but largely unknown support for returned personnel and their families, Coming Home, narrated by Lisa McCune, reveals some of the heart breaking, yet life affirming stories of transition from Defence to life as a civilian.
- 1 hour documentary nationally broadcast on Nine.

Network Ten Documentaries - Director/Producer/Writer

- The Lockyer - through sheer perseverance farmers, the local council and residents of the Lockyer Valley have managed to recover from two devastating floods and rebuild to produce some of the best fruit and veg in the country. They tell us about their experiences and love of the valley.
- From The Quadrangle - Megan Washington, Kate Miller Heidke, state and private school principals, uni lecturers and a host of other participants recall their experiences of being bullied at school and new approaches to tackling the ongoing problem.

- The Hunt for Hendra - A history of the outbreak of the Hendra virus and the story of the incredible scientists from AAHL that cracked the vaccine.
- This Is Straddie - Representatives of the Quandamooka people and residents tell us their memories of growing up and living on Stradbroke Island.
- Dancers On Tour - follows young dancers from The Australian Ballet School on their first tour in Tasmania. They struggle in the cold conditions and on hard, old stages but they still manage to delight Tasmanian audiences.
- Delivering the Pandas - One Hour Special - Over a year this documentary goes behind the scenes of the delicate negotiation between Australians and Chinese for the exchange of two giant pandas. I travelled to the remote Panda reserve in China twice to follow the story.
- Tragedy At Sea - Marine archeologists talk about the underwater graves off our coasts and the stories of heroism and tragedy.
- Art Without Borders - Behind the scenes of GOMA's APT 7 following artists from Asia and the Pacific, curators and gallery staff as they bring the exhibition to life.
- The Secret Life of Dugongs - Janet Lanyon from the University of Queensland and Trevor Long from Sea World team up to study the allusive mammal.
- City Fringe - Melbourne punks, Sydney goths and metal heads from all states. This is a peek into contemporary Australian subculture.
- Port City - The documentary follows the port of Brisbane in the aftermath of the 2010 floods and oil spills in the region.
- Panorama Punks - Renegade downhill skateboarders from around the world compete in Australia's first legal downhill skateboarding event on the notorious Mt Panorama.
- Handle With Care - A tiger from Germany, Polar bear cubs from Quebec and pandas from China. Ten have followed some significant animal moves and their value for international conservation endeavors.
- Supreme Cat - Follows the competitive and quirky feline judging at the Brisbane EKKA where cats vie to be crowned 'Supreme Cat'.
- Baxter's Bash - Four guys who have received Variety charity monies as young men with disabilities experience the highs and lows of a variety bush car bash.
- The Spider Files - Through the eyes of an arachnophobic and ironically Australia's most prolific spider expert we uncover truths about one of our most terrifying creatures.
- Natural Connections - Three successful indigenous tour guides tell us their personal history, talk about their land and culture.
- Wildfire - Revisits the most dramatic fires in Australia's history and the brave firefighters that fought them.
- Working Below Zero - The lives of men and women from scientists to plumbers who work in Antarctica.
- Rare Bear - The Tablelands Tree Kangaroo - This program follows a community committed to the survival of this tree dwelling recluse threatened by road kill and natural disaster.

Independent Projects

Surf Patrol

13 x 1/2 hr Network Seven Segment Shooter Producer 2006

- Followed life savers and various participants for a hectic summer on the Gold Coast

Black Soldier Blues

1 hr SBS Writer/Director 2005

Black American soldiers were stationed in Australia in WW2. They remember the experience.

- Two week shoot through seven states in America
- Two week shoot in North Queensland
- Wrote and directed the narration for Jack Thompson

Stock Squad

4 x 1/2 hr SBS Series Director 2005

Police investigators that specialise in cattle theft.

- Twenty five week shoot over two years in remote locations throughout Queensland
- Enlisted 18 police investigators to cooperate in the shoot
- Interviewed investigators, their families, suspects and property owners

Australians At War

Film Archive Interviewer/Camera 2004

- Interviewed one hundred war veterans

Keeping The Faithful

1 hr ABC Writer/Director 2003

The rise fall and rise again of Australia's first tele-evangelist

- Followed a tele evangelist, his family and church on and off for a year

A Big Country Revisited

1/2 hr ABC Director/Producer 2002

- Followed a police officer and his wife as they revisited the remote town of Apatula
- Located and enlisted participants after thirty years
- Liaised with aboriginal community for access

The Show

6 x 1/2 hr ABC Editor 2002

- Edited six half hour episodes over six months

Heart Of Gold

1/2 hour ABC Writer/Director 2001

- Followed a heart transplant recipient over 6 months

The Fighting Thornberrys

1/2 hour ABC Director 1999

- Followed a family of boxers to the world title
- Shot on and off for six months in Gatton and then Wales

Rage Of Innocence

1/2 hour ABC Director 1997

- Filmed at schoolies week over a four week period

Work History

- Network Ten - Documentary Director/writer/producer = 2007 - 2015
- Independent director with Big Island Pictures, Hoodlum, ABC TV - 1996 - 2007
- Prime Television - Commercial Producer 1999 - 2000
- Bond University - Teacher/Academic advisor - 1996 - 1999
- Procam Studio - Editor - 1992 - 1995

Awards

- ATOM nomination 2012 - The Hunt for Hendra
- Best Short Documentary IF Awards 2004 - Keeping The Faithful
- Best Independent Documentary QNFA 1998 - Rage Of Innocence
- Shortlisted NSW Premier's History Awards 2004 - Black Soldier Blues

Teaching and industry Experience

- I have taught documentary and production courses at universities in Queensland and have been involved in judging awards and festivals.
- I have taught camera/editing courses at a university level.

Education

- Masters in Film and TV Bond University 1998
- Bachelor of Commerce/ Media productions Griffith University 1990

Referees

- Nathan Mayfield - Hoodlum 07 3871 2555 - nathan@hoodlum.com.au
- Geoff Cooper previous manager at Network Ten (for 6 years) 0412 870 183
- Trish FitzSimons Senior Lecturer Griffith University - 07 3735 0106